



Design Trends

2026



INDUSTRY
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Exploring the latest porcelain tile designs, finishes and formats for 2026, through the spaces and places in which they are installed.

see beyond the surface





Redesigning rooms with on-trend tiles for 2026

In the 2026 edition of the Minoli Design Trends Report, we're exploring the latest porcelain tile designs, finishes and formats, through the spaces and places in which they are installed.

Working closely with interior designers, architects and property developers, it's exciting to be involved in specifying creative combinations of porcelain tiles, extra-large format slabs, décor pieces, mosaics and outdoor porcelain pavers, to fulfil the most imaginative and innovative design briefs.

Through bathrooms, kitchens, living areas, outdoor spaces and commercial environments, the momentum we see behind particular tile design directions helps guide our choices for future product launches and informs what we believe will be the trend-setting styles for the coming year.

Read on for room-themed inspiration from Minoli.

Trends

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Trend 01

Beautiful Bathrooms

The smaller spaces in our homes deserve the same level of design detailing to make the right impression and create elegant environments in which to relax and refresh.

Tiles have long been the material of choice for the wet rooms of residences, but the latest designs and finishes make porcelain tiles even more desirable for use in family bathrooms, luxurious ensuites and separate WCs.

Take for instance the expanding availability of extra-large format porcelain slabs which are enabling the trend for seamless surfaces to be realised. With dimensions of 120/240, 120/278 and even up to 160/320, continuous floor to ceiling coverage can be achieved, so removing grout lines from larger areas of walls, and in some cases floors.

Shower enclosures, bath side panels or complete walls in WCs can be clad in one-piece porcelain, providing a more hygienic, easy to clean finish, with less joints in which limescale can form or dust gather. These can also be aligned with more standard-sized tiles of 120/120 or 60/120 dimensions, so delivering cleverly coordinated floor and wall surface solutions.

Offering opportunities for highly technical installations, extra-large format slabs and tiles are available in stone, concrete, marble, gemstone-effects and even some wood-look varieties, depending on whether a classic or contemporary design theme is desired.

Stone-effect designs range from those with mineral and micro-clast inclusions through to more playful, pebble-patterns and the streaks and striations of Travertine. The latest series that emulate concrete and clay span minimalist ultra-fine finishes to others with multi-tone layers that bring depth and dynamism to interior designs.

Those that recreate the magnificence of marble and precious gemstones harness the height of manufacturing innovation to deliver detailed definition. The leading creatives in the ceramics industry have drawn inspiration from sought-after traditional marble, as well as interpreting new directions with modern compositions and striking colour combinations.



These include selected ranges with stunning Book Match arrangements, the patterns and veining of which are created to align and mirror each other, so giving the impression of an open book of opposing pages. Whilst classic in origin, the most recent iterations of Book Match are being used to deliver forward-thinking features within contemporary schemes.

Another prevalent design direction in bathrooms is the use of warmer, earthy colour palettes, creating sensory spa-like environments with a focus on well-being. Here, natural stone and concrete-effects can bring greige, taupe and tan tones, with a serene and subtle smoothness, but wood-look designs also have an important part to play.

Realistically representing the gorgeous graining and natural knots of wood, porcelain planks offer a highly practical, effortlessly authentic alternative to timber. As a man-made material, they will not split, splinter, warp or show wear, and are also excellent conductors of underfloor heating. With colours including welcoming warm tones, through to Scandi-cool silvers and greys, the appeal of wood-look and the theme of wellness, are sure to flourish.

Lastly, the most recent ranges of smaller format, brick and square shaped designs, with increasingly vibrant colourways, are being applied to create fascinating features. Alongside intricate décor pieces, using delicate and diminutive designs to bring tactile textures, will remain at the fore for the future.

Given that we are often barefoot in bathrooms, comfort and slip-resistance are also key qualities. For floors, porcelain tiles with matt finishes have a level of grip suitable for the main areas, but for wet zones, textured tiles and mosaics provide improved anti-slip surfaces. Many Minoli ranges come with a choice of coordinated finishes so near seamless designs can be achieved throughout.

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Trend 02

Creative Kitchens

Whether part of a multi-purpose space or a dedicated room for culinary creativity, more so than ever, kitchens represent the heart of our homes and need to be designed as harmonious hubs for eating, engaging and entertaining.

For conventional kitchens in period properties, stone flooring springs to mind, but porcelain tiles offer a contemporary twist on the traditional. Replicating the irregular inclusions and shade variation found in the natural material, stone-effect porcelain tiles allow for more precise fitting, with calibrated dimensions and thicknesses, and crisp, rectified edges.

While in some settings a level of non-conformity will be coveted, especially in rural residences, when fitting out a new-build or modernising a kitchen with high-tech appliances and bespoke built units, using a stone-effect porcelain product allows for exacting alignment and a fully flush fit.

This trend for fusing traditional looking material finishes within contemporary kitchens is becoming more apparent, as demonstrated by the expanding selection of stone-effect series in the Minoli portfolio.

One might also rightly think that the mottled markings of stone are less susceptible to showing splashes and spills, but more minimalist concrete and clay designs of porcelain tiles are also in ascendance in kitchen design. All porcelain tiles are almost impervious to moisture and dirt, are remarkably resistant to extreme heat and do not require sealing, making them a desirable and durable choice for kitchen applications.

We've seen some outstanding examples of cutting-edge kitchen design using sublimely smooth concrete-effects to enhance the urban and industrial appeal of spaces, where modern and muted tiles can be used as a neutral canvas for other colour accents and patterned elements. Their meticulously matt finishes provide a certain level of grip on floors, which is ideal for use in relatively high footfall areas, especially around sinks where water may be present.

On walls and to clad breakfast bars, splashbacks and other structural elements, smaller format brick and square tiles are resurgent in specifications. The most recent additions to the Minoli collections include retro, metro brick designs with a purposefully hand-made appearance, some in a glazed gloss and others with a saturated flat finish. Others include the softly feathered veining and shading of marble, to bring a sense of luxury to the setting.



Also on the increase is the use of textured tiles and three-dimensional designs to create interesting feature panels and tactile installations. With the clever use of lighting, the surface relief comes to life at different times of the day, amplifying the waves, flutes, organic and geometric forms within their designs. The creative way various porcelain and ceramic series are combined within environments points to a more free-form decorative direction, with designers being less constrained as tile styles become more varied and inventive.

Moving from those in smaller sizes to expansive, extra-large formats, the enhanced scale of 120/240, 120/278 and 160/320 slabs offers new opportunities within kitchen designs. On walls, behind sinks and stoves, single, uninterrupted surfaces offer the perfect protective finish and are so easy to wipe down and keep clean. They can also be precisely cut to accommodate taps, pipes, sockets and switches with a wide array of trims and edges available to complement other fixtures and fittings.

We're also fielding more enquiries for porcelain pieces for counter-tops, breakfast bars and sink surrounds. In a 12 mm thickness for extra strength and resilience, our production partners are extending the availability of coordinated collections that can fulfil the requirements for walls, floors and furniture alike.

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Flexible Living Spaces

The way we use our homes has changed, with a resultant shift towards incorporating more sociable, multi-purpose living areas. This is in part the effect of less formal attitudes to cooking, entertaining and family life, and more recently a need for flexible but joined-up spaces from time spent at home during the pandemic.

While the transition to open plan living has been ongoing for decades, making homes feel more spacious, connected and contemporary, it's widely recognised that there are pros and cons to the totality of this format.

One of the main benefits of an open-plan layout is that kitchens, dining areas, living rooms, and often entrance hallways, all flow into one. However, merging almost the entire downstairs of a property into a one undivided space, removes the potential for private, quiet retreats for simply relaxing or to accommodate today's hybrid work style.

Whether a fully open plan design or a more considered approach to zoning is preferred, porcelain tiles can be used in various ways to achieve either goal.

When looking to create a singular space, the latest large format floor tiles can help create seemingly seamless surfaces through expansive areas. In 120/120, 90/90, 80/80 and 60/60 dimensions, or in coordinating rectangular shapes, these substantial sizes reduce the number of grout lines, which can also be colour matched to further reduce their visibility.

With precisely calibrated sizes within batches and exacting rectified edges, remarkable uniformity can be achieved when using a concrete, stone, travertine, marble or wood-effect design, for instance. Where the substrate is suitable and stable, extra-large slabs are also being used at 120/240 or 120/278 scale, delivering unmatched continuity.

Even when individual rooms remain a requirement, in the case of WCs or utility and boot rooms, or when shutting doors to a hallway for cosiness, using a matching tile design can still deliver a flawless sense of flow between, whether closed off or not.



Thereafter, when zoning or partitioning are desired to make sense of larger rooms, to differentiate between areas or to retain partial separation, specific surface treatments also play an important role. Using different floor and wall tiles to break up but still coordinate a setting is a clever way of demarcating lounge areas from more functional food preparation stations, for example.

Many series in the Minoli collections have broad colour palettes, allowing different shades of the same design, in matching sizes and finishes, to be combined within rooms. Completely different designs can also be inset in panels on floors to create carpet-like anchors for dining and seating furniture, whilst keeping entirely even levels throughout the environment.

Within open-plan areas or separate living rooms, porcelain and ceramic tiles are also being used creatively to fashion features on walls or to clad individual elements such as fireplace surrounds, media walls or more structural inclusions, such as pillars and partitions. As porcelain and ceramic tiles are resilient to heat and can be cut, shaped and drilled as required, electrical wiring, switchgear and ventilation grids can all be accommodated into interior design specifications.

Either contrasting or coordinating in style, the trend for using tiles in more imaginative and inventive ways, to cover artefacts or create artwork-like installations is becoming more prevalent. Intricate décor pieces, with textured surfaces and metallic or coloured inlays, and new three-dimensional cubes in ceramic, lend themselves to being framed or stacked to create imaginative takes on room dividers, screens and decorative panels, that marry with the overall design direction of the living space.

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Trend 04

Outside Innovation

In response to the ever-increasing demand from housebuilders, property developers, garden designers, professional landscapers and residential homeowners, the leading producers of Italian porcelain have focused investment into the design and delivery of technically advanced, outdoor porcelain paving.

These ranges feature the latest in tile manufacturing methodologies. Advancements in production allow for more expansive sizes, 20 mm thickness, increased load bearing and frost resistance, anti-slip qualities and higher-definition surface designs, resulting in an unprecedented diversity of textures and finishes.

In concrete and wood effects through to those that emulate natural stone and now marble, many in the extensive Outdoor by Minoli collection have coordinating interior tiles to match, so very consistent indoor to outside transitions can be achieved. A 9 mm thickness indoor tile, which may be matt or gloss and easy to clean, is coordinated with a grippy, 20 mm external counterpart with a higher slip resistance rating, such as those ranging R11 and above.

New designs, colours and finishes have also seen porcelain paving considered for and used in a much wider range of exterior surface settings including patios, terraces, driveways and paths but also balconies, stairways, swimming pool surrounds and linings, and outdoor kitchens, for instance.

Our increasing eagerness to cook and eat outside has fuelled impressive advancements in the design of outdoor kitchens. From what was once typified by basic barbeques being wheeled out when the weather permitted, homeowners and hospitality venues are now installing state-of-the-art cooking stations and enhanced garden entertainment spaces, with porcelain pavers providing the ideal hardstanding platform.

The inherent qualities of outdoor porcelain tiles make them a flexible alternative to so many commonly used materials including garden paving, wooden or composite decking, concrete, cement and resin slabs, natural stoneware, hardstanding driveways and blockwork, traditional quarry tiles and terrazzo, amongst others. What's more, as the thinner 9 mm indoor porcelain tiles are also frost and heat proof, they too can be installed outside as coordinating cladding on walls, counters and other exterior surfaces.



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On trend and in demand by home buyers, many of our housebuilder and developer clients are now specifying, or offering as an additional option, patios and outdoor entertainment spaces paved in external-use porcelain, often chosen to coordinate with the surfaces selected in adjacent indoor kitchens and living areas.

This is in part made possible by the introduction of alternative fixing solutions. Alongside using traditional adhesive and grout, given the weight and strength of 20 mm porcelain, these pavers can also be laid to grass, gravel or earth, fixed using traditional adhesive, or installed onto new pedestal systems which offer improved drainage and easier access to channels, culverts or cabling.

Progressive manufacturing and transportation techniques have enabled more innovative architectural applications. Cutting-edge ranges are now available in larger calibrated formats of up to 120/120 and with clean-cut rectified edges, which allows for very precise and near-seamless installation.

Beyond residential applications, this has made outdoor porcelain pavers particularly attractive for use in commercial and hospitality venues as well, where more expansive areas need to be finished with a highly durable, safe and low maintenance product.

From an environmental perspective, they are also easy to clean and maintain, without the need for toxic chemicals, so minimising the introduction of harmful pollutants into the local ecosystem. When used outside, to help deliver more sustainable landscapes, porcelain paving can be installed in a way that promotes efficient water runoff and drainage, helping to prevent erosion, while conserving water resources.

Trend 05

Consistency For Commercial

Available in such a broad range of sizes, colours and textures, for walls and floors, inside and outdoors, with standard and larger sized tiles, extra-large format slabs, mosaics, décor pieces and external use porcelain pavers, these endless choices provide a unique, durable and desirable surface solution for any commercial interior or exterior design project.

Not only are porcelain tiles extremely hard-wearing and almost impervious to dirt, water and oil, but they are also available in a wide range of classic and contemporary styles. This allows companies to choose the right designs for their individual brand expression, whether for retail and flagship stores, hotels and hospitality venues, automotive showrooms or for all manner of corporate offices and staff facilities.

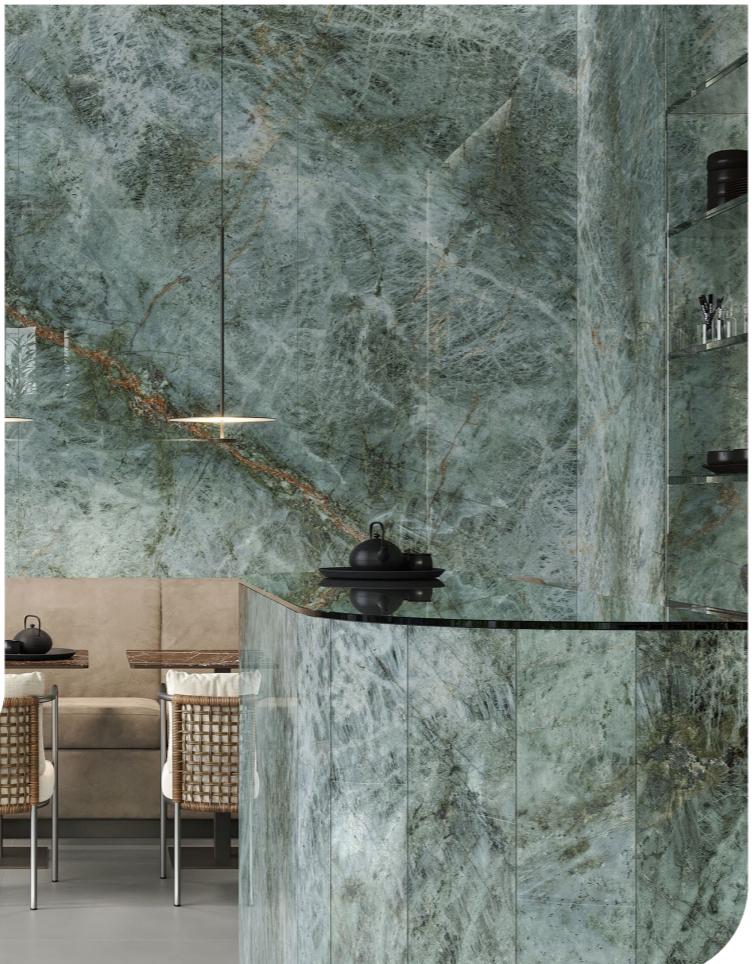
Whether for a modern industrial vibe, a luxury, polished marble scheme, a wood-look and wellness theme, or a more traditional mix of patterns and finishes, there are appropriate products to suit all manner of desired directions.

Far from being a moment-in-time trend, achieving brand consistency in environments is paramount in creating a recognisable identity and audience-relevant image for companies, from the largest, global organisations, through to emerging, small, high street businesses.

The Minoli product portfolio now comprises some 600 tile designs, including more than 3,000 different colours, sizes, finishes and formats. As such, no matter the market positioning of the brand, our expert teams can work with a company's chosen designer or internal function to select and source floor and wall tiles to convey and uphold the brand style and corporate identity with consistency.

Also, with matt and grip finishes available for floors, with slip resistance ratings ranging from R9 - R11, designers, architects and specifiers can select from various ranges with the technical and safety qualities required to fulfil the briefs for both public domain and workplace projects.

Another increasingly important requirement and preference for companies is to lessen the environmental impact and improve the sustainability of both the materials used in the construction and fit out of their premises and the performance of the final built environment, and this continues to drive the trend for more responsible choices.



Porcelain tiles are manufactured to energy and water-efficiency criteria and are environmentally friendly due to their long-lasting and recyclable characteristics. Production is considered 'zero waste', based on the use of natural and reusable materials, plus they are hygienic and do not contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs), formaldehyde, PVC, plastics or petroleum derivatives.

The manufacture of porcelain also uses abundantly available, natural resources efficiently and Minoli's preferred production partners have achieved the total recovery of process water and production scrap, significant gains in heat retrieval from factories, plus have diverted nearly all waste back into a circular recycling process.

Take for instance the recently launched Minoli ReStone and ReConcrete Series. Combined with other essential natural raw materials, selected sizes of each contain over 60% recycled content, so helping create a virtuous system that promotes the reuse of the component elements, reduces consumption and respects the environment.

For leisure locations, hotel operators and hospitality providers, porcelain tiles provide a range of suitable surfaces, from modern, luxurious and contemporary designs, through to those offering more formulaic and practical décor schemes.

In automotive dealerships, retail stores and for workplace solutions, where large surfaces are tiled and need to stand up to both pedestrian and sometimes vehicular traffic, the watchwords are quality, consistency, durability and ease of maintenance, and Minoli's high-performance porcelain product portfolio certainly meets this brief.

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Get in touch

If you'd like to talk to our team about the latest tile series for 2026, the wider Minoli product portfolio, or to order samples, please do get in touch.

We'd gladly discuss your needs on the phone, arrange a time for a design consultation at one of our showrooms or, for corporate clients, arrange a meeting with an account manager.

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Alternatively, you can see full details and technical specifications of these ranges and many more on our website www.minoli.co.uk.

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OUTDOOR 
PORCELAIN TILES by minoli



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