

*Met Arch in Copper at Sintesi.*

Terrazzo looks were a huge trend at the show. Many were highly refined, including the variations of luster incorporated to enhance realism. Others, such as those featured on the floor at American Wonder, were highly polished like a marble surface. Iris USA's Brenta was the most non-traditional rendering of terrazzo, with a miniaturized pattern arranged in a constellation flow, available in gloss, matte and a bumpy stone-like finish.

Weathered metal looks also incorporated bits of luster and metallic effects. Trends in metallic finishes leaned toward a sheet metal aesthetic. A beautiful on-trend metallic teal was shown at Sintesi in its line, Met Arch. Made+39 introduced Faber and Faber XL, etched metallic look surfaces with graphic scratches and an appropriate grained texture.

The strong hand of the artist was evident in some of the new work. Target Group's I4oraitaliana featured large slabs that were literally like paintings, including i Rossi di Modena with its luscious near solid surface and Segni, a painterly abstract visual with vertical and horizontal areas that look as if they were applied with a palette knife. This collection is topped off with Flower, an extremely large, roughly painted



*Faber from Made+39.*

rose. Described as 'digital print with hand-print on top', the slip rating (dynamic coefficient of friction) for these panels makes them more appropriate for walls than floors. I4oraitaliana also showed Puzzling, a silk screened tile arranging in a mosaic of 10" squares, with hand-drawn leaves, shrubs, ferns and fruit blended together to create a moody, richly chromatic visual.

Distressed looks were still strong at Coverings, especially in concrete, stone and the hybrid looks that occupied the space in between these two materials. Although not an entirely new direction, the quantity of these looks told its own story. What did seem new was the incorporation of textile fragments, creating collages of plaster, stone and concrete with fabric bits that

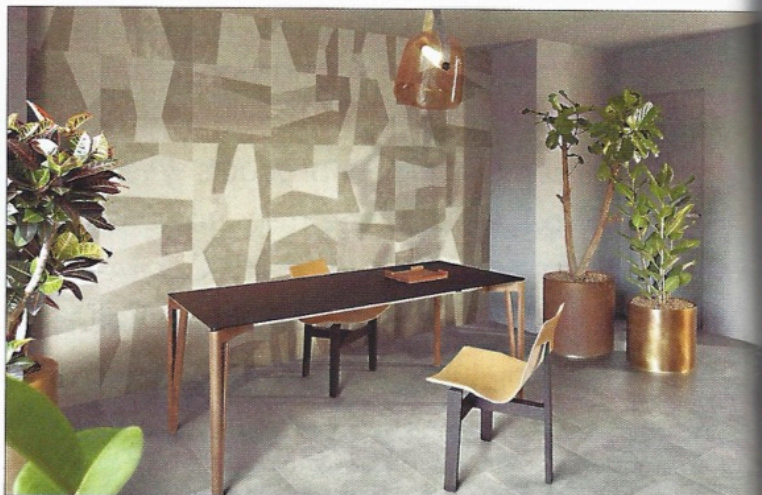


*Detail from I4oraitaliana's painterly Segni.*

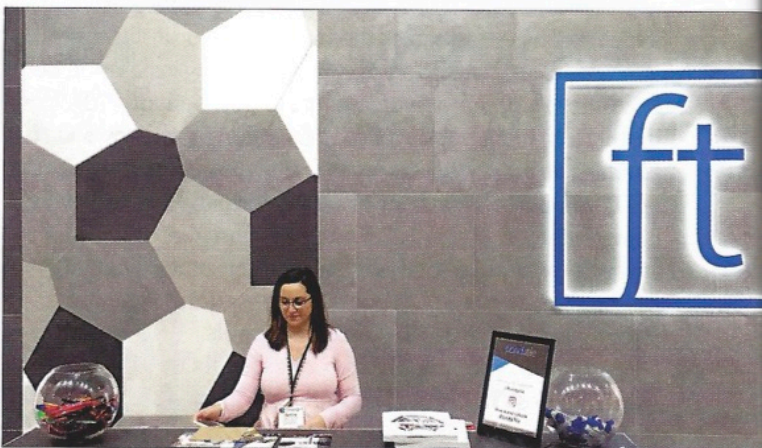
appeared to be exposed scrim peaking through. Relief from Fiandre's Musa+ collection embodied this trend.

Traditional textile tile looks were not shown as widely as in the past, with the exception of a few bolder examples that had a three-dimensional appearance. In both Keraben's Inspired and Mixit products, the woven designs looked as if they were chiseled into stone.

As a contrast to all this texture, some companies introduced clean, asymmetric geometric shapes, including trapezoids, rhomboids and other polygons, often combining to create a mid-century modern feel. These materials typically had a simple, slight texture and matte surface. Ceramica Bardelli featured this look in Palladiana. American Olean showed some lovely shapes as accents in its Neospec line. And bold rhomboid shapes were installed on the accent wall of Florida Tile's booth.



*Ceramica Bardelli's Palladiana.*



*Florida Tile's NY2LA.*