

Bring pattern to FLOORS

**BEAUTIFUL AND LONG-LASTING,
PARED-BACK GEOMETRIC
DESIGNS ARE THE LATEST
OLD-MEETS-NEW WAY TO ADD
FLOW TO YOUR ROOMS**

WE'RE BECOMING EVER MORE ADVENTUROUS in our flooring choices, with a shift towards lively geometric patterns, whether used wall to wall, or to create a rug effect with a central panel and plain border. There's a whole host of materials to choose from, including stone, wood, ceramics and vinyl tiles.

WOOD PARQUET AND VERSAILLES PANELS are experiencing a renaissance. 'There is a growing popularity for parquet blocks laid in a herringbone design, especially when finished with a gently distressed appearance that looks years old and is much less formal than the classic, highly polished version,' says Vanessa Garrett, director of Broadleaf. 'We've also noticed a growth in the popularity of chevron patterns as an alternative to blocks. Some people are combining colours to create a striking contrast or using similar shades for a gentle feature.'

PARTICULARLY SUITED TO BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS where spills and splashes are par for the course, porcelain planks are a great alternative to real wood. The material won't shrink or expand and is impervious to water. Long planks can be laid individually in herringbone fashion, or you can opt for planks that come ready-marked out with chevron shapes, for easy fitting.

TILES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A SOURCE OF PATTERN, and it's the encaustic cement type that is now in the spotlight, whether in swirling patterns or more formal geometrics. 'Our Alalpardo or Churriana tiles lend themselves to creating bold geometric designs,' says Lee Thornley, founder of Bert & May, 'and there are so many pattern options from just one tile, simply by switching up how you arrange them.'

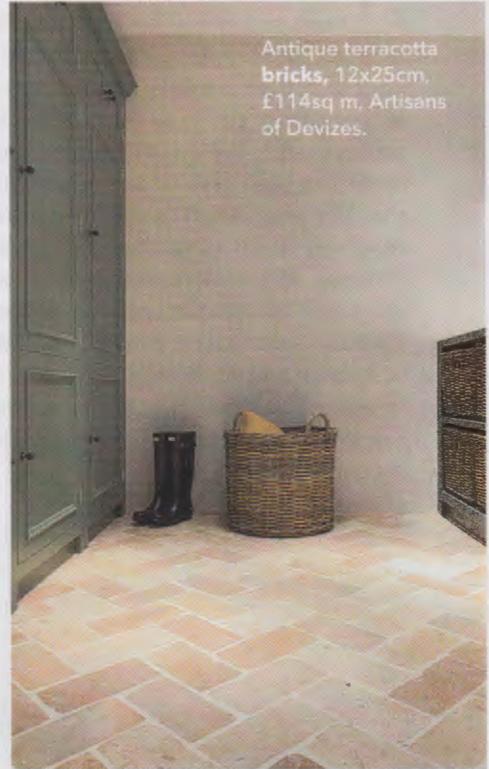


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LOVES

Similar American oak
grey wash chair,
£250. Sustainable
Furniture.

1 *Classic panels*

'Modern takes on the traditional Parquet de Versailles design are currently popular in wide plank patterns that look both contemporary and elegant,' says Jago Anderson, creative director of Element 7. 'Their dimensions work well with country homes, which generally have more space to play with. It's crucial to ensure the panel dimensions are right for the room size – too big, and they will overpower the space. These come in sizes up to 100x100cm and are glued down, essentially like a floor tile.'



Antique terracotta bricks, 12x25cm, £114sq m, Artisans of Devizes.

2 *Vintage herringbone*

'These reclaimed handmade 19th-century terracotta bricks have been sliced in half to make pavious that give an instant vintage look,' says Hamish Smith, creative director of Artisans of Devizes. 'When installing them, we suggest mixing the sawn and the rustic faces to get the desired effect. The flooring needs little maintenance – a quick vacuum or a brush, and the occasional mopping will suffice. Every few years, you can apply a coat of liquid wax to help protect the surface.'

DESIGN TIP

LUXURY VINYL FLOOR TILES ARE A GREAT ALTERNATIVE TO HEAVY-WEIGHT CERAMICS AND WOOD, ARE EASY TO FIT ON A SMOOTH SUB-FLOOR AND ARE COMFY UNDERFOOT. TRY AMTICO FOR WOOD AND STONE EFFECT DESIGNS, AND HARVEY MARIA FOR STRIKING PATTERNS. >>

Module 227 /
engineered wood
panels in English
oak, from £300sq m.
Element 7.

3 Heavenly hexagons

Hexagons are a striking way to add modern country geometrics to your home. Laid in complementary shades, the effect is beautifully subtle in tone, creating a cool contrast with the contemporary shapes. 'Over the past year or so, we identified that the geometrics trend was far from reserved for furniture and fabrics alone. Ultimate Expressions was created to showcase the newest looks in cushion flooring,' says Stuart Reeves, sales manager of Avenue Floors. 'What's more, this flooring is water-resistant – while also aiding noise reduction and thermal insulation – so its good looks won't diminish.'

Goldie hexagonal tile-effect **vinyl flooring**, from £21sq m, Ultimate Expressions collection, Avenue Floors.



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 Hand Braided Rattan
 bench, £ 315, Out
 There Interiors.



Vives Efeso
Caria-R Blanco
porcelain tiles,
21.8x89.3cm,
£55sq m,
Solus Ceramics.

4 Subtle shades

The pattern on these porcelain floor tiles is distinctive but not overpowering, and brings quirky individuality to this neutral kitchen. The rectangular-shaped tiles shown are decorated with pastel triangles, but also come in a plain version, which could be used to border the patterned ones. 'Porcelain is popular because it is durable and can cope with high-traffic levels; tiles from this range are also an eco-friendly option, having a recycled content of 40%', says Andrew Chappell, area manager of Vives.

3 OF THE BEST... Eco-friendly rugs

SOFT SURFACES TO CUT A DASH ON
YOUR NEW GEOMETRIC FLOORING



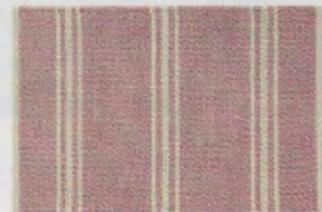
Spun from biodegradable paper, this rug also includes 13% cotton.

Woodnotes Fourways rug, 140x200cm, col Antique White, £729, Skandium.



This rug is made from plastic bottles, shredded and spun into colourful yarn.

Juno rug, 110x60cm, col Dove Grey, £67, Weaver Green.



Woven from PET, a recycled plastic, this rug can be used inside and out.

Lexington rug, 61x91cm, col Pink/Ivory, £90, Dash & Albert.



Parquet Brown
Matt ceramic
tiles, 49.8cm sq,
£34.90sq m,
British Ceramic Tile.

5 Ceramic woodgrain

It's no longer a surprise to see ceramics used to replicate timber, yet the latest designs are ever more inventive, and this intricate flooring takes the trend to another level. 'The eye-catching diamond pattern and detailed woodgrain effect will set the tone for a stylish country dining room scheme,' says Claire O'Brien, head of design and product at British Ceramic Tile. 'The tiles are affordable to install, easy to clean and incredibly hard-wearing; ideal for busy family homes.' »