

# THE DESIGN JOURNAL



E-MAGAZINE

Issue 14  
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Bathroom Special Edition  
+ First-Time Building Tips

INTERIOR

Welcome to the October 2022 issue of The Design Journal, your monthly dose of interior design insight, news and inspiration.

As we prepare to present our in-person Bathroom Masterclass event this week, we dive deep into all things bathroom, tiles and tapware in this issue. You'll learn about the process and beauty of aged brass finishes, the advantages of various types of tiles, and the unique nature of terrazzo tiles in particular.

We also give the most common mistakes first home builders make, and how you can avoid them.

Enjoy reading and see you next month,

*Melissa Lunardon and team*

*p.s If you'd like to snap up one of the last remaining FREE tickets to our Bathroom Masterclass, [click here](#).*





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# DID YOU KNOW?

ACCORDING TO THE HOUSING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, THE AVERAGE BATHROOM RENOVATION COST IN AUSTRALIA IS \$17,522.

– [WWW.MELISSALUNARDON.COM](http://WWW.MELISSALUNARDON.COM)

# ONE-OF-A-KIND AGED BRASS



*In the renovation project pictured, located in Williamstown Victoria, aged brass tapware was used to bring the perfect amount of character, charm and elegance to this Victorian home, helping fuse the heritage of the home with its modern makeover.*

Weathered or Aged Brass is a living, aged brass finish which develops golden highlights over time. Commonly used within contemporary settings, it provides a deep, warming contrast to light or solid colour surfaces, as well as a rich, dark complementary tone to darker ones. This finish is sought after for the unique characteristics that it develops overtime.

You will find this organic finish will age gracefully and develop a unique patina depending on the established climate, exposure, handling, cleaning, and waxing routine. Watermarking, oxidisation and spotting is normal and acceptable on organic finishes such as aged brass. As no two products will ever age the same, it provides a truly one-of-a-kind fixture.

## Accelerated Age

The accelerated aged look is achieved by chemically treating each brass piece. Tone can vary depending on whether the brass is extruded, cast, machined or forged, but the result is a beautiful organic appearance. Over time the raw brass surface will further evolve as it reacts to the natural atmosphere it is in. Areas that are touched by hand become lighter, while areas that are rarely touched darken and oxidise to create a beautiful organic appearance.




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## MASTERCLASS; LEARN ABOUT BRASS & TAPWARE FINISHES

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Renowned Interior Designer, Melissa Lunardon, will be talking aged brass and the many other fabulous finishes available for your bathroom at an upcoming Bathroom Masterclass, presented in collaboration with Lifestiles and Canterbury Taps and Sinks.

WHEN: Thursday 20 October '22

TIME: 6:30pm-8:00pm

WHERE: Lifestiles Showroom, 40 High St, Glen Iris, Victoria

Melissa will share:

- The three mistakes to avoid when renovating bathrooms
- Top trends in tiles and how to effortlessly choose the right bathroom tiles
- Different tapware finishes available and what will best suit your bathroom
- How to make small bathrooms appear bigger

[Click here for your FREE ticket.](#)



# TALKING TERRAZZO TILES

Terrazzo (Italian for “Terrace”) was invented in Venice over five hundred years ago. Workers in Venetia were often left with discarded marble pieces, where they would put these small marble rocks in clay and grind them flat.

These were used as a low-cost alternative to marble for their living quarters. Fast forward to the 1970s, thin-set, or epoxy-based terrazzo was introduced. This quickly sparked the popularity of terrazzo, with a wider selection of colours, faster installation, and less susceptibility to cracking. To put it simply, modern day terrazzo is a composite material, made of small pieces of stone materials or chips (marble, glass, stone), bound together with either cement or epoxy, and polished to get a smooth surface.



## THE 3 TERRAZZO'S

### 1. CEMENTITIOUS TERRAZZO

This traditional terrazzo is heavy and takes a long time to dry. Colour choices are also limited and things like glass can't be used as it is not porous. On the upside, they feel more like stone and is ideal for both indoors and outdoor use, especially in high traffic areas.

### 2. POLYACRYLATE TERRAZZO

The "middle ground" made from a combination of cement and latex. They require less work and less product, so are less expensive. It has more design options, can be dyed to match just about any colour, and can often include glass and mirrored chips.

### 3. EPOXY TERRAZZO

This is the most versatile and most commonly used type of terrazzo in the market today. It's the strongest and the least susceptible to scratching, fading, staining, or cracking. Epoxy terrazzo is available in any colour and is the best option for making intricate designs.







TERRAZZO



## TERRAZZO BENEFITS

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If you're looking for a one-of-a-kind flooring option that's warmer than marble and more stylish than ceramic tiles, terrazzo tiles are an ideal option you can go for. Here are some of their many qualities:

- Versatile for both exteriors and interiors
- Tough and durable flooring option
- Water, slip and heat-resistant
- Go with any style of building
- Eco-friendly and economical
- Stylish and customisable



# BUILDING TIPS

## FIRST HOME BUILDING MISTAKES TO AVOID; THE ERRORS AND SOLUTIONS



### Be Prepared

When it's your first time, there are many building mistakes that can lead to many problems for your dream home. There are also many industry factors that can significantly impact your build if you are not aware of where things can go wrong, where budgets can blow out and where timeframes get stretched. The building process should be one of the most exciting projects you will undertake in your lifetime, so be sure to avoid these common mistakes when building a house.



### Research

There are many important factors to consider when it comes to building a new home that could quickly overwhelm you if you haven't done the research. You could begin the process with unrealistic expectations, leading to more planning and more costs. Research every step of the process, from the location to the builders' inclusions. Engaging an interior designer early on to utilise their experience and industry knowledge will be highly advantageous here.



### Budget

Your dream home costs money and that's why having a set budget, right down to each and every cent, is a must have for home builders. Having an approximate range of what you are going to spend could lead to some shocking bills and all of a sudden those 'little extras for the laundry room' are becoming a big problem. Once you have set your budget, be transparent with it. That way you can work with your builder and designer to achieve your desired result within your allocated budget.

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## Location

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The location of your new home is one of the most important steps to consider. This is where it helps to do some research so that down the line, if it comes time to sell, there's no external factors that could hurt your chances. When looking at potential suburbs to build in, nothing beats actually visiting and seeing the location for yourself to better judge distances and the land quality.



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## Floor Plan

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An advantage that building has over buying is the opportunity to create the home of your dreams. Planning your home design to suite your lifestyle (now and in the future) is an essential step to making that dream a reality. An interior designer is trained in optimal layout and floor plans that work, so be sure to consult a professional to avoid any accidental flaws in the floor plan that will be inconvenient and irritating down the track. A designer will work with you to ensure your new home fits your lifestyle and your vision, right down to the smallest details.

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## Your Team

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Whether you're planning to build with a traditional project builder or hoping to take the custom home builder route, choosing the right builder, architect and designer can save you a lot of headaches down the line. By not taking the time to compare professionals, your home could remain a construction site for longer than expected and may not be the home you once dreamed of. Experience, communication, financial stability, and strong supplier relations are some of the most important things to look for in the professionals working with you.

# TYPES OF TILES

## BASIC TILE CATEGORIES & WHY TO USE THEM

### Natural Stone

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As one would expect, certain natural tile materials will cost more than standard ceramic or porcelain finishes but can be an incredibly worthy investment. Natural stones such as marble, slate or terrazzo will all fall on the higher end of the pricing scale due to their extensive mining and preparation process as well as the product's scarcity, but can create the perfect, elegant touch to a design. You'll find their luscious beauty and charm offers timeless appeal to any room or project.

### Ceramic and Porcelain

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Man-made materials such as ceramic and porcelain tiles are generally much more cost effective than natural products, with ceramic tiles often being the most economical choice of the two thanks to their lighter density and weight. Ceramic pieces are most often used as wall tiles, allowing a less labour-intensive finish thanks to their lighter and softer structure making them easier to work with, whereas porcelain tiles will fetch a higher price tag (both to purchase and to install) as they are much thicker and denser, making them an ideal wall and floor tile choice thanks to their increased durability, longevity and strength.





# TYPES OF TILES (CONTINUED)

## ● Handmade Tiles

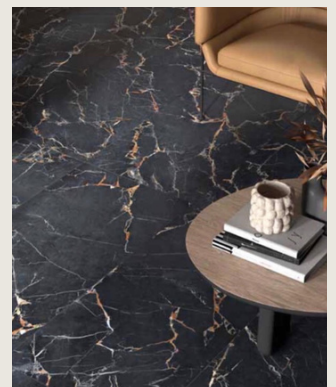
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Handmade tiles will often incur an additional purchase cost with consideration to the added labour involved in their creation as well as the specific skill and artistic quality of the finished product, but they can create stunning bespoke and highly personalised spaces. If possible, try to favour products that are entirely made and glazed by hand right here in Australia, meaning you not only support local businesses, but the tiles can be custom made to specific requirements. In particular, at Melissa Lunardon we adore porcelain tiles that have been printed with the use of digital technology. This allows for a crisper, varied and overall more realistic finish, and an incredible quality result that truly captures depth and character-filled variation.

## ● Top Tip

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The number one tile trend is (and always will be!) to have fun and not hold yourself back! When it comes to tiles, there really is no limit.



"SIMPLICITY,  
CARRIED TO  
AN EXTREME,  
BECOMES  
ELEGANCE"

— JONN FRANKLIN



THE DESIGN JOURNAL

# FREE MASTERCLASS

DESIGN INSIGHTS, TILE TRENDS, TAPWARE & MORE!

Melissa Lunardon  
presents:

## BATHROOM MASTERCLASS

Join Melissa for a FREE in-person event, as she shares her insights into the latest bathroom trends and how to perfect your next bathroom project.

Thurs, Oct 20 at 6:30pm  
Lifestyles Showroom,  
Glen Iris

RSVP [click here!](#)

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