Better Homes and Gardens

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CHAMPAGNE CAKE FOR NEW YEAR'S

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LIKE A PUZZLE, these tiles are designed to fit together. Their most typical forms: hand-painted ceramic (fired with a layer of glaze on its surface) and handmade cement (a chalky pigment layer that’s pressed, not fired). You don’t need an entire backsplash to enjoy the impact: Install a single row or two above the counter or fill only the space above the cooktop. Just don’t scatter them in a field of plain tile; these beauties are meant to stay connected.
pattern play

Turn a blank-canvas backsplash into a repeating work of art with decorative tile that reveals a bigger design when you put the pieces together.

BY KIT SELZER

An ultrathin grout line creates the effect of endless pattern. The look is more like wallpaper than a typical tile grid. Camelot 6½-inch ceramic tile, $30 each ($120 per square foot); studioredfield.com