

TEXTURE

Cork is perfect for introducing texture. Its eco credentials, sustainability and warmth underfoot make it a great choice, plus it's inexpensive. Pure Tree and The Cork Flooring Company have lovely ranges that are easy to lay. The natural grain of wood also introduces texture and interesting formations, from herringbone to chevron to basket weave. Reclaimed parquet or floorboards are

Chipboard Multi Tile

the dream (Bert & May have gorgeous options), and

Courchevel Mosaic



MIXED

Using different materials together on the same floor has become hugely popular, particularly in design-led restaurants and cool coffee bars. Combining old tiles with parquet flooring takes time to source and plan but has a wow finish. I suggest planning the layout using a simple computer programme or good, old-fashioned graph paper to work out where one material merges with the other. Give the plan to your floor fitter to avoid a multitude of questions throughout the job!

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Being a big advocate of pattern, I like to use it in unexpected ways and your floor is the perfect opportunity. Colour, geometric shapes and three-dimensional patterns create artwork underfoot, so keep the rest of the room simple and let the floor do the talking. Popham tiles - handmade thick ceramic tiles from Scandinavia -have the most fantastic designs in a very on-trend colour palette. I recently

put these in a client's

hallway and, my goodness,

did they make a statement

layout if you're feeling brave, or follow one of theirs to ensure the floor works aesthetically. The Baked Tile Company has some very original chipboard-like tiles with graphics on top. Whilst the Inopera Group are leading the way with terrazzo tiles in gorgeous colours, from dove grey to salmon pink and jade green, all with the marble chips. Terrazzo has been a huge trend in the last couple of years, making its way out of public buildings (think galleries and train stations) and into the home.







COLOUR

I've said it before and I'll say it again, be bold with colour! Block colour in gorgeous punchy shades will give your rooms a statement edge. Accessorize in the same colour to unite the scheme. A mustard kitchen floor with mustard kettle and pendant lights? Sounds fabulous! Both rubber and vinyl in smooth flat colour are sold in wide rolls, meaning minimal seams. It's inexpensive, versatile and low-maintenance. Harvey Maria and The Colour Flooring Company have fantastic ranges, offering a slick contemporary finish.

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