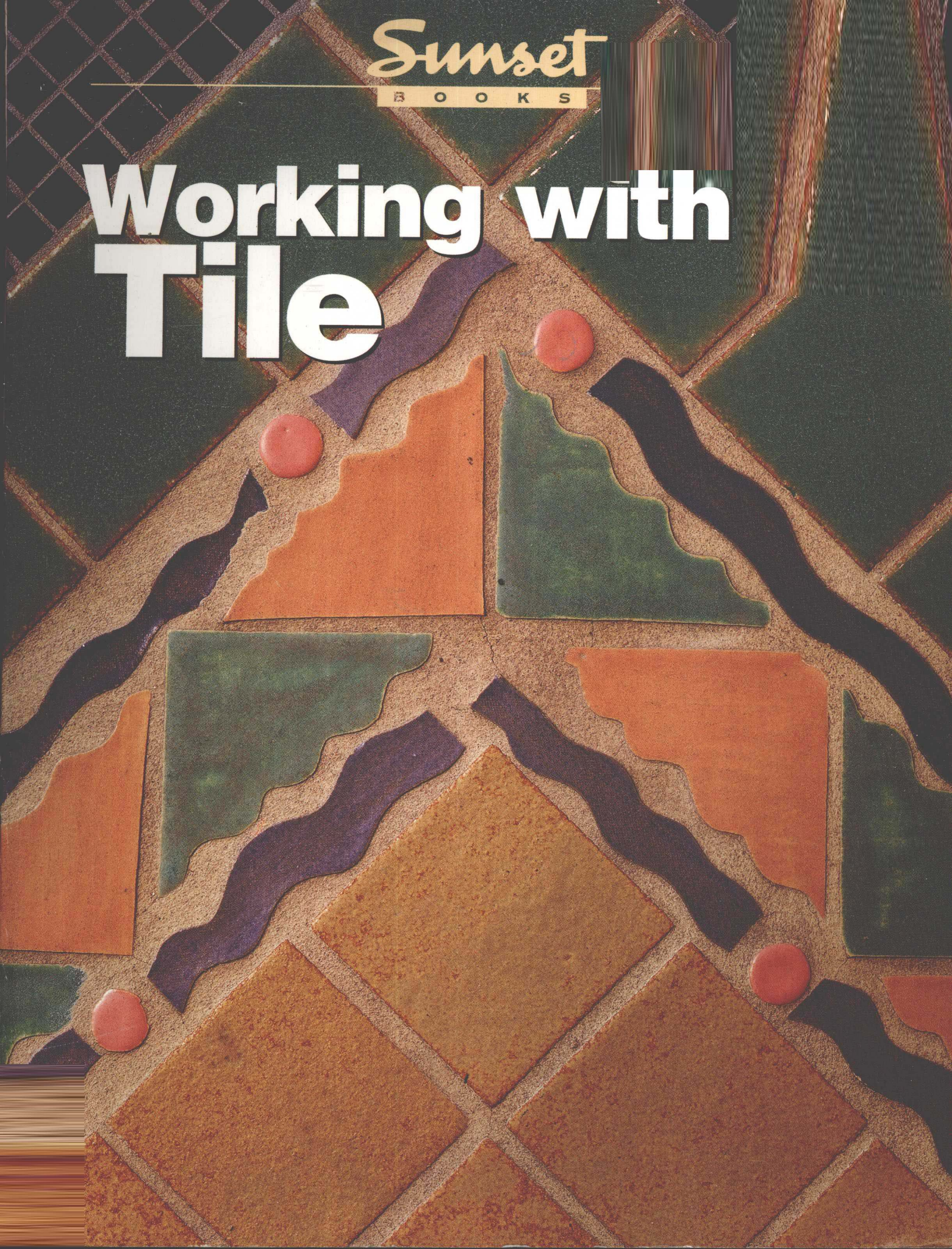


Sunset

B O O K S

Working with Tile



WORKING WITH TILE



By the Editors of Sunset Books

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VP and General Manager: Richard A. Smeby
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Production Director: Lory Day
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President: Pierre Léveillé
Managing Editor: Carolyn Jackson
Senior Editor: Heather Mills
Senior Art Director: Francine Lemieux

Book Consultants

William Sturrock
Don Vandervort

Special Contributors

Eric Beaulieu, Michel Blais, Normand Boudreault,
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François Daxhelet, Hélène Dion, Jean-Guy Doiron,
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TILING POSSIBILITIES

The way in which tile adapts itself to every style and taste is sheer magic; you can match any mood, create any kind of appearance. After you've chosen between ceramic, resilient vinyl, or wood (also known as parquet), there are choices to be made among the hundreds, even thousands, of designs, textures, sizes, shapes, and colors that are available to create the effect you've been dreaming about.

Tile can be used in almost any room in the house. In addition to using tile on your floors and walls, you can experiment with ceramic tiles on countertops, or as trim around fireplaces. Brighten your kitchen by using hand-painted ceramic tiles on the backsplashes or on the kickplates below the lower cabinets. Ceramic tile can also be laid outdoors (*page 60*). The photographs on the following pages will show how you can be inventive with tiling, even in the most practical of applications.

No matter which type of tile you choose or where you plan to install it, successful results require careful planning and meticulous preparation. Separate chapters on ceramic tile, resilient tile, and parquet (wood tile) give you information on the selection of tile and the preparation of the backing—the surface that supports the tile—prior to the actual installation, as well as detailed installation instructions. The chapter on outdoor paving includes ceramic tile as well as other paving materials. We'll also give you guidelines on maintaining your tile floor and how to make repairs.

This bathroom makes excellent use of ceramic tile to create a look that is both practical and simple.



CERAMIC TILE

The designs and textures that are available in today's commercial ceramic tile almost always guarantee impressive results. Manufacturers often provide a single type of tile in a wide range of colors, allowing you to select a small group of colors for a graphic design or a monochromatic theme. Another method to consider is using tile seconds, which are usually sold at a low price; any defects are usually quirks in appearance rather than deformities in the tiles themselves.

A decorative tile entryway gives a home a welcoming feel. You can choose anything from a complex overall pattern to something simple yet elegant. In the kitchen, ceramic tile has a myriad of uses on countertops, backsplashes, or kickplates, as well as on floors and walls. In the bathroom, tile can create an innovative look, fresh from the pages of today's interior design magazines. As well as being installed on the floor or in the bathtub enclosure, ceramic tile works well to liven up the counter around a washbasin.

At the heart of many homes is the fireplace. Although originally intended as a functional heating device, a fireplace can be a decorative focal point as well. Tile is an ideal material for fireplace use because it is impervious to heat and easy to clean.

Although ceramic tiles appear predominantly in interior settings, don't forget that their attractive permanence makes them ideal for outdoor use as well. Entry steps, walkways, and patios are some common applications, and you'll find that the results enhance the exterior of any home.

Quarry tile—large, uniform, and undecorated—is a popular way to use ceramic tile to cover the floors of an entire home. Usually available in natural clay colors, quarry tiles range from a raw, earthy appearance to the sophisticated look of the glazed type.

For easy maintenance, ceramic tile is an excellent choice; most types wash clean with mild detergent or an all-purpose household cleaner.



The tremendous versatility of tile is demonstrated here: The same tiles that cover the dining area march right out onto the patio—and are used to line countertops and walls as well. The soft Mexican Saltillo tiles used here give a rustic look. Architect: Batey & Mack, Architects.



Unglazed quarry tile gives this solarium a warm feel. The unglazed surface is also more slip-resistant than glazed tile. The tile can be used both indoors, as shown here, or outdoors on the patio or at poolside.

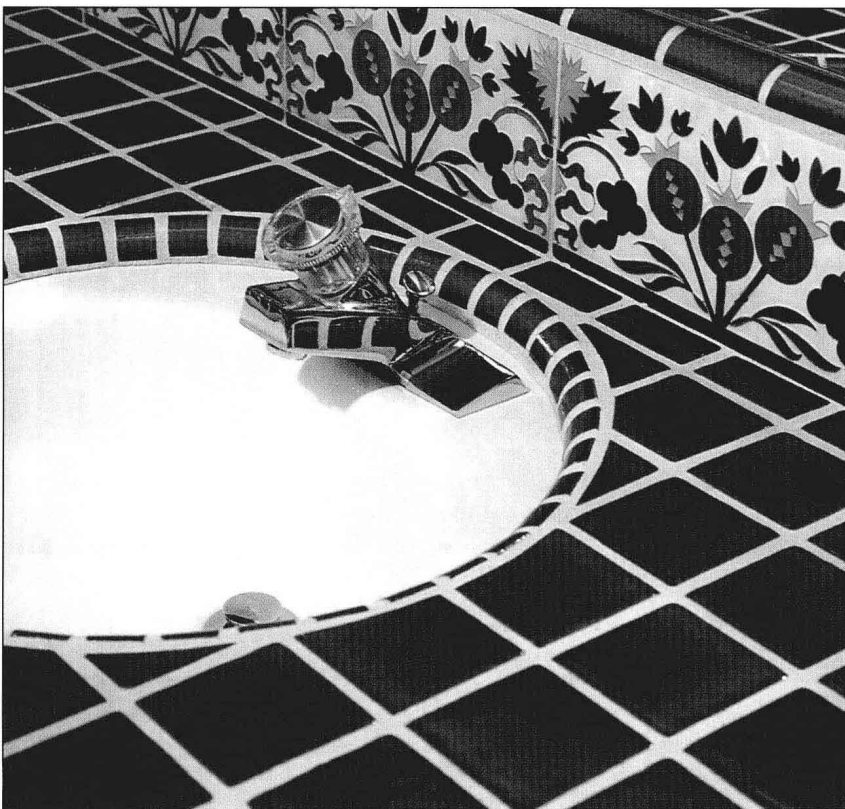
Framing this old-fashioned fireplace with a row of blue and white tiles reinforces its simple and dignified lines, although the scroll-like design of these hand-painted Portuguese tiles introduces richness and complexity. The quarry tiles used for the hearth have been stained to blend with the wood on the floor, and then sealed.

Architect: J. Allen Sayles, Architectural Kitchens and Baths.





Ceramic tile is used for both practical and decorative purposes in this kitchen. Tile on the countertop and backsplash make spills easy to clean up. The mixture of white and blue tile creates a bright and airy cooking space.



Narrow and curved "bead" tile pieces offer an attractive alternative for a bathroom basin trim. Cutting tiles to fit is a difficult and time-consuming task, but the end result is spectacular.
Design: Tile by Buzz.



By mixing and matching colors, you can design an inviting setting for a relaxing soak in the bath. The versatility of ceramic tile encourages you to be creative.



This vanity area employs tile on every available surface. In addition, colorful design strips accent tile on walls and counters to create a subtle atmosphere of elegance and delicacy. A little knowledge and skill can make your design ideas as limitless as your imagination.



Outdoors, sand-colored quarry tiles transform plain concrete slabs into an inviting entry. Each square tile is surrounded by lozenge-shaped "pickets" to create an overall octagonal pattern. Design: Designed Environ, Inc.



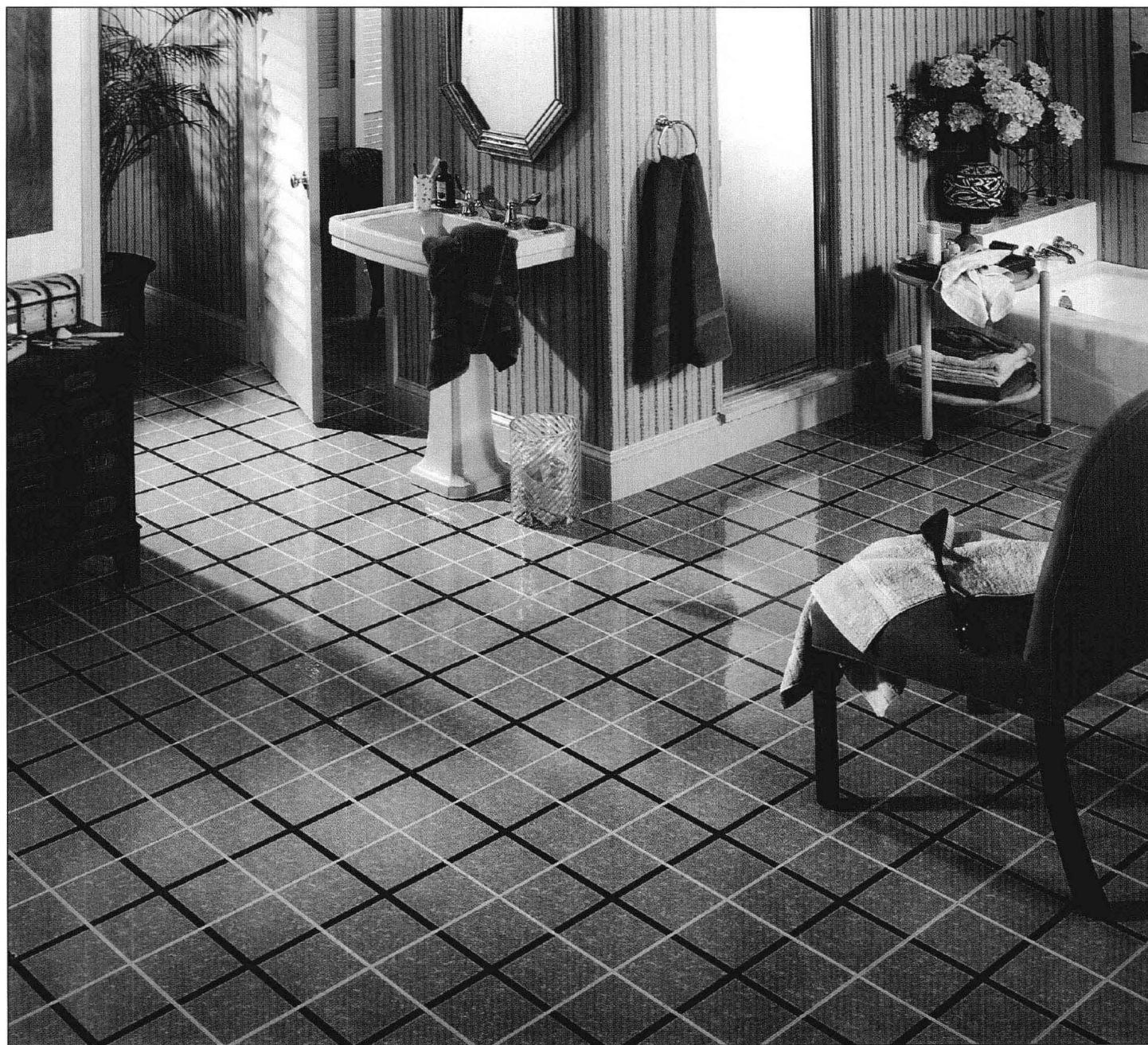
Re-creating the look of classical times, these ceramic tiles have the look of granite, but not the price. In the foyer, the mixture of plain and mosaic-inspired tile gives visitors a sophisticated welcome.

RESILIENT TILE

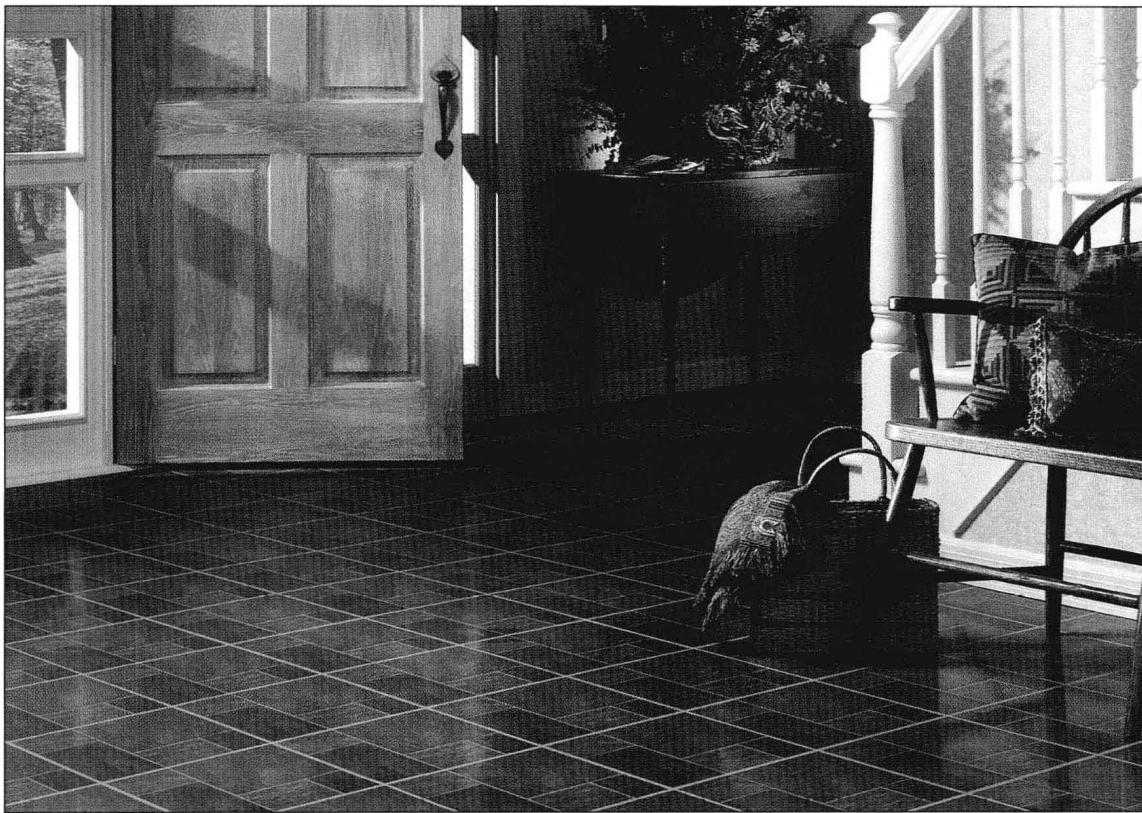
Resilient tile is an extremely versatile alternative to ceramic tile. As with ceramics, resilient tile comes in standard sizes and shapes that are easy to apply.

Resilient tile is laid either with adhesive or with self-stick material on the tile back. It comes in a wide variety of colors and designs, from plain tile to discreet, traditional patterns and the latest matchings of color

and motif. Resilient tile can also take on any number of appearances, from brick to slate, marble, wood, and even ceramic. All that you need to do is decide which design best suits your individual taste and the mood you're trying to create. From there, it's a simple matter to install the tiles, and you'll soon be enjoying your new resilient tile floor.



Resilient tile is losing its staid image, as shown in this bright, lively bathroom. The nonabsorbent surface of this type of tile means that water can be mopped up easily with no worries about staining.



Increasingly, resilient tile is coming out of the kitchen and into the front hall. Today's new designs are refined and versatile enough for any room in the house.

This kitchen exudes a fresh, springlike appeal thanks to the bright simplicity of the green and white tile.





Resilient tile can be made to look like other materials. These tiles, for instance, have a marble design which adds a certain degree of elegance to this bathroom setting.



Another example of the versatility of resilient tile is found in this room—the classic mood owes much to a carefully selected floor covering of white, slate-textured resilient tiles.

PARQUET

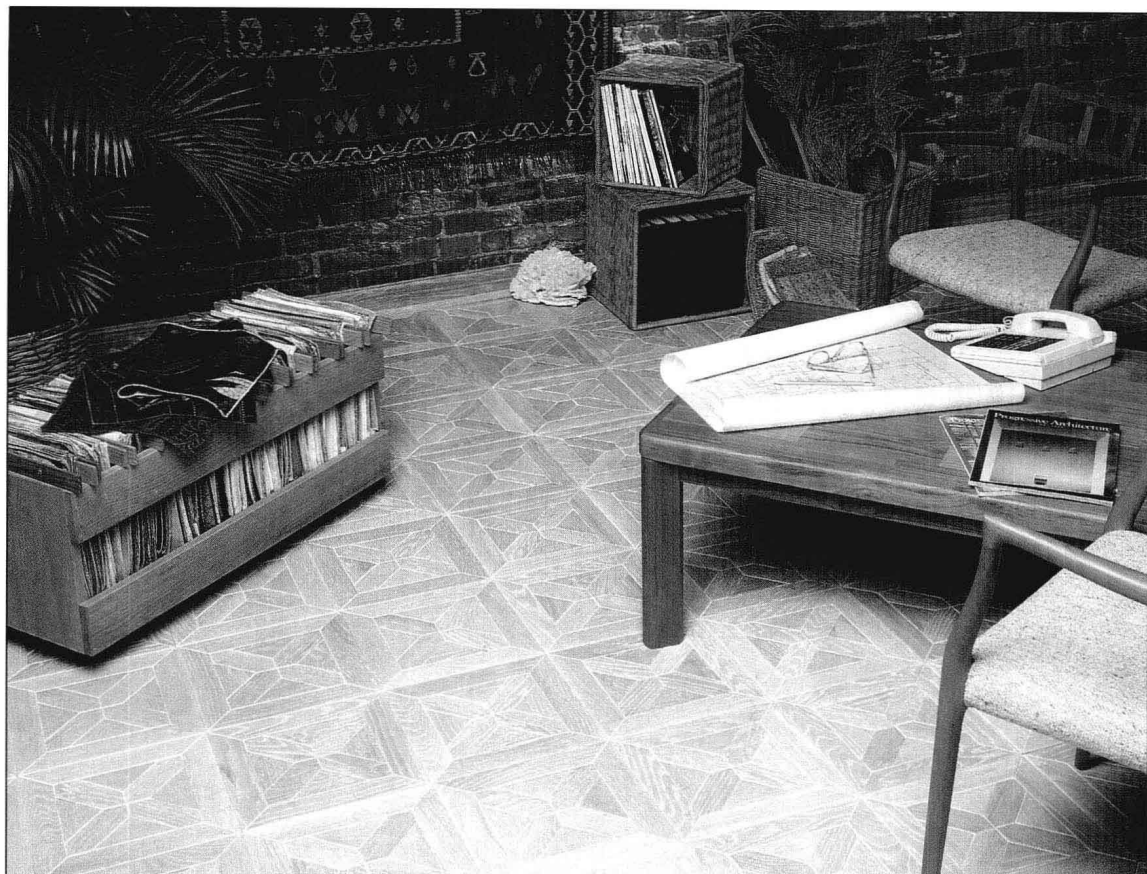
A wood floor projects an undeniable sense of warmth and charm. Once only enjoyed by the wealthy, wood tile, or parquet, is now an affordable alternative to both ceramic and resilient tile, and just as easy to install. An aura of permanence and well-bred style surrounds this wood product, for it adds a feeling of old-world quality and history to practically any room environment.

Parquet comes in a variety of designs. Some, like Monticello, are traditional, while others incorporate old patterns into new and innovative designs particular to the manufacturer. Many types of wood can be used in the making of parquet, from the more traditional cherry, walnut, ash, oak, and maple, to exotic teak. The end result is a long-lasting, beautiful expression of nature's work at its finest.

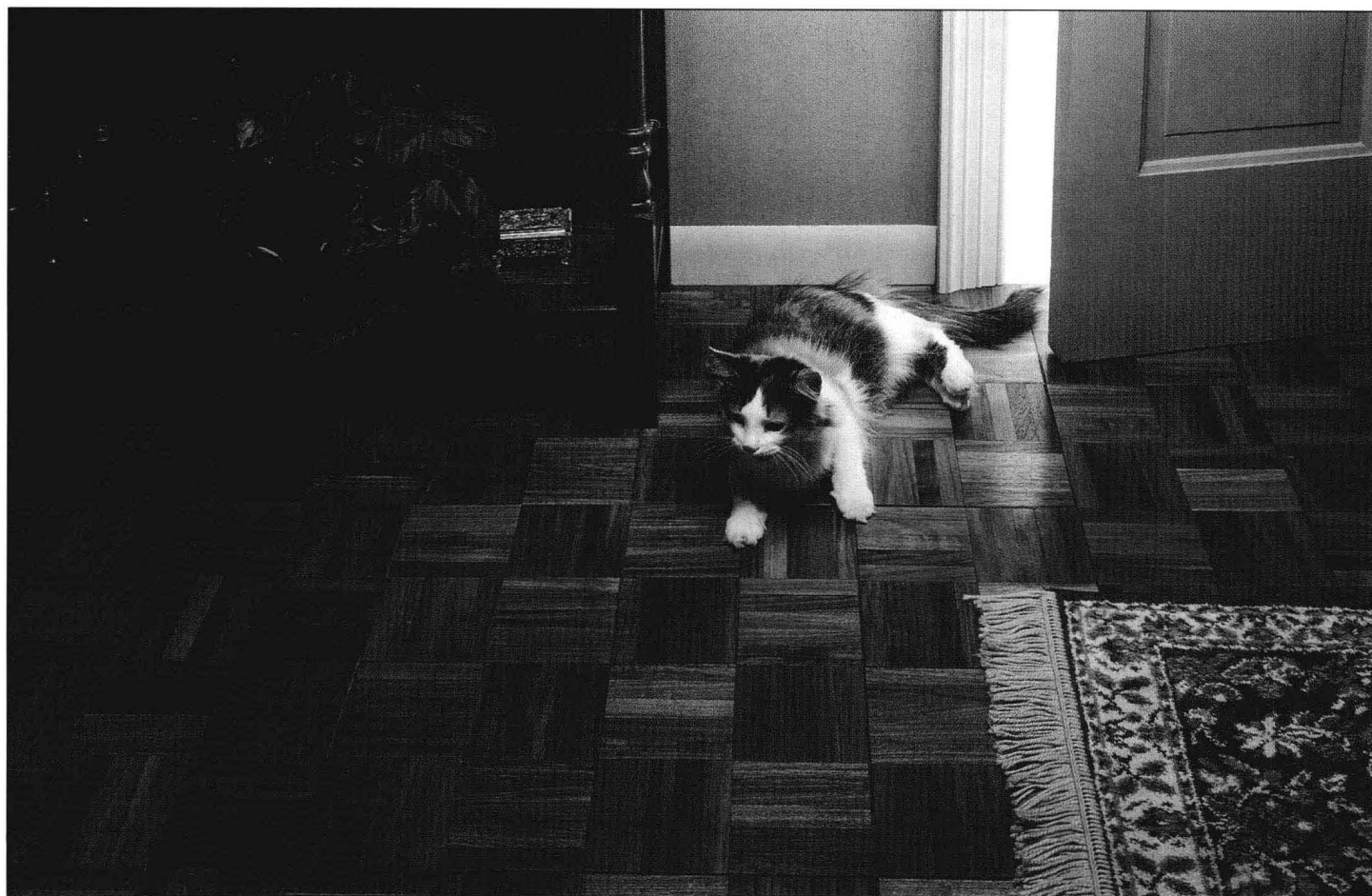


Placing fingerblock parquet tiles in parallel rows, rather than in the more common checkerboard pattern, visually expands this living area.
Architect: John Brooks Boyd.

This oak parquet floor has been given a white finish, which lends an unusual but nevertheless sophisticated appearance.



This Mayan walnut parquet, laid out in block pattern, is warm and welcoming.





*Mayan cherry par-
quet adds an air of
refined antiquity to
this dining room.*

*Natural white oak
parquet in the tra-
ditional Monticello
pattern brightens
a living room.*



OTHER TILE MATERIALS

In addition to the popular tiles—ceramic, resilient, and wood—covered in this book, you'll also find a range of tiles made from other materials. Perhaps one of the kinds discussed below will be just right for your remodeling job.

Mirror tiles, usually 12 inches square, come with a wide variety of surface designs. Applied to a wall, they add depth and light to any room. They are affixed to a surface with double-faced mounting tape.

Marble tiles, precut to various sizes, may be used in the same ways as ceramic tile. For decades, marble tiles were considered a hallmark of opulence, but now they cost about the same as high-quality ceramic tiles or hardwood flooring. Installation is similar to that for ceramic tile.

Slate tiles are bluish-black, green, or maroon in color, with either a smooth or—more often—a textured surface. Slate floors are durable and restful to the eyes. They can be installed in the same way as ceramic tiles.

Terrazzo tile is manufactured by setting chips of marble or onyx in concrete and then polishing the surface. Although commonly made in large slabs, terrazzo is also available in 12-inch tiles that can be installed by the homeowner.

For the environmentally conscious do-it-yourselfer, there are now tiles on the market which contain recycled glass. They are intended for heavy-traffic areas. However, these tiles may be hard to find.



Marble tile in your foyer announces to the visitor that this is a home of distinction.