

2026/2027 TRENDS & TECHNOLOGIES

The New Surface Era

ADVANCED MATERIALS · SENSORY DEPTH · ENDURING WARMTH

NIRO CERAMIC GROUP



NIRO GRANITE
THE SWISS QUALITY TILE

ZIRCONIO
— the Quintessential —



PORTINO
BY NIRO CERAMIC GROUP



MUZZE DA
— ESSENCE OF TILES —

ORIN
Balkoon Architectuur



Creative Lab
Bringing Home Your Ideas

Foreword: THE NEW SURFACE ERA

The global surface landscape has fundamentally shifted. Fresh from Cersaie, Salone del Mobile Milano, Fuori Salone, and Coverings, the industry’s definitive international exhibitions — the directive for 2026 / 2027 architectural surfaces is clear: design with sensory depth, authentic materials, and deliberate warmth.

The global market is transitioning from purely visual, hyper-realistic graphics toward tactile depth, structural geometry, and purposeful laying patterns. Moving away from the flat graphics and cool greys of recent years, today’s collections introduce an era of “advanced surfaces.” Powered by state-of-the-art Italian digital technology, ceramic and porcelain tiles have become tactile, high-performing tools engineered to bring emotional warmth and lasting character to modern spaces.

The directive is clear: design with sensory depth, authentic materials, and deliberate warmth.



* Above Photographed at Cersaie 2025 Exhibition



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POPULAR SURFACE DESIGN AND MATERIALS

Stone-inspired aesthetics remain the core direction for porcelain tiles. However, the focus has narrowed toward specific stone types characterized by a soft, harmonious design language.



► Limestone Derivatives

Limestone looks are represented through specialized geological profiles:

• Portland:

Replicating classic, elegant, and chalky structures.

• Fossil & Lecessi:

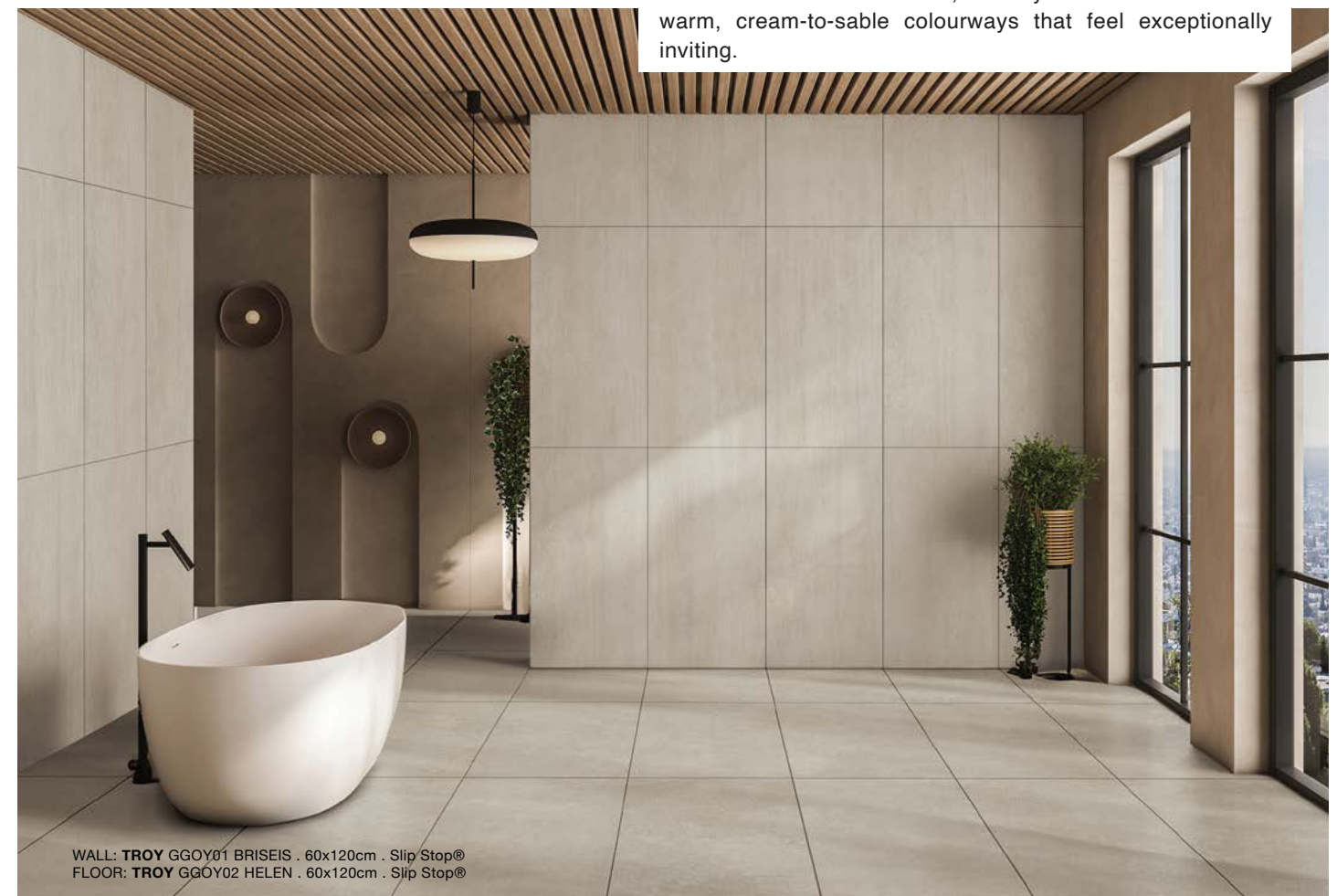
Showcasing fine fossils and biological imprints embedded into the face of the tile for deep visual storytelling.



FLOOR: **GRAVITY** GGV102 EINSTEIN . 60x60cm . MATT

► Soft, Warm Travertine Finishes

Travertine continues its reign but with a softer approach. Moving away from harsh, unfilled linear cavities, the new travertine focuses on filled, velvety-smooth finishes and warm, cream-to-sable colourways that feel exceptionally inviting.



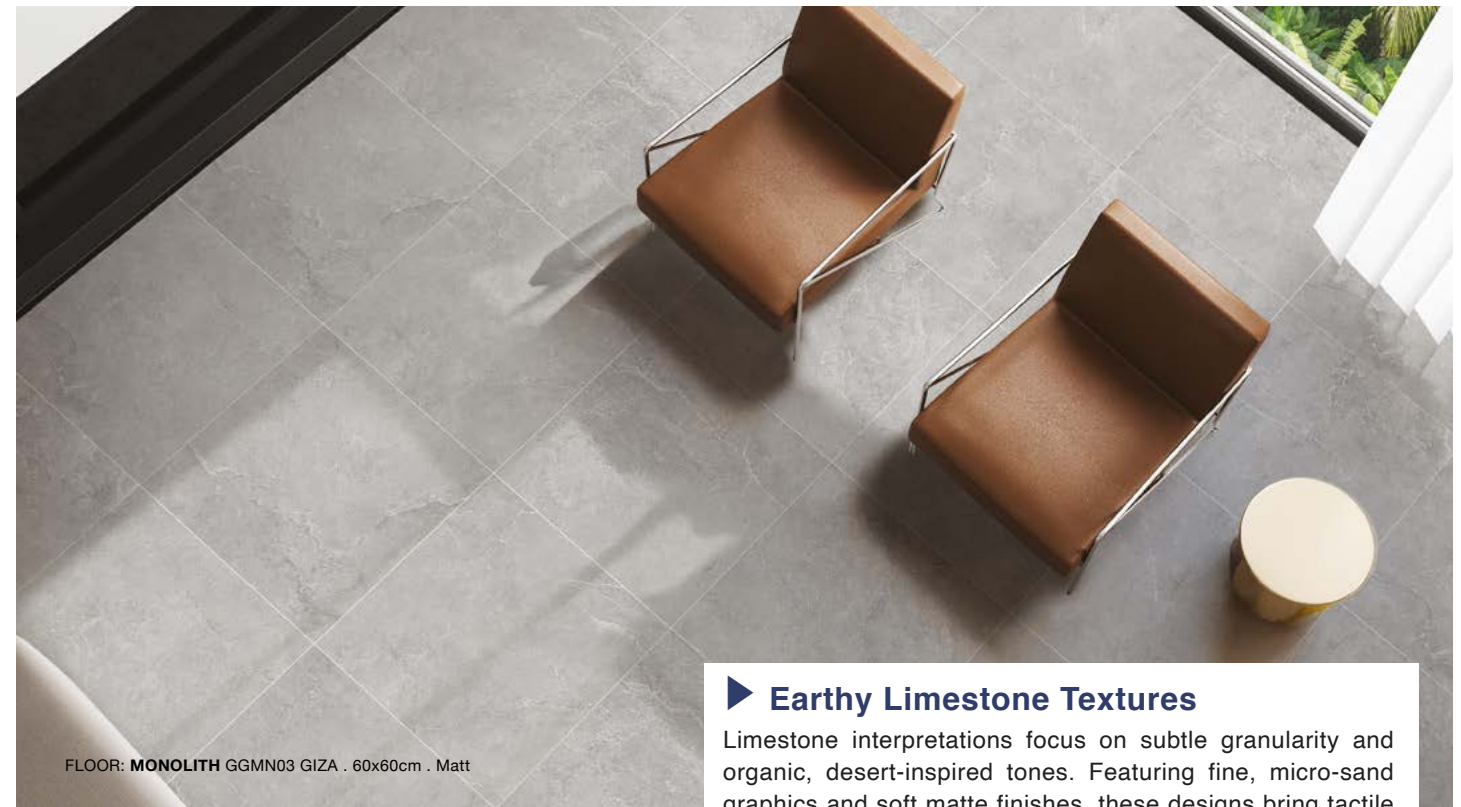
WALL: **TROY** GGOY01 BRISEIS . 60x120cm . Slip Stop®
FLOOR: **TROY** GGOY02 HELEN . 60x120cm . Slip Stop®

► Agglomerates & Ceppo-Style Stones

The iconic Italian Ceppo di Gré has evolved into broader agglomerate styles, notably inspired by Sassi di Matera. These designs feature complex layouts of embedded stones, pebbles, and concrete fragments bound together digitally, creating striking visual textures suited for both commercial and residential statements.



IMAGE: NIRO GRANITE PEDEGRAL series



► Earthy Limestone Textures

Limestone interpretations focus on subtle granularity and organic, desert-inspired tones. Featuring fine, micro-sand graphics and soft matte finishes, these designs bring tactile warmth and a serene, architectural grounding to indoor and outdoor transitions.

► Luminous White Marble Elegance

White marble remains a cornerstone of quiet luxury, shifting toward soft, low-contrast veining over stark white backgrounds. Inspired by classic Calacatta and subtle Bianco origins, these surfaces deliver timeless elegance, light reflection, and versatile application for modern, high-end spaces.



WALL: ZIRCONIO ITALY ZZIS82A + ZZIS82B WILD FOREST . 160x320cm . Polished

MADE IN ITALY



FLOOR: PEDEGRAL GGPD01 BRECCIA . 60x60cm . Slip Stop®

SURFACE FINISHES & THE TACTILE EVOLUTION

Texture becomes the primary design feature instead of bold veining patterns and digital relief are reshaping the industry. Seamless micro-textures are applied across everything from soft, organic movements to bold, structural patterns.

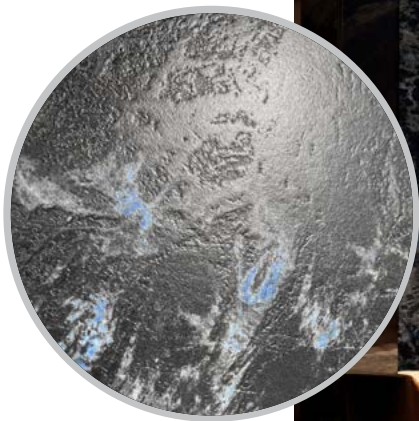
Advanced manufacturing flawlessly pairs high-definition digital veining with physical, three-dimensional depth. This creates a hyper-realistic surface, where deep, micro-engraved details perfectly replicate the weathered clefts of natural split-face stone.



* Above Photographed at Cersaie 2025 Exhibition



FLOOR:
VOGUE GRANDE
GGVG17 SERENE
120x120cm
Micro Structured



FLOOR: **VOGUE GRANDE** GGVG19 LUNARA | 120x120cm | Micro Structured

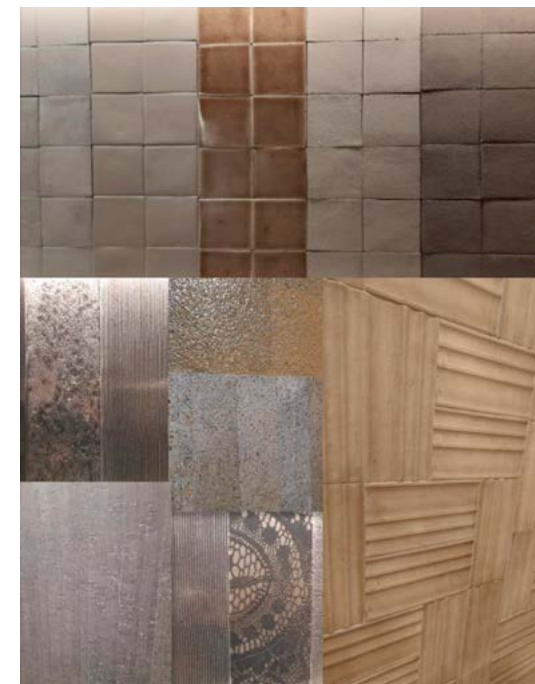
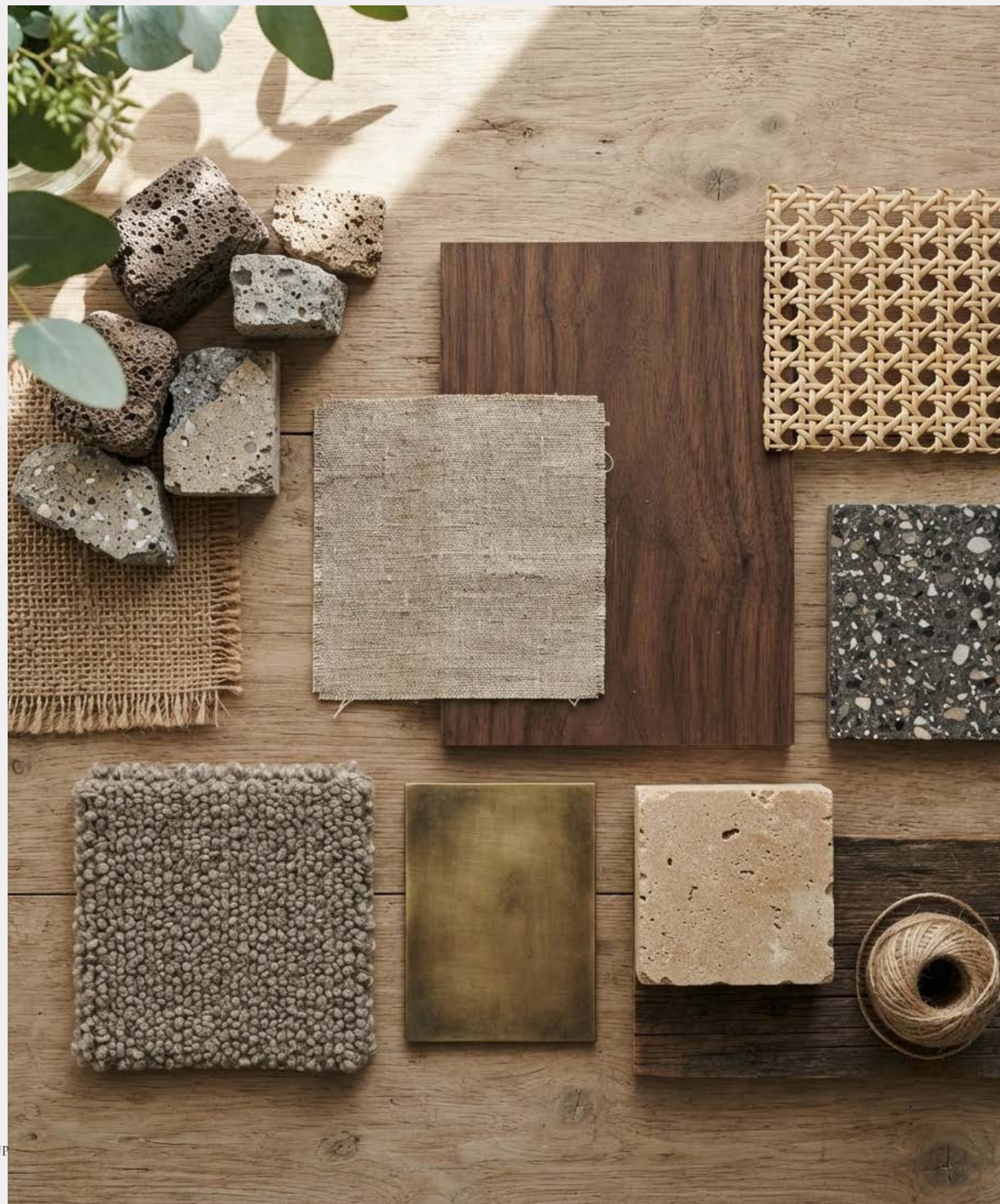
While structural reliefs are highly prominent, they are balanced by a strong shift toward incredibly smooth, low-gloss finishes like soft matte and silky, honed surfaces. These “soft-touch” textures sit over very mild structural bases, beautifully mimicking natural materials gently worn smooth by time and touch.



FLOOR: **VOGUE GRANDE** GGVG18 NOX | 120x120cm | Micro Structured

HANDMADE AESTHETICS

The Power of Artistic Craftsmanship



* Above Photographed at Cersaie 2025 Exhibition



As design shifts toward warmth and tactile depth, handcrafted appearances, soft glazes, and artistic craft continue to gain momentum across 2026/2027 surface collections. Moving beyond mass-produced uniformity, these artisanal finishes introduce emotional warmth, authenticity, and visual soul into modern spaces. By capturing traditional handiwork through modern digital precision, these tiles offer consumers and designers a grounded, human-centric aesthetic that feels both natural and timeless.

THE 2026 COLOUR PALLETTE

The colour landscape has undergone a radical transformation. Cooler greys and stark whites have been officially replaced by an earthy, natural palette that echoes the organic warmth found in global interior design.



* Above Photographed at Cersaie 2025 Exhibition



WALL: **PASTELLA** GGPO03 NERIAH . 80x80cm . POLISHED

Key Tonal Pillars

- **The New Neutrals:** Soft cream, light beige, ivory, and gentle browns form the foundation of this year's design language.

- **Rustic & Accent Hues:** Warm terracotta, peach cream, coral, and rich earth tones add vibrancy.

- **Sophisticated Depth:** Subtle, dusty shades and muted denim blues appear across premium collections, adding an understated, editorial edge.

The prevailing layout strategy relies on refined monochromatic and tone-on-tone configurations. This allows multi-textured spaces to maintain visual harmony without looking chaotic.



FLOOR: **DASH & ALLOY** GGDO02 RHODIUM . 60x120cm . MATT



MARBLE & ONYX HIGHLIGHTS

While matte stone dominated the structural narrative, the luxury sector made an unforgettable impact with high-glam, hyper-polished statements.



FLOOR: BIJOU GGJB02 SEINE . 90x180cm . POLISHED

► Crystal-Polished & Glitter Finishes

Luxury collections highlighted crystal-polished finishes paired with an integrated shimmer or glitter effect within the glaze. When caught by the light, these surfaces offer a subtle, multidimensional sparkle that elevates the slab's visual depth. Prominent marble profiles included exotic Onyx, Rajasthan, and the regal Taj Mahal Marble.



▲ Niro Granite BIJOU series



WALL & FLOOR: **ZIRCONIO ITALY** ZZIS80A/B CARAVAGGIO GOLD . 160x320cm . POLISHED

MADE IN
ITALY

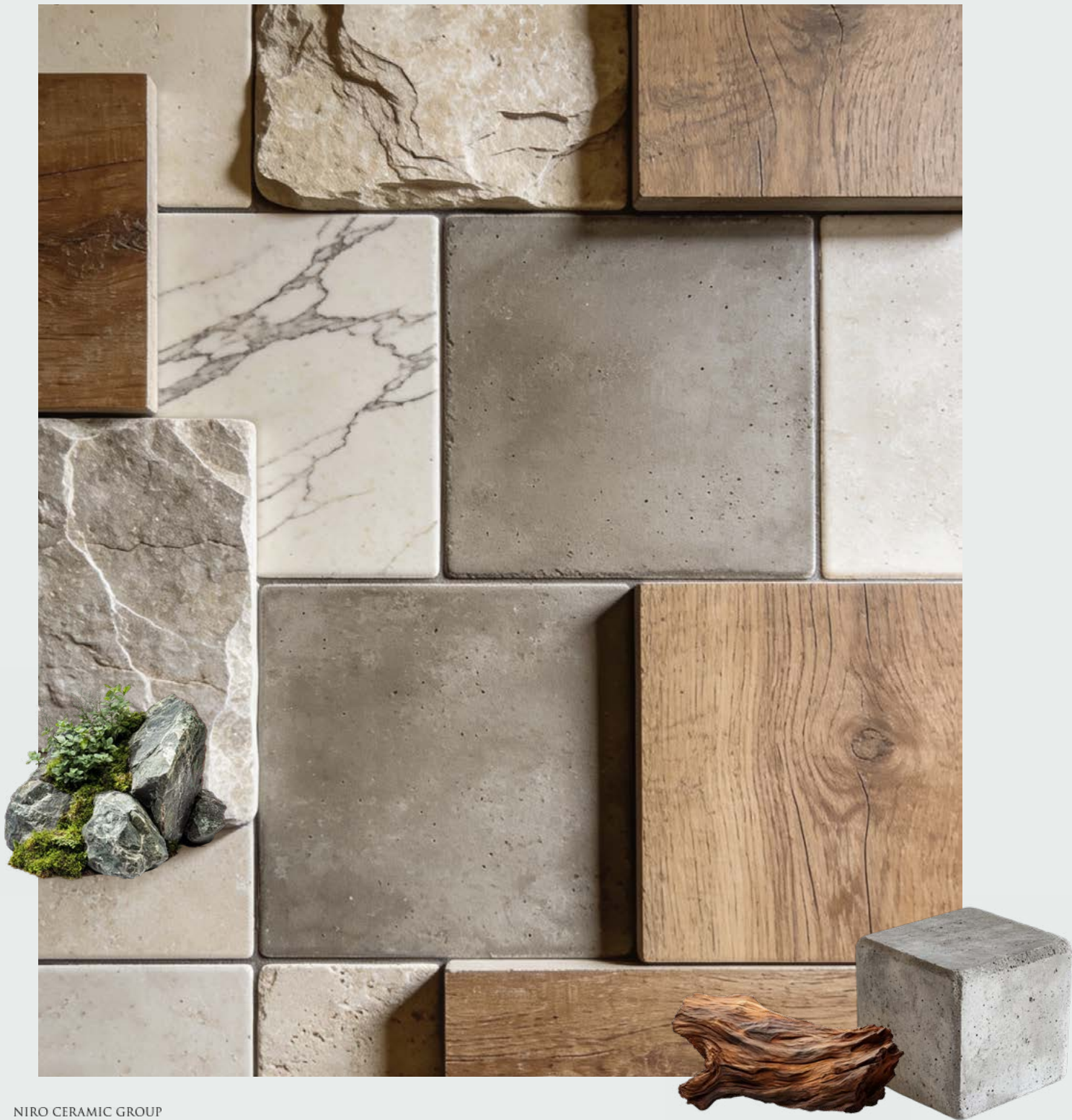


WALL : **ZIRCONIO XO SLAB** ZZIS14 ARTIC . 120x240cm . POLISHED

► The Luminescent Effect

One of the more striking innovations is the introduction of light-illuminating marble imitations. These tiles utilize glazes on high-gloss finishes to create a surface that appears to glow from within look. While visually stunning, trend forecasters designate this as a short-lived, avant-garde trend meant for specialized hospitality concepts rather than widespread residential use.

MIX & MATCH DISPLAY & SEAMLESS BLENDING



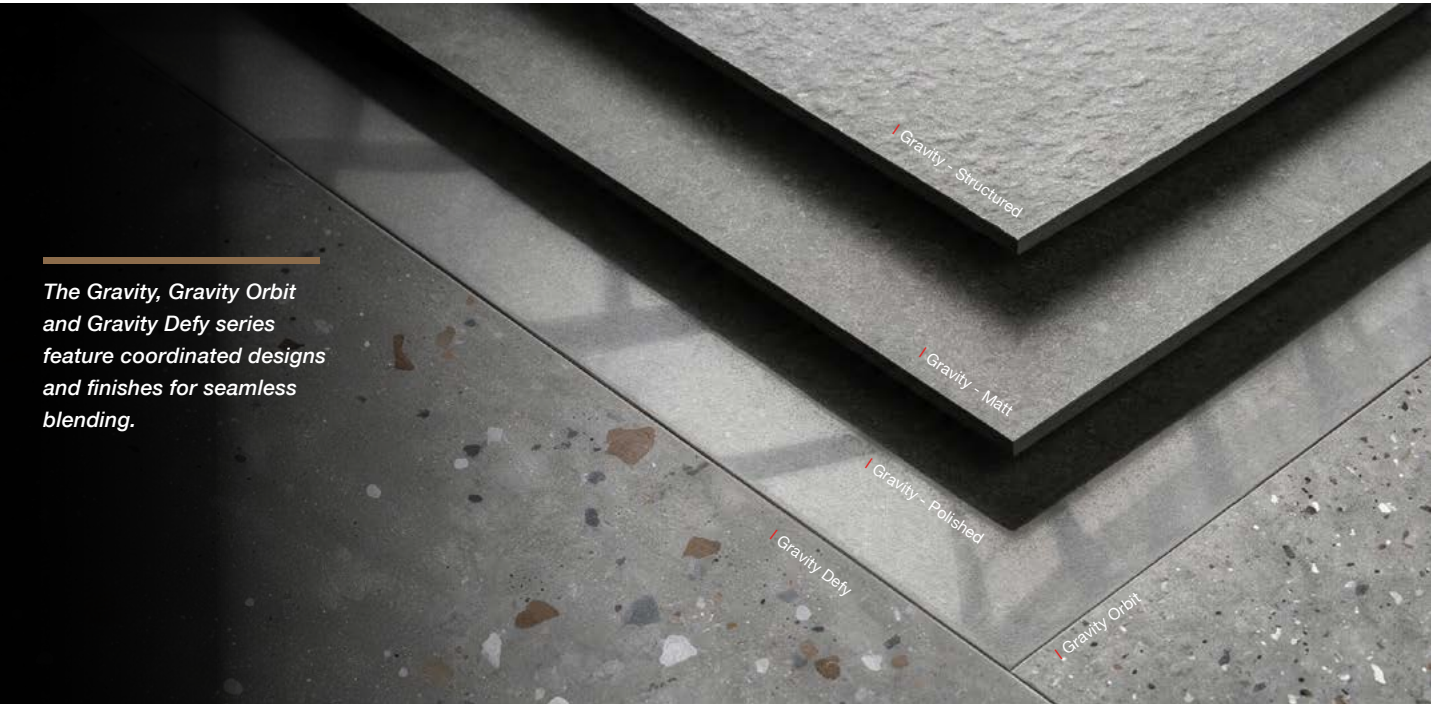
Instead of relying on a single look, the latest Italian concepts champion the mix-and-match placement of different tile surfaces within the same environment. Designed as modular systems, these collections allow designers to seamlessly combine stone, cement, and wood looks in one area. By sharing identical colourways and tones, these diverse surfaces coordinate flawlessly, breaking up large spatial boundaries without visual friction.



* Above Photographed at Cersaie 2025 Exhibition



LEFT WALL: **CLAY ART** GGCA05 SLATE . 60x60cm . MATT
CENTER WALL: **ECO-FORESTA** GGDW15 ROSSO ALBERO . 15x90cm . STRUCTURED
FLOOR: **DASH & ALLOY** GGDO01 IRIDIUM . 60x120cm . MATT



The Gravity, Gravity Orbit and Gravity Defy series feature coordinated designs and finishes for seamless blending.

SPECIFICATIONS, SIZES & COMPLEMENTARY TRENDS



► The Format Spectrum: Slabs & Small Scales

Slabs and large-format tiles continue to define modern flooring and wall cladding, backed by manufacturing standards that have settled on an efficient 6mm to 6.5mm thickness. This thin profile provides optimal tensile strength while reducing material weight and carbon emissions during transit. Meanwhile, standard premium footprints have broadened from 120x120cm to 160x160cm. At the same time, a complementary movement toward smaller formats is capturing designer attention, offering the spatial flexibility and creative installation freedom needed to curate distinct, high-personality interiors.



WALL: ZIRCONIO ITALY ZZIS94A/B GLAM GREEN . 160x320cm . POLISHED

MADE IN ITALY



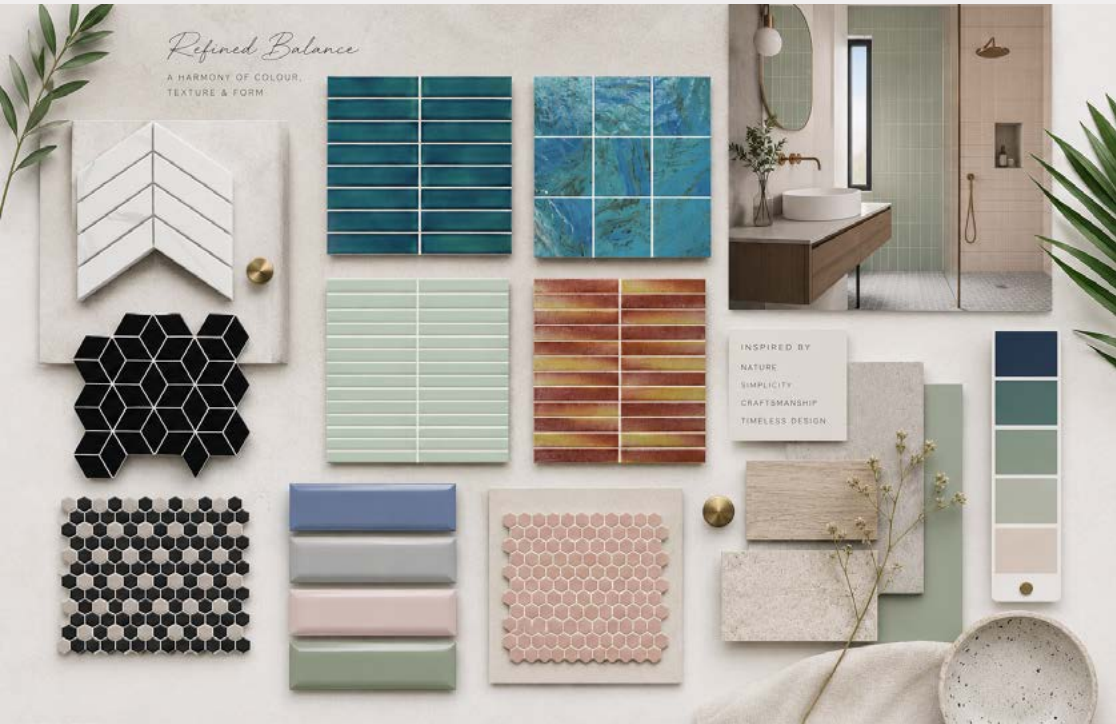
WALL & FLOOR: ZIRCONIO ITALY ZZIS91 ALABASTRO CREAM . 1200x2780mm . POLISHED

NIRO CERAMIC GROUP

MADE IN ITALY

► Creative Formats for Balance

To prevent large-format minimalist spaces from feeling sterile, 2026 /2027 interior concepts rely heavily on decorative accent formats, geometric and laying patterns to balance the large base tiles:



Mosaics

Utilizing unique geometric layouts (such as interlocking circular patterns, diamonds, and multi-textured wooden-porcelain marquetry) to introduce creative focal points.

Subway & Terracotta Bricks

Installed in traditional stacked or herringbone patterns to provide organic texture to backsplashes and feature walls.





* Above Photographed at Cersaie 2025 Exhibition

Modular Sizes

Mixing multiple rectangular and square formats together to honour traditional European stone layouts while utilizing ultra-modern, warm colourways.

Installation as Design

Creative laying patterns are becoming more influential than decorative graphics, allowing simple, minimalist products to achieve distinctive and contemporary appearances through innovative installation layouts.



* Above Photographed at Cersaie 2025 Exhibition



WALL: ZIRCONIO ITALY ZZIS99 ZIGZAG DARK .120x278cm . POLISHED HONED

MADE IN
ITALY

Geometric Patterns

Decorative design shifts from floral themes to structured geometry reflecting modern architectural trends while offering greater versatility across both residential and commercial applications.

Editorial Summary:

THE 2026 CHEAT SHEET



The Surface:

Move beyond flat, visual gloss. Lean into velvety soft-matte finishes, micro-incised reliefs, and organic irregularities that invite touch.



The Texture:

If it doesn't feel like real stone, it isn't ready for 2026. Prioritise digital reliefs for the texture.



The Colour:

Banished are the cold greys. Embrace beige, ivory, warm terracotta, cream, and muted dusty accents.



The Stone:

Look for limestone derivatives (Portland, Fossil), soft-honed Travertine, and concrete-stone agglomerates.



The Luxury:

Invest in Taj Mahal or Onyx structures with crystal-polished shimmer finishes or keep it ultra-premium with its soft-matte counterpart.



The Scale:

Ground your projects in 160x320cm to 120x120cm formats (6 - 6.5mm thick), then add artistic detail using contrasting geometric mosaics or earthy subway bricks.

THE NEW SURFACE ERA 2026/ 2027

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