



Creative progress driven by technology

Juliet McDonald provides a detailed overview of the latest technical developments and ceramic tile design trends from February's Cevisama exhibition, held in Valencia.



Above: Strand by Vives.

Top right: Wabi Sabi by Grespania.

Bottom right: Plaster by Roca.

Spain's annual tile fair Cevisama attracted visitors from more than 145 countries and showcased an innovative tile sector that produces in excess of 530 million square metres of tiles a year. It is no wonder there was a palpable sense of excitement as the latest trends were unveiled in Valencia, providing a good indication of where the tile industry is going next with regard to design trends.

Cevisama is held close by Castellón, the main Spanish ceramic hub famed for its excellent clay and the base for many of the ceramic and porcelain tile factories. Spanish tiles are known for their heritage, but also for their high-performance, quality and sustainability; and these two strands both shone brightly at Cevisama.

The Spanish tile industry continues to grow impressively both at home and abroad. 75% of sales are now made abroad and the UK remains one of the bigger markets for Spanish tiles.

Carefully constructed

Inspiration comes from many places, but a notable source this year is the construction yard or the skills and techniques used by the building trade.

Whether it's shuttered concrete, chipboard, plaster, building blocks or just the pattern made on an exterior wall when façade tiles are removed, décor tiles that are reminiscent of these materials or processes exist, creating surprisingly appealing backdrops for both commercial and residential interiors.



Strand by Vives

Porcelain floor and wall tiles in 1,200 by 1,200mm, 593 by 1193mm and 593 by 593mm formats. Natural, with its chipboard-look design, it can be mixed with décors including Seriaki, featuring zigzags, and Nenets, featuring stripes, in various colours on a chipboard-effect ground.

www.vivesceramica.com

Wabi Sabi by Grespania

This complex range features three notably different designs including Concrete, a cement look with a subtle spatulated-effect in a 315 by 1,000mm format.

www.grespania.com

Formwork by Saloni

The Street Art range from the Formwork collection by Saloni offer rectified porcelain wall tiles, resembling shuttered concrete, in a 450 by 900mm format and is available in four colourways including the ever-popular Gris.

www.saloni.com

Plaster by Roca

Plaster by Roca is a porcelain floor tile range in 600 by 1,200mm, 800 by 800mm and 300 by 600mm and five colourways including gris, blanco, antracita, arena, and taupe.

www.roca.es



Terrazzo with a twist

Terrazzo has evolved and now features giant flecks, unusual colours or geometric patterns that have been over-layered with marble pieces.

Numerous brands have created designs that nod at traditional terrazzo, but take a contemporary spin. A key development is that it's now possible to have a larger-format version – even a generous 3,600 by 1,200mm slab – as well as a wider variety of smaller formats.

Of course you can still find plenty of heritage-style terrazzo – a look that typically has tiny chips of marble or stone set in a cementitious ground – but look out for innovations and unexpected developments.



Retrostone by Neolith

A large format porcelain with a terrazzo-effect in a silk finish, Retrostone by Neolith is available in 3,200 by 1,500mm, 3,200 by 1,600mm, 1,500 by 1,500mm, 1,500 by 750mm and 750 by 750mm formats, and both 12mm and 6mm thickness.

www.neolith.com

Sweethome by Azteca

Sweethome by Azteca is a range of rectified porcelain tiles for wall and floor in a choice of four terrazzo-effect colourways, plus a geometric mash-up Susan décor tile. The format is 600 by 600mm.

www.azteca.es

Agnes by Dune

The Emporio Collection from Agnes by Dune delivers wall and floor porcelain tiles in 12 distinctly contemporary designs and a palette of beige and grey that can be randomly mixed. A décor tile in a 200 by 200mm format adds choice, and a variety of plain tiles is also available.

www.dune.es

F.S. Rialto by Francisco Segarra for Peronda

A porcelain range in a 452 by 452mm format, F.S. Rialto by Francisco Segarra is an innovative and contemporary take on traditional terrazzo with large stone flecks in varying colours.

www.peronda.com

Atelier by Grespania

The Texture series from Atelier by Grespania is a porcelain décor tile for walls in a 450 by 1,200mm format that artfully blends terrazzo-style stone chips into a geometric design.

www.grespania.com

Osaka Multicolor by Vives

Osaka Multicolor by Vives from the Nassau collection of porcelain tiles provides a pastel palette mixed with a geometric design with subtle stone flecks. This design also comes in monochrome. The format is 200 by 200mm.

www.vivesceramica.com

Top: Emporio from Agnes by Dune.

Above left: Retrostone by Neolith.

Above right: Osaka Multicolor from the Nassau collection by Vives.

Right top: F S Rialto by Francisco Segarra for Peronda.

Right bottom: Sweethome by Azteca.

