

Stone & ceramic tiles survey

Cast In stone

A massive choice is offered to specifiers of stone and ceramic flooring:

Johnson Tiles has launched a major new floor and wall tile collection called Absolute. The collection includes 2,663 floor tiles, offering a comprehensive selection of sizes, styles, textures and natural stone effects, and representing the largest new collection introduced by the company.

The largest floor tiles in the Absolute range measure 1200 x 600mm. Suitable for prestigious new build projects in addition to corporate headquarters, 'front of house' schemes in hotels and retail areas Absolute tiles are produced using the latest ceramic and porcelain tile manufacturing and decorating techniques.

The company offers floor tiles in a wide range of sizes, colours and textures suitable for commercial and domestic applications.

Specifiers are welcome to visit the Material Lab in central London to research surface decoration materials for use in all types of buildings.



Samples are available and computer facilities for specifiers to utilise. **T: 0207 436 8629**
www.material-lab.co.uk
www.johnson-tiles.com

N&C Nicobond has launched Natural Stone Speed Flex, a cement based, quick setting adhesive for fixing natural stone tiles to different surfaces, especially for fixing moisture sensitive natural stone products and for tiling

swimming pools or wet areas. Available in grey and white, it can be applied up to 12mm thick with an advisory drying time of two to three hours, said to exceed the requirements of BS EN 12004 C2FT.

Shackerley offers a 'one-stop shop' to architects and contractors involved with all types of transport interchanges where exceptionally heavy traffic



ABOVE LEFT: Absolute, the new tile collection Johnson Tiles offering 2,663 options available in different sizes, styles, textures and natural stone effects
LEFT: Natural Stone Speed Flex, a cement-based quick setting adhesive for fixing stone from N&C Nicobond
TOP: Shackerley offers a 'one-stop shop' to architects and contractors involved with transport interchanges
ABOVE: Crema Marfil tiles in an aniqued finish from Stone Circle. These tiles can be produced to any size required and in honed and polished finishes as well

conditions are anticipated.

The company supplies ceramic granite floor tiles designed for the most demanding traffic flows, including All Weather Tactile Tiles to alert the visually impaired to the presence of hazards.

Stone Circle offers natural stone tiles in a large gamut of stones, finishes and sizes. Slabs can be cut to specification in its factory. The company supplies kitchen, bathroom and tile retailers and is involved in top end commercial projects.

Stone Circle has also supplied material to many prestigious hotels in London and others closer to its Basingstoke base.

www.stone-circle.com CFJ

Porcelain tiles becoming more popular

Rob Jull, md of RAK Ceramics UK, examines current trends in stone and ceramic floor tiles:



THE demand for stone continues unabated, but because of the often prohibitive cost of solid stone, many consumers are turning to realistic replicas made from porcelain.

As well as being more affordable, many porcelain stone-look tiles don't need treating with a protective finish to maintain waterproof qualities and, in terms of appearance are hard to differentiate from the real thing.

The material is very hardwearing and if a tile becomes chipped after installation (all but impossible), the body is the same colour so it is less obvious.

Porcelain has other performance

capabilities not available in other materials. For example, it has only 0.05% absorption so you can spill virtually anything on it without staining. The surface is virtually scratch proof - it's chosen for stadia, airports and public buildings for its durability.

Trendsetters are currently gravitating towards metallic-finish porcelain floor tiles, such as our latest range called Paradox, available in four colours. We anticipate a growing trend for metallic finish tiles this year.

Floor tile sizes always depend on the application, but generally we see an increasing demand for larger format tiles. So, in areas such as kitchens, halls and also commercial applications such as shop floors and hotel foyers, tiles tend to be bigger, the norm being 40x40 or 45x45.

For bathroom floors large sizes like 60x30 or 40x40 (used to balance large format wall sizes) are



more and more popular.

Mosaics in natural tones are big news because of their versatility; they can be used to create a focus or merely to inject some colour into a neutral scheme. In our Lounge range we stock 1mx1m and 1mx500cm which are both very popular and which would have been unheard of two years ago. **CFJ**

www.rakceramics.co.uk

BUYERS' GUIDE

For further information on any of the products mentioned, contact the suppliers directly. And please remember to tell them that you read about their companies in **CFJ**:

Bernard J Arnall	020 8965 6094
Capital Marble	020 8968 5340
Domus Tiles	020 8481 9500
Johnson Tiles	01782 575575
Mapei	0121 508 6970
N&C Nicobond	020 8586 4600
Pilkingtons	0161 727 1111
RAK Ceramics	01730 237850
Shackerley	01257 273114
Stone Circle	01256 850380