

charlotte

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april/may/june 2006

Dreaming in  
**Color**

Creating Garden  
Getaways

Photo courtesy of Anthony & Sylvan Pools, Jim McGuire Photography  
Plants courtesy of Campbell's Greenhouse



# Fit to be

# Tiled

Creating customized looks for your home is easier and more affordable than ever when combining the different materials available for tile.

The biggest trend in tile today is mixing media, says Daphne Friday, interior designer for Tile Collection of Charlotte. Whether your style is formal or casual, retro or modern, combinations of stone, ceramic, metal and glass offer an endless design palette.

“The trends in tile are following the trends in plumbing accessories, lighting fixtures and finishes for cabinetry,” says Friday. Metal tile accents coordinate with oil-rubbed bronze and brushed nickel fixtures, which are in vogue in many local homes. Homeowners can combine the metal accent pieces with stone, glass and ceramics to create a distinctive design, at home in any décor from Asian to French-country inspired.

“Our customers are adding more color in their kitchens, baths and throughout their home, with nature-inspired colors,” Friday continues. “We’re seeing a trend toward chocolate browns, walnuts and warm golds in tile colors. Granite countertops are a must. Our customers like the irregularities and the ‘movement’ that granite offers.”

Natural stone remains popular but can be expensive to install when used throughout the design, but glass and porcelain pieces can help homeowners stretch their dollar without comprising their look.

For flooring, tile is popular throughout new homes and remodels, says Friday. “Most of the mainlays in Charlotte are hardwood floors and many are changing to porcelain tile,” she says.

Porcelain and natural stone tile offer a timeless elegance, complement wood furnishings, are durable, easy to clean and allergy safe.

“A lot of customers want to create a spa-inspired bathroom and our tile designs help customers complete that look,” Friday says.

Many customers opt for a heated floor especially in areas such as bedrooms and bathrooms where you’re likely to have bare feet. Another plus: tile stays cool in the hot Carolina summers and retains heat in the winter.

Friday and the staff at Tile Collection offer turnkey services from design to fabrication and installation. Their work can be seen in the McSpadden custom home at this year’s HomeArama at The Sanctuary.

Tile Collection carries many distinctive designs including Jeffrey Court tiles and decorative stone elements, Ahnzu, Original Style mosaics, Adex and Porcelanosa. ♦

Tile Collection is located at 11200 Carolina Place Parkway. Call 704-541-TILE (8453) or on the Web at [www.tilecollection.com](http://www.tilecollection.com). Visit [www.hbaclt.com](http://www.hbaclt.com) for more information on HomeArama 2006.



## Tile Options Abound!

Among the different popular tile trends are:

- Glass – Clear, beach glass (or frosted glass), iridescent or crushed glass
- Metals – Stainless in polished and brushed finishes and bronze in polished, brushed and rubbed finishes.
- Tumbled stones – Travertine, marble, limestone, slate.
- Micro mosaic listellos – Mesh mount offering endless options for trim, centerpieces and accents.

