

CHARLOTTE URBAN

# HOME

SPRING 2009

Designs | Lifestyles | Investments | Improvements

## Creating Colorful & Carefree Urban Sanctuaries

Traditional to  
Transitional Decorating

Looking for  
Inspiration?  
Have We Got  
**COLOR!**

Photo courtesy of Gloster Furniture  
The Hearth and Patio



# Creating *Fresh Style* Through Tile

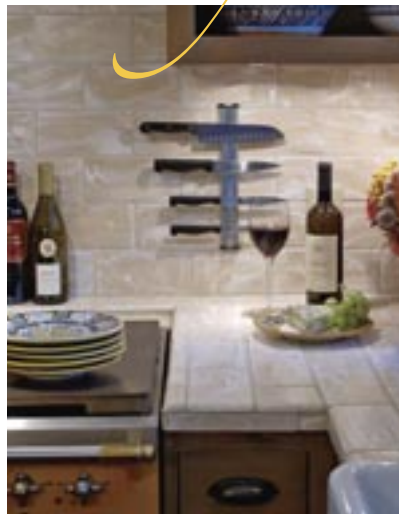
**For the Turners**, building their home on Lake Wateree is the fulfillment of a dream they hope to enjoy through retirement. “We want to bring our personality to the house,” relates Pene Turner, “so we’ve used a lot of natural elements to create the artsy feel of a timber-frame cottage.”

An avid Southern cook, “The kitchen had to be great,” says Turner. “I was looking for something more unique than the typical tile backsplashes I’ve seen.” When a tile mosaic caught her eye in a magazine, Turner’s builder suggested Tile Collection, a Charlotte-area business that specializes in custom tile and natural stone products.

As part of the design and sales staff at the company, Laura Barrick helped to create the mosaic. Consulting with Turner, Barrick drafted the picture and contacted the vendor capable of meeting the demands. “The piece is a ‘tree of life’ concept,” relates Barrick. “The vendor sent mock-ups, so we could envision the end-result.” After making a few tweaks, “We were able to turn the art-inspired picture into a unique piece.”

The Turners are not alone. These days, “People are being more selective and making sure that every penny spent is getting them exactly what they want,” says “Barrick. “Sometimes it means designing a truly custom piece. For others it’s transforming a space to feel new and fresh. Regardless, the investment should make a real difference in their home.”

In either case, the trend has been toward simplicity. “In the past, tile design included a lot of heavy embellishment,” relates Barrick. “Now people are asking for more contemporary styles to achieve a



clean, simple look.” The preferred size is also shifting. “Larger formats and rectangular tiles are more popular because they can be laid with hairline grout joints.”

Whether the goal is to create a custom art piece or refresh a tired space, “Homeowners should design for themselves,” Barrick advises. With so many options, choosing the right tile can be intimidating without an expert, but the extra effort pays off. “Getting the look you want can be as appealing today as it will be for the future.”❖

For ideas visit the Tile Collection showroom at 11200 Carolina Place Pkwy Pineville, NC call 704-541-8453, or visit [tilecollection.com](http://tilecollection.com).