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# STONE & TILE design

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NEW PRODUCT TRENDS / RESIDENTIAL DESIGN / FOCUS ON MOSAICS



# Defining a personal space with stone and tile

When it comes to personalizing their home designs, stone and tile products remain a top choice for today's homeowners

by Jennifer Adams

**F**or many, a home is a haven where they can retreat. It is a place that can provide security and relaxation as well as serving as a space to entertain family and friends. Keeping these multiple functions in mind, many homeowners desire durable maintenance-free materials that also possess texture and aesthetic beauty. As a result, they are turning to stone and tile products to meet their design objectives.

And while the current recession has caused budget restraints, many homeowners are still willing to make long-term investments in their living spaces. While some fortunate homeowners are able to lavishly dress their residences in high-end stone and tile products, others are utilizing these

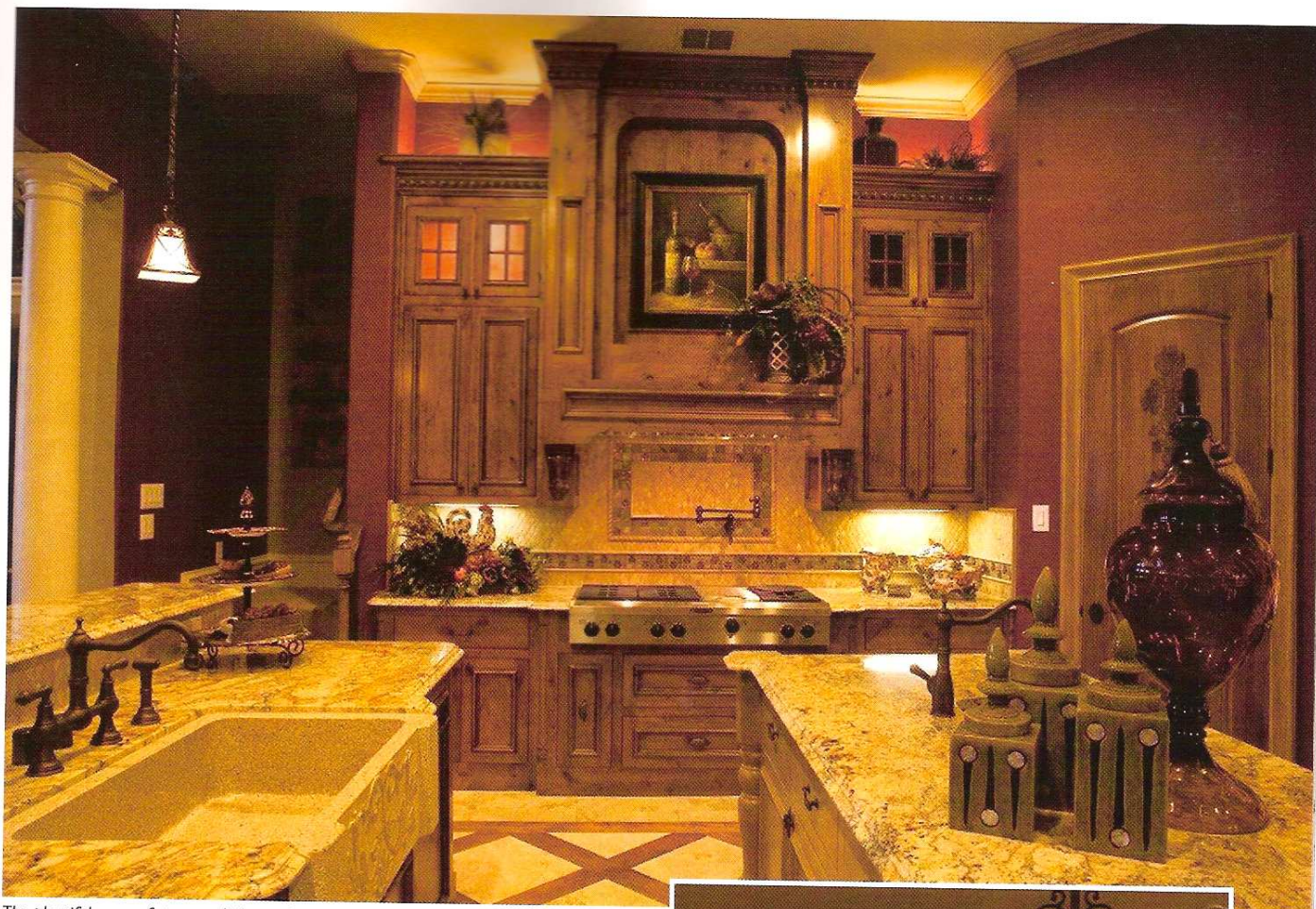
materials on a smaller scale — in areas that really matter to them.

Whether it is a luxury custom-built home, a partial remodel or a vacation house, the plentiful collections of stone, porcelain and glass products presently available offer a range of options that satisfy diverse styles and tastes. In each case, homeowners are choosing quality products that add character and reflect their personality.

## **Adding personal charm**

Set in the residential neighborhood of Shaddock Creek in the northern part of Dallas, TX, the interior of a newly constructed private residence





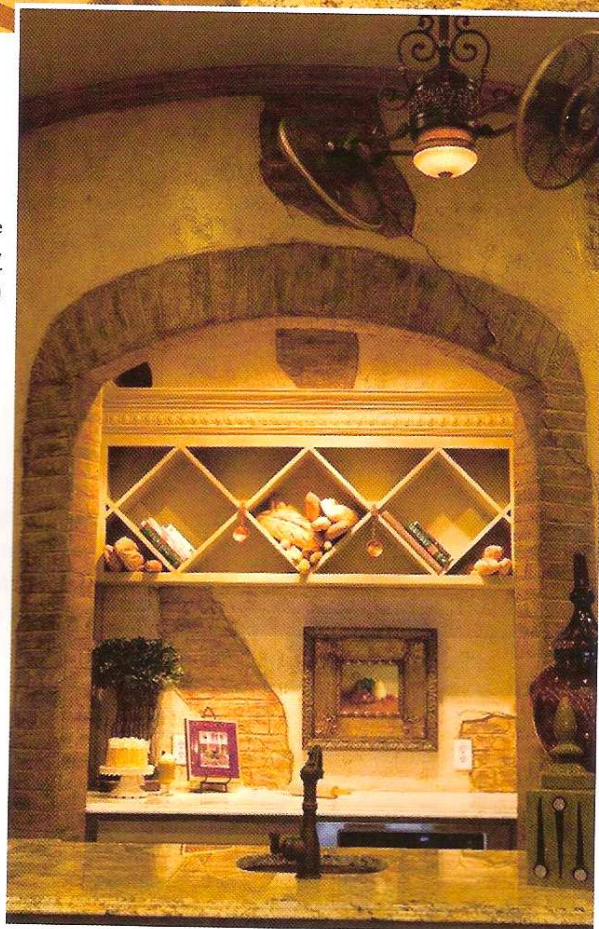
The plentiful array of stone and tile products available today allows homeowners to find just the right materials to personalize their living spaces. For a recently built Texan residence, Typhoon granite countertops are paired with a backsplash consisting of harlequin slate mosaics and 18- x 18-inch travertine floor tiles with a wood cross-hatch pattern. **Designer:** Elaine Williamson Designs, Dallas, TX; **Stone Supplier:** Daltile, Dallas, TX

The 400-square-foot kitchen includes a separate baking center that features a convection oven, warming drawer and Carrara marble countertops for easy rolling of dough. (pictured in the background)

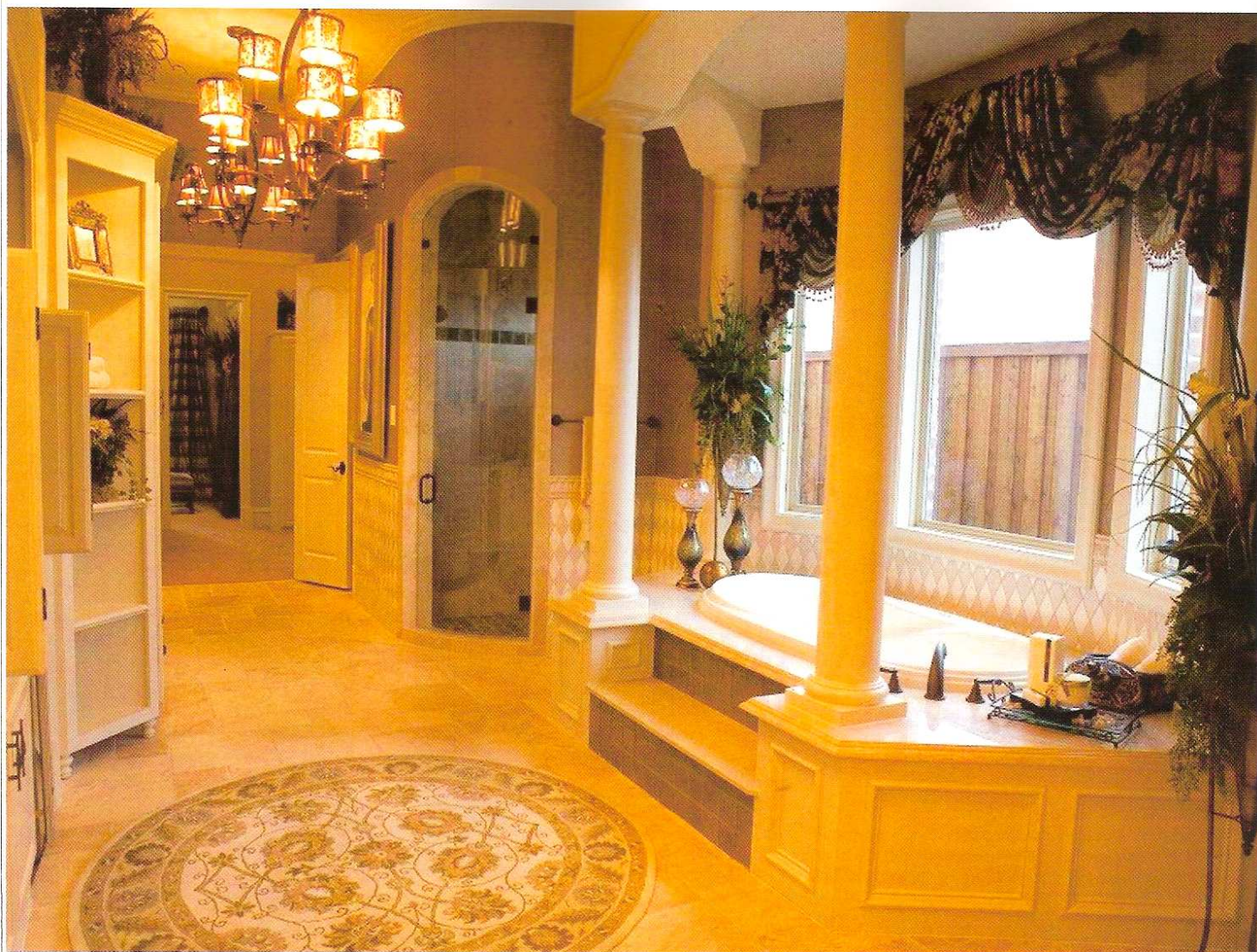
prominently displays stone throughout its living spaces — making for an elegant design with personal charm. The stone palette, which exhibits various sizes, shapes and shades of color, was employed extensively in the home's kitchen and master bath.

"The design goal was to create a unique home to the area — one that was not only aesthetically beautiful, but one that had personalized treatments not found in any of the homes we were seeing built in the area," said Elaine Williamson of Elaine Williamson Designs in Dallas, TX. "Ultimately, the home is a return to traditional elegance with a personal touch."

During the design process, the homeowners were very involved, according to Williamson. "I worked very closely with my client because it is their home — their dream," she said. "This is the place where memories will be made. It is extremely important to me that







The home's rich elegant style continues with the design of the master bath. The floor consists of 18- x 18-inch travertine tiles, while a focal point of the space is hand-poured Italian porcelain tiles in two tones of cream that were employed as wainscoting. "We positioned the hand-poured Italian porcelain tiles in a stunning harlequin pattern," said designer Elaine Williamson of Elaine Williamson Designs in Dallas, TX. **Stone/Tile Supplier:** Daltile, Dallas, TX

we fulfill all of the goals of the client, and then exceed their expectations."

In the kitchen, a mix of stone types was selected for the 400-square-foot space, which includes a pantry. "Our goal for the kitchen was completely centered on the couple's love of cooking; specifically the wife's amazing baking skills," explained Williamson. "We placed top-of-the-line appliances throughout, and then created a separate baking center that features a convection oven, warming drawer and Carrara marble countertops for easy rolling of dough for the fabulous

pizza parties the couple has become famous for."

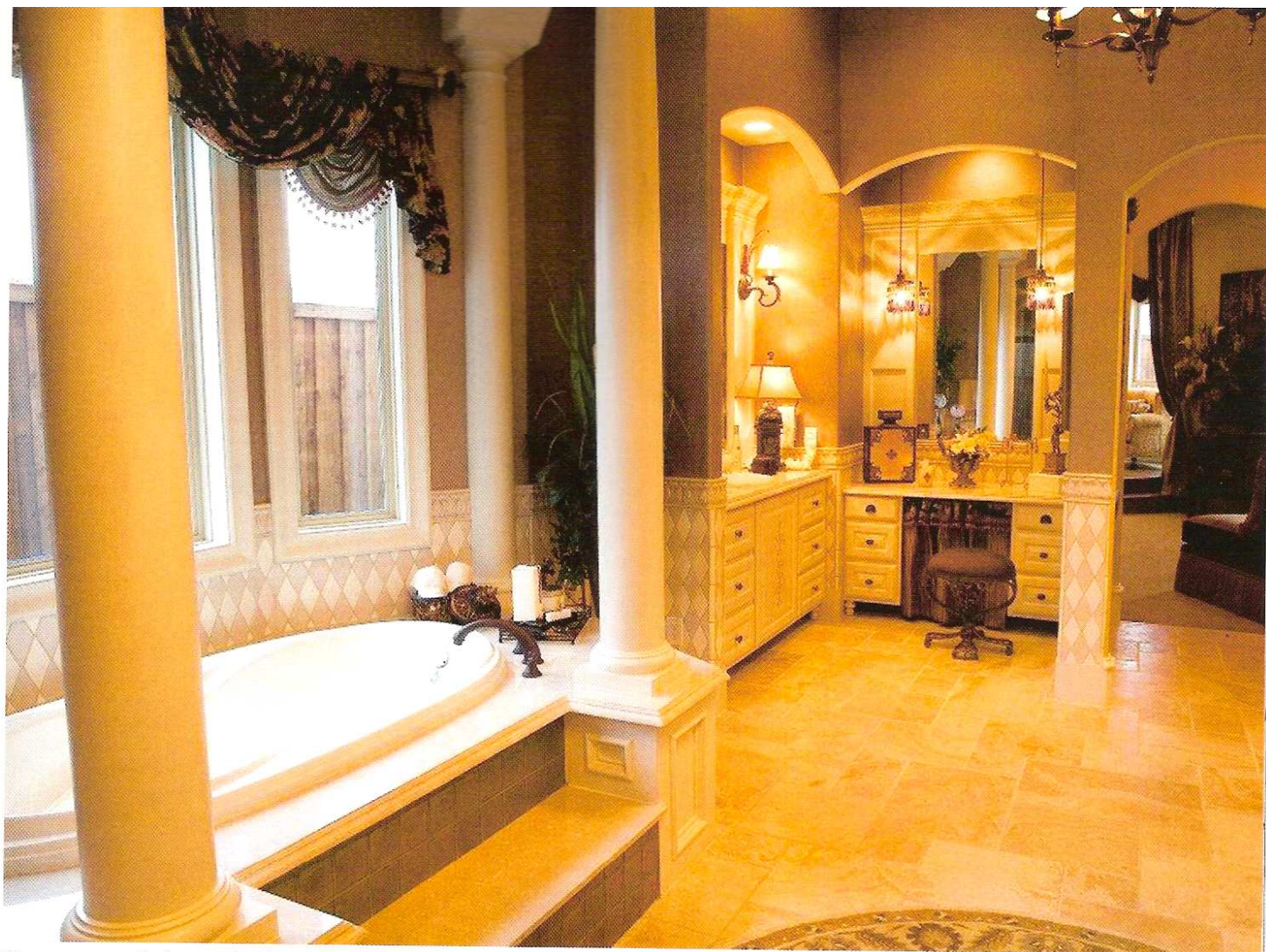
Complementing the Carrara marble countertops in the baker's pantry are countertops made of Typhoon granite, including a large center island. "The movement and the color of the Typhoon granite was a unanimous choice for the homeowner and I," said the designer. "The Carrara marble was the perfect choice for rolling dough — a choice the client was absolutely thrilled to have as a counter surface."

Tying the kitchen design together is a back-

splash comprised of harlequin slate mosaic tiles and 18- x 18-inch travertine floor tiles with a wood cross-hatch pattern. The hardwood combined with the travertine provides a soft rustic feel, and the warm tones found in all of the stone makes for a homey and inviting atmosphere with character and Old World charm.

The home's rich elegant style continues with the design of the master bath. "In a word, luxury was the inspiration for this space," said Williamson. "In the bathroom suite, we needed all of the modern convenience of a small home to satisfy the needs of this hardworking executive cou-





*The countertops and tub surround in the master bath are lavishly dressed in Botticino marble, which "was befitting the luxury feeling of the room," said Williamson.*

ple. We gave them a respite that is both luxurious and yet convenient, including a hidden coffee bar and refrigerator."

The countertops and tub surround in the master bath are lavishly dressed in Botticino marble, and they are complemented by 18- x 18-inch travertine floor tiles. "The travertine tile was chosen for its soft natural feel, and the Botticino marble was befitting the luxury feeling of the room," explained the designer.

A focal point of the space is hand-poured Italian porcelain tiles in two tones of cream that were employed

as wainscoting. "We positioned the hand-poured Italian porcelain tiles in a stunning harlequin pattern," said Williamson. "The difficult part was making certain that our hand-poured tiles for the harlequin feature in the room were lying straight, as no two tiles were exactly alike. The process was slow, but the outcome fantastic."

Additional features in the master bath include glass cristallo tiles that were used for the tub stair risers and 4- x 4-inch Green onyx tiles that clad the shower stall. The entire stone and tile palette of the master bath as well as the kitchen

was supplied by Daltile of Dallas, TX. "I have been associated with Daltile for many years," explained Williamson. "They are my vendor of choice."

In total, it took approximately seven months to complete the project. "We are so grateful for clients who were open to new ideas, but also steadfast in their own desires," said Williamson. "Upon completion, we received several awards for this home: 'Best Kitchen,' 'Best Master Bedroom,' 'Best Master Bath' and 'Best Entry.' The clients loved their new home — a little piece of New Orleans right here in Dallas."