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BONUS: Full-chapter excerpt from Sarah Susanka's new book, p. 13

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What's your tile style?

Making a scene

Tile murals typically depict pastoral places you've never been, but the hand-printed images on StoneImpressions tile murals can come straight from your scrapbook. The San Diego-based company will convert a photograph, a fabric sample, a wine-bottle label, or even a piece of jewelry to art for your wall. Designs are permanently hand-printed on five types of porous natural stone, including Botticino marble, durango, limestone, and travertine. In addition to custom work, StoneImpressions offers a wide variety of accent, mural, and listello (border) tiles in designs that range from contemporary to American country to classic European. Stock murals are approximately \$180 per sq. ft., and nonprinted tiles range in price from approximately \$12 to \$15 per sq. ft. Customization of tiles and murals is \$75 per hour plus the cost of materials. The tiles are sold through showrooms and dealers throughout North America; visit www.stoneimpressions.com for details.



Ever elegant

The Asian-influenced Robert Kuo Carved Stone marble tiles by Ann Sacks (www.annsacks.com) are an elegant reflection of the company's belief in "the value of simple, appropriate design done perfectly well."

Merging ancient tradition with contemporary design, Han Bai Yu (white) and Qing Shi (black) marble from China are hand-sculpted using traditional jade-carving techniques into patterns that blend traditional Chinese motifs with design elements taken from Western European Art Deco. The tiles are available in six patterns and sizes ranging from 8 in. by 8 in. to 24 in. by 24 in.; custom sizes are also available. Prices begin at \$282 per sq. ft.



Time to shine

Want a bit of shape with your sparkle? JSG Oceana's transparent, translucent, or opaque "Hard Roc" glass tiles come in 13 colors and a variety of sizes and shapes that include rhomboids and long rectangles as well as squares. Suitable for interior and exterior use and horizontal or vertical surfaces, the tiles are scratch-, stain-, and thermal-shock resistant. They are nonporous and lead free, making them hygienic and safe for the environment. The company also manufactures a line of decorative-glass kitchen and bath sinks, serving pieces, and other glass items to complement its tile line. Prices for a 4-in. by 4-in. tile range from \$4.50 to \$12; visit the Web site (www.oceanaglassdesigns.com) to shop online or to find a dealer near you.

