

### Guest Column

## Adding hand-painted tiles can make your home look fit for a king



From fountains (above), pools, patios, floors, walls and ceilings, tiles are a great way to express your personality. Tiles are painted by hand (below) using the refined techniques that have been passed down from masters of the art.



For centuries, ceramic tile has been one of the most versatile materials available.

Created in Egypt more than 4,000 years ago, these colorful “slices of baked earth” exploded into the Western world during the Middle Ages and have been highly revered ever since.



Brenda Jean Lusher

Historically, the use of tile has been regarded as a sign of wealth. Practical yet striking, beautiful tiled surfaces have been unearthed in the oldest pyramids and the ancient ruins of Greece, and used in royal palaces throughout Europe.

To this day, not much has changed — unique, hand-painted tiles still symbolize status, luxury and elegance.

Drawing upon the opulence of the past as well as the rich diversity of cultures and influences from around the world, today’s hand-painted tiles are an architectural art form. They are used all around us for everyone to enjoy.

Using refined techniques that have been passed down from masters of the art, present-day tile artisans create distinctive designs inspired by tiles that once adorned estates, castles and museums. These new designs can now be seen in restaurants, shops, public areas and homes.

Architects, builders, designers and homeowners are using custom hand-painted tiles to accent interior and exterior living spaces.

From floors, walls and ceilings to patios, pools and fountains, tiles lend themselves to an array of uses and are a perfect way to express personality. Whether classic and traditional or contemporary and trendy, tiles are available to suit everyone.

With color making a strong comeback in interior design, tile is following suit. Intricate designs and floral motifs are brimming with color. Warm, neutral tones share the spotlight with cool, vibrant hues. Exotic designs from around the world allow for myriad patterns.

Combining a brilliant palette of gemstone colors with ornate, nature-inspired patterns, Moorish and Turkish tiles are very popular and feature brilliant touches of coral red and turquoise.

Mediterranean designs reminiscent of Italy, Spain and Portugal are accented in cobalt blue, terra cotta, gold and emerald green. Dutch tiles in delft blue and white remain a classic favorite.

No matter what the pattern, tiles add character and warmth and enhance any space. The countless choices allow the architect, designer or homeowner to set a tone, re-create images of the past, or simply create the perfect complement to a modern setting.

As an added bonus, tiles are long-lasting and durable and will keep looking great for years.

Brenda Jean Lusher is president and founder of Mizner Industries, a tile studio specializing in custom hand-painted designs. For more information, visit [www.miznerindustries.com](http://www.miznerindustries.com) or call (954) 492-8710.

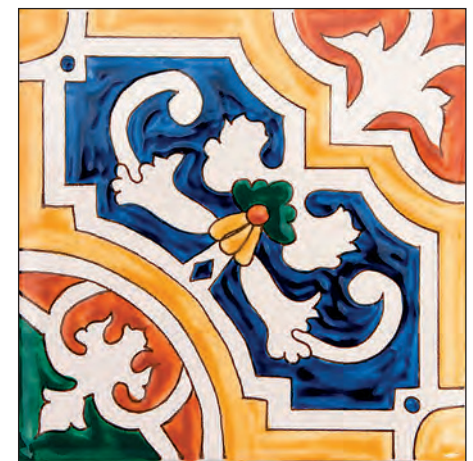
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This distinctive, hand-painted delft blue-and-white tile panel depicts a late-1700s Dutch sailing vessel.



Though based on ancient historical designs, Turkish-inspired tiles are remarkably contemporary in their rich use of color and graphics.



Featuring a brilliant color palette of cobalt blue, emerald green, terra cotta and opulent gold, Mediterranean-influenced designs can still be found throughout Southern Spain and Portugal and are as timeless as they are naturally beautiful.