



interior design review

# inside)



## Tiles

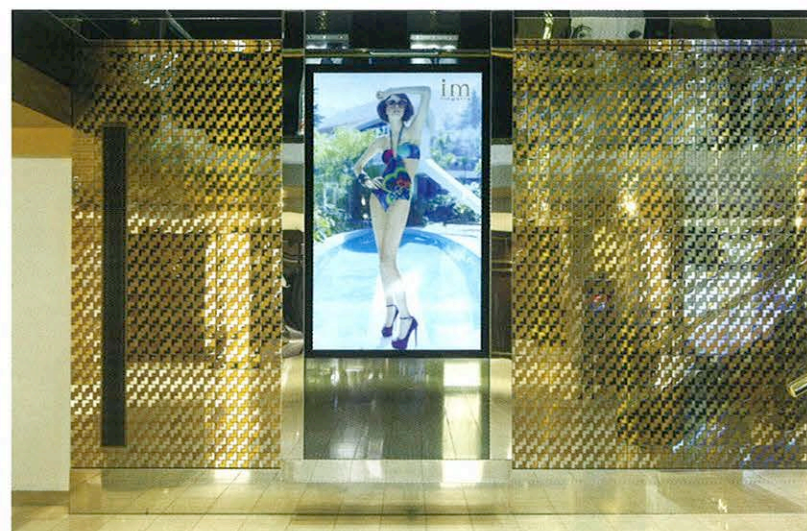
Philip Chia, director of The Uncarved Block, turned to Patricia Urquiola's Mutina tile from Academy Tiles for his fitout of the basement food hall at The Galleries on Sydney's George Street. Chia was inspired by the inner-city hub's urban fashion and lifestyle shops and sought to reflect this in the tiling he selected. "The hexagonal tiles' relief pattern is reminiscent of textile fabrics," Chia says. "It's the artistry of creating a visual texture."

The team also chose a circular bronze Penny Round tile for the dramatic staircase and an off-white colour for the columns, also from Academy Tiles.

"The round tiles are more sympathetic to the shape and form of these architectural elements," Chia says.

While specifying tiles is certainly not new, what has changed is the ways tiling can help designers craft a particular aesthetic. Striking tiles from Alloy Design's Karim for Alloy range have been used in Melbourne's Crown Casino Retail Street project by Red Design Group, which features glitzy titanium gold and mirror polished stainless steel tiles. The range is a partnership between flamboyant US designer, Karim Rashid, and Sydney-based Alloy, and includes eight metal tile 'cells' that each embody a distinctive shape and colour.

Creative tiles are finding favour in residential projects, too. Marc Dixon Architect's renovation project in Carlton comprises bathrooms in varying shades of yellow. In particular, the ensuite features the brand new 'Sunburst' colour from the Waringa range, available at Johnson Tiles. "We like to experiment with different things," Dixon says.



Top—In the bathroom of the Carlton Residence, Marc Dixon Architect has used vibrant Waringa Sunburst tiles

Centre—The Galleries food hall in Sydney, designed by The Uncarved Block. Photo by John Gollings

Bottom—Kink tiles designed by Karim Rashid for Alloy, specified by Red Design in Crown Casino's Retail Street