FIT TO BE

tiled

It covers backsplashes and bathrooms the world over, but tile has loads of unlocked design potential. When you play with color and pattern, hard-working ceramic and porcelain surfaces become modern mosaics, and squares of leather, glass, and other unexpected mediums add major polish. We thought outside the box to bring you renovation ideas and right-now upgrades that pave the way to a home with serious style.

Photographs by Pernille Loof
Text by Jesse Dorris
**glass**

Subtle variations in color and shine make this medium ideal for creating mod monochromatic installations. And though a glass surface may sound delicate, it's quite sturdy: Small-scale tiles are less likely to break than a solid sheet.

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**Top Your Table**

We traded the original inset glass top of an inexpensive side table for a creamy custom-tiled one. Have a piece of wood cut to fit, then spread on thin-set mortar to adhere glass tiles to it. (Trim the tiles to fit at the edges with a glass cutter, if needed.) Then use a rubber float to fill in the cracks between tiles with stain-resistant grout. Wipe away the excess with a sponge or rag, and let it dry completely.

**THE DETAILS**

- **Artistic Tile Miles Modular glass tile, in Be Bop White, $32 per sq. ft., artistictile.com.**
- **Granada Tile Toscano #908A, $8 each, granadatile.com.**
- **IKEA Nyboda table (top removed), in White/Gray, $50, ikea.com.**
- **Serena & Lily Casablanca pom throw, $498, serenaandlily.com.**

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**cement**

The vibrant hues of cement tiles make them highly covetable. Don't just take our word for it—see the hundreds of thousands of Instagrammers who follow @ihavethisthingwithfloors. Each is hand-poured into molds, not painted, so a turquoise like this won't chip or fade, and fewer grout joints mean there's nothing to interrupt the bold patterns. (Speaking of joints, preseal these tiles before you grout, to avoid stains.) Indoors, they help your home stay both warm and cool. Outdoors, their smooth finish feels like silk on bare feet.