place-to-face social networks
Despite our digital inclinations, appealing public spaces, such as New York’s Hudson Yards, are at the core of community creation.

urban revitalization
UnCoverings

Coverings 2016 was an exploration in unexpected new materials, finishes and technologies that complement aesthetics of ceramic and porcelain tiles.

It is evident that manufacturers predict a positive outlook for the North American building industry and are poised to win market share as increases in new building starts demand just-in-time tile deliveries. Tile of Spain is touting a Quickship Collection (www.tileofspainusa.com/quickship) for delivery in four to eight weeks, and at least two manufacturers are ramping up North American operations, including importing new equipment to beef up U.S. production of large-format tiles. Another positive indicator comes from Italy’s, Mapei, who released the most extensive array of colored grouts in the company’s history.

Tile trends at last fall’s Cersaie held true at this spring’s Coverings’ show: large-format tiles, reclaimed everything, wood of all patterns, shapes and sizes, and 3D tiles offered above-grade texture. Double-fired metallic tiles shined strong, and some ceramics were featured as art pieces with ink applied by digital printers. Bricks are back in every Pantone color imaginable, and a patchwork of and rhomboid and triangular shapes are emerging from the deconstructed hexagon, reports Italian tile artist Giovanni Barbieri.

Complementing the general trends were some unusual outliers. These unique products incorporate stone, concrete, solid surfaces and technical processes to provide distinctive compliments to ceramic and porcelain installations.

“Similar to crafting a digital graphic user interface, designers are creating customized interiors and enhancing the occupant experience through unique expressions in tile.”

—Ryan Fasan, Tile of Spain