

THE HOMES MAGAZINE FOR MODERN LIVING

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RECREATIONAL NEW FOCUS IN MODERN HOUSES ROOMS

LAVISH HOMES by

Ar. Fernanda Marques
in Sao Paulo

Ali Baldiwala in Mumbai

Ilona Milner in New Delhi

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FABIO NOVEMBRE: A LIFE IN DESIGN

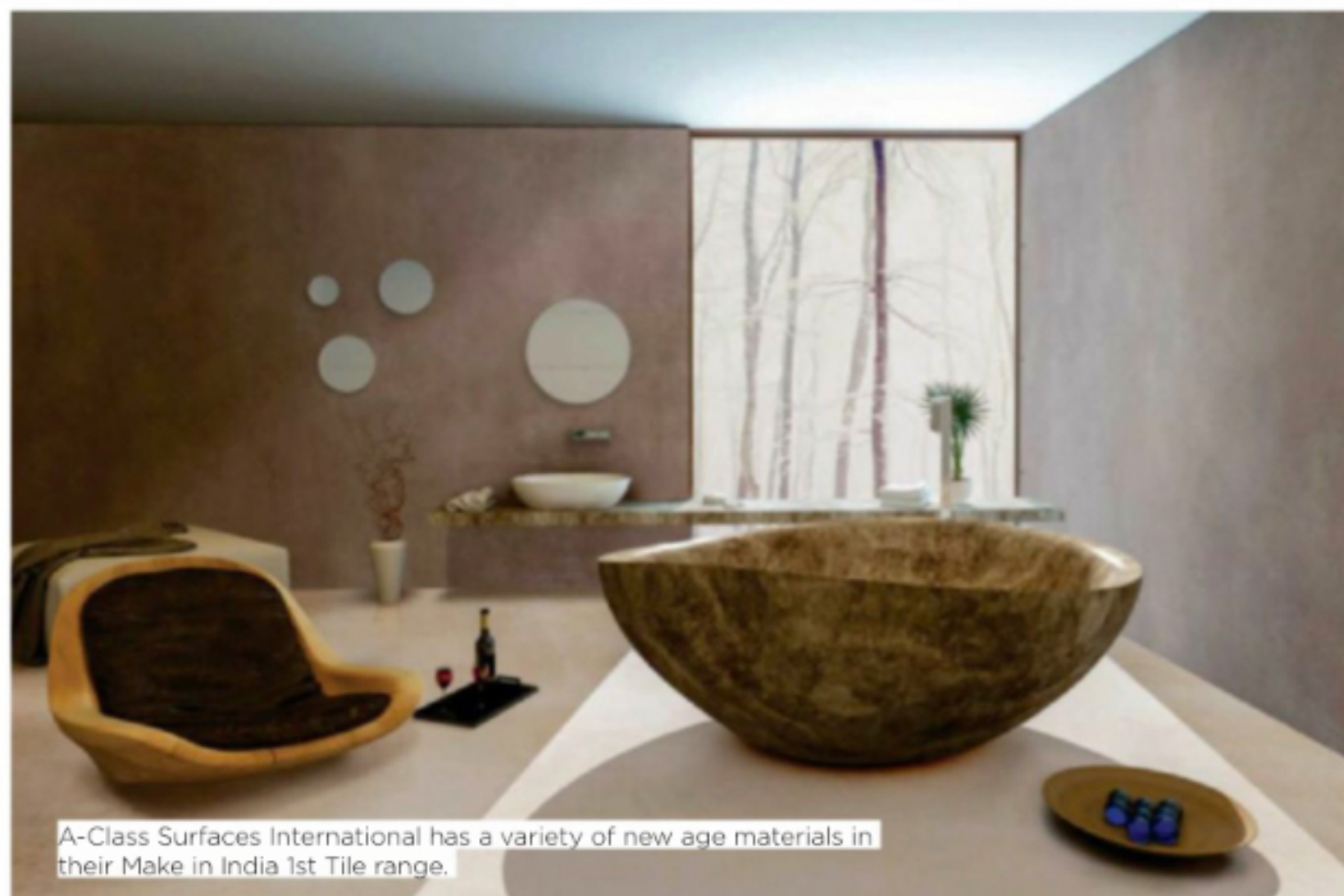


The Argilla Collection from NITCO is inspired from natural clay.

stone formed from sedimentary rock, with either clay or ashes of a volcano. Khushboo says, "Natural slate flooring has high aesthetic appeal. But, like most natural stones, it does pose certain challenges, and depending on its quality and variants, can range from being porous to very durable. It can last for many years, depending on the manner and type of sealant used. More importantly, slate is not consistent in colour, and has many variants, specially if the tiles are from different blocks of stone. One has to be in sync with this type of look and feel. Since it is a natural hard stone, it is very sustainable, can easily be recycled, and is environment-friendly." **Its brittle surface will not take scratches from furniture moving. It can chip, or crack, and when sealed with sealants, can be used in wet areas of a home. For high-moisture areas, opt for a rough-surfaced tile, rather than a highly polished one. In warm climates, there is no better flooring than slate.** Meanwhile, in cold climates, when placed near heat sources, or on the under-floor heating systems, it warms up nicely. Unlike other stones, slate allows re-grouting between its tiles. **Do keep a watch, that during installation, the sub floor is smooth, and the pre-finished tiles are evenly cut.**

Onyx

A step ahead of marble when it comes to opulence, onyx falls in the gemstone category. It is a soft stone which scratches, stains, chips and cracks very easily, when not protected by sealants and anti-scratch layering. A fragile stone for flooring purposes, but it transforms a space from ordinary to extraordinary. Designer Ali Baldiwala of Baldiwala Associates says, "We need to look beyond the style of back-lit onyx, because that is very passé. When used



A-Class Surfaces International has a variety of new age materials in their Make in India 1st Tile range.

now even the modern builders. Available as slabs and tiles that have been ground-down, polished, flamed and cut-up, granite offers beauty that few others can match. Not only is it highly durable, it is impervious to water, and hence great for the wet areas of the home, even though it can turn highly slippery due to moisture. Choose a flamed finish or any other that will make it anti-skid. Being a non-porous stone, it does not trap dust and dirt. When installing granite, care must be taken that the support floor is smooth and can withstand the use of granite, since it is a heavy tile. Apart from this, once you have granite on your floors, you can be rest assured for the rest of your life!

Slate

Slate has been in use as flooring and roofing material for as long as the other stones, perhaps even longer. It is a metamorphic



The Spanish Care range of tiles from H & R Johnson.