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THE FEELGOOD ISSUE

How to have a happy,
healthy 2025



INTERIORS

MARVELLOUS MARBLES

When it comes to metamorphics, more is more, says *Marion Willingham*

Marble has long adorned the home. Its natural antibacterial properties and multitude of finishes lend refinement to a space. The most popular marbles are the blacks, greys and bright whites quarried in the Italian region of Carrara, but sleek, spa-like interiors need not be monochrome. A peek inside the homes of leading designers reveals an array of technicolour marbles.

Take the Parisian bathroom of Officine Universelle Buly founders Ramdane Touhami and Victoire de Taillac, which is entirely finished in stone. “We went to the marble mason and had fun choosing the colours we liked,” says Touhami of the burgundy Rosso Levanto and green Verde Guatemala marbles used on the sink, bath and walls. Together with the terrazzo flooring (made up of marble chippings set in cement), they create an atmosphere that is both polished and playful.

At the West Sussex flat of interiors architect Martin Brudnizki, white Arabescato and honey-coloured Siena marble (the egg-yolk marble of Italy) come together in large matte wall panels and high-shine checkerboard floor tiles. “The bathroom was created with the vision of an American heiress coming to live in England,” says Brudnizki of his “Arcadian fantasy”. “During the 1920s and ’30s marble was very popular so it made sense to introduce a lot of it to the space,” he says. He has also used the material in several of his projects. For the Apollo’s Muse members’ club in Mayfair, Brudnizki deployed six different marbles from floor to ceiling.

Not a fan of audacious marble slabs, British designer Ashley Hicks found a more subtle way to embrace the material’s varied tones in his mosaic patterns for



Above: Marmoformo tabletop, from £800. Below: the bathroom of Martin Brudnizki's flat in West Sussex



Bisazza. The three “Marmosaico” designs, launched last year, use small square tiles in a palette of greens, browns and reds. Unlike mass-produced glass tesserae, “Each tiny cube of [marble] mosaic is different,” says Hicks, “so it creates a very lively texture.” Eltham is geometric and deco-inspired, Haddon borrows its pattern from a fragment of Syrian cloth and Alma Tadema recalls basketry – “it feels like it’s woven”.

Other marble mosaics include Italian artist Elena Salmistraro’s Hagia tiles for Lithea, which use rounded pieces of marble with copper strips and black and white stone, and Surface Gallery’s Baroque Stone Mosaics, a traditional diamond pattern in green, pink and cream marble. The latter were used across floors and walls in the Bennett & Barkell

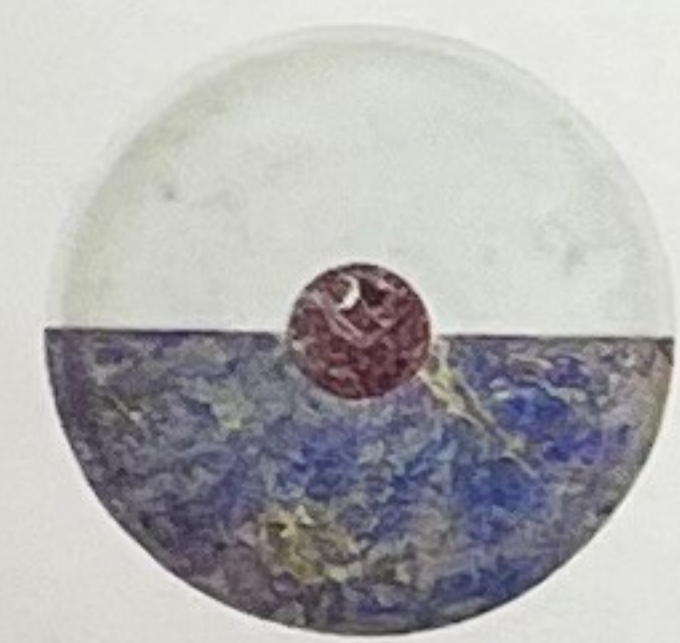
“EACH TINY CUBE OF MARBLE MOSAIC IS DIFFERENT”

salon in New South Wales, alongside pink countertops in Tiberio marble, an Esmeralda marble sink and wooden and wicker finishes for a warm, Mediterranean feel.

Northern Italian manufacturer Del Savio 1910 combines 10 Italian marbles

with colourful cements to produce unusual surfaces for kitchen islands, partition walls and shower niches. Dutch designer Mae Engelgeer envisaged its Eidola Myth panel (£1,585) using 8mm sheets of Bianco di Carrara, Cipollino, Rosa Asiago, and Verde Guatemala marbles, intersected by a powder pink cement resin. Design duo Zanellato/Bortotto created an irregular pattern called Opus Certum Vague (£1,750), and later devised the “Marble Marbling” collection, which is “inspired by the ancient marbling technique used in wallpaper”, says Del Savio 1910 sales manager Enrico Mele. Aqueous patterns are improbably reproduced in green, white and yellow stone on trays (£1,815) and vases (£2,250).

Marble’s vibrant colours and dramatic veining form naturally as limestone is recrystallised under extreme heat and pressure. Extraction and manufacturing is intensive and wasteful – more than 600,000 tonnes of marble waste is produced each year – which leads many



MMAIRO MARBLE ALDO BOWL, £2,485



Top: the bathroom at Ramdane Touhami and Victoire de Taillac's home in Paris. Above: Budri marble Origami table, £9,775. Below edge of page: terrazzo tiles from Ramdane Touhami's bathroom