

AWA MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR 2014

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# real living

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APRIL 2015

*Beautiful Spaces*

CREATIVE WAYS TO  
DECORATE YOUR HOME

TV'S  
**THE BLOCK**  
MEET THE  
CONTESTANTS.  
GET THE LOOKS

**30**

THINGS YOU  
DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT  
DECORATING

**TIMELESS BUYS  
THE HERO PIECE**  
TO ANCHOR EVERYTHING ELSE



**COOL INDOOR PLANT IDEAS** PERFECT FOR RENTERS TOO!

# GET YOUR TECHNIQUE RIGHT

*tantalising tiles*

Interior design expert **Jacinta Preston** reveals her secrets to great decorating

FIRE UP YOUR imagination, tiles are trending! Tessellated, Marrakech, subway, penny round, Turkish, tumble, mosaic, hex, granite, slate, sandstone, travertine, porcelain, marble, mirror... and the list goes on. There are just so many design possibilities with tiles. In fact, they're now completely off-the-wall in terms of style – **modern tiles embrace imitation textures** and can resemble fabric, wood, leather, glass and paper, and they are even available in 3D shapes. Not only do they look great, tiles can be a very **cost-effective** way to decorate your home, particularly in high-traffic areas and moisture-rich environments.

**FAB FEATURES** Modern tile designs can look like artworks, even floor carpets and area rugs. Tiles are becoming as decorative as wallpaper, and we can't seem to get enough of the colour, texture, pattern, and scale opportunity. Tiles are the new black (seriously!).

**GET YOUR GROUT RIGHT** Grout simply locks tiles tight, keeping water out and bonding the tiles together preventing the edges from chipping and cracking. It helps control the functionality and durability of tiles and plays a major role in day-to-day maintenance and the overall longevity of your tile. **Grout divides and frames tiles**, and can highlight individual tile shapes or patterns. Grout is a whole other design decision so, please, give it the consideration it deserves.

There are three approaches when it comes to **choosing grout colour**:

**1. Matching grout** – matching the grout colour to the tile colour

**IRRESPECTIVE OF YOUR CHOSEN TILE AND LAY, NEVER ASSUME A ROOM IS PERFECTLY SQUARE. ALSO, MAKE SURE YOUR TILER MIXES TILES**

**FROM A FEW DIFFERENT BOXES TO ENSURE COLOUR VARIATIONS BLEND SEAMLESSLY.**

makes the grout lines less pronounced and therefore the tile itself is accentuated. This is the best option if you have over-the-top beautiful tiles with a basic layout. **2. Contrasting grout** – a contrasting grout colour and tile colour will emphasize both the pattern and layout of the tiles, rather than the tile itself. **3. Neutral grout** – a light, neutral grout produces a look somewhere in between matching and contrast.

**PICK A PATTERN** Tile patterns can change the look of your room. The **"straight lay"** is probably the most common of all patterns – it's simple, clean and modern, and really lets the tiles do the talking. The **"running bond or brick pattern"** – think subway tiles – is a great pattern for hiding imperfections, as are mosaics and penny rounds. The **"diagonal lay"**, where tiles are set on a 45-degree angle, helps to make a space feel larger, as well as adding interest to an otherwise neutral scheme. Finally, the **"herringbone pattern"** can look both modern and vintage, like a beautiful parquetry floor. **e**

**Feature tile**  
**Mayolica**, \$133.95 for set of 2 sheets (sheet measures 25cm x 75cm), Amber Tiles.

**Holiday mode**  
Spanish villa reproduction in **Midnight Blue**, \$165 a sq m, Jatauna Interiors.

**Blue hues**  
Melograno Archibello in **Random Mix 4**, \$32 for set of 4, Di Lorenzo.

**Intricate detail**  
**I Gastipardi Fabrica**, \$165 a sq m, Di Lorenzo.

**Optical Illusion**  
**Urban Diamond** reproduction, \$165 a sq m, Jatauna Interiors. For stockists, see page 215.