



TILING TOGETHER

For a couple with vastly different design preferences, YSG Studio crafted a vibrant and intricate tile pattern inspired by Persian rugs, seamlessly blending it into the overall aesthetic of their Melbourne home.

[GEOMETRY IN TILES] The husband, who is Danish, prefers pale timber, clean lines, and minimal ornamentation, while the wife, an Egyptian-Australian, gravitates towards bold patterns, tactile elements, and vibrant colours. The pixelated tile pattern provided a harmonious solution that excited both.

Although the design may seem influenced by kilim rugs, with their bold geometric patterns of diamonds, hexagons, and zigzags, *Yasmine Ghoniem*, founder of YSG, clarifies: “We were inspired by wool and silk Persian rugs, which often feature large central geometric shapes incorporating smaller ones inside, unlike the more consistent, rhythmic patterns typical of kilim rugs.”

Conceiving the pattern to fit precisely within the living area’s footprint took some time. As Ghoniem explains, “If you look closely, three distinct ‘rugs’ are embedded within the design. One circular pattern sits beneath the breakfast nook’s turquoise table, another connects the central kitchen island to the floor (with tiles even creeping up its kicker), while the largest spans the dining and lounge areas. Each pattern differs in scale and design, but the colours unify them.”

The tile patterns establish a rhythm within the spaces. Inspired by hammams, small mosaic tiling extends up the walls of the main bathroom, creating an immersive experience. “We steer away from white bathrooms,” says Ghoniem. “Protruding triangular tiles line the high datum, while pale blue bowtie tiles line a higher datum in the primary ensuite. Both complement the house’s original timber

mouldings and ceilings. These features draw the eye upwards, creating the illusion of taller rooms.”

YSG also designed a custom carpet replicating the floor patterns. Why did she opt for a kaleidoscopic design? “It grounds the breakout lounge area within the L-shaped living room, where tiled patterns dominate. The round shape acts as a punctuation point, relieving the grid-like feel of the tiles. Darker colours at the circumference expand the modest space, while a neutral desert-sand background prevents a visually overwhelming sensation. The undulating pile heights articulate square and diamond shapes within the centre, creating texture.”

The vitrified porcelain tiles used in the design’s distinct ‘carpet’ are made by firing clay at high temperatures, resulting in a smooth, glassy surface. This process creates a material that is highly durable, water-resistant, and stain-resistant. Ghoniem frequently incorporates tiles in her projects due to their wide range of benefits. “Once primarily used outdoors or in bathrooms, coloured tile mosaics, vitrified porcelain, terracotta, and travertine paving now serve to unify design schemes, allowing spaces to feel more expansive through the integration of patterns. The versatility of tiles, available in various shapes and sizes that can be custom-cut, provides designers with flexibility in how they are laid out. Additionally, their low maintenance and rich textural appeal make them highly desirable. Tiles can also be layered with rugs, offering opportunities for playful contrasts and the ability to shift designs between different rooms in a home.” [TS]

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YASMINE GHONIEM