

Save on Splurge-Worthy Home Styles

Trendy tile Wood-look porcelain tiles, such as Daltile's Season Wood ColorBody™ Porcelain, resemble distressed and aged wood; yet can be installed without concern for water

With advanced technologies, tile manufacturers are also able to create visuals that capture the look of natural stone. Veining, color variations and even textured surfaces make them often indiscernible from the real thing. Some examples include Daltile's marble (Marble Falls) and slate-look (Porada) collections.

Creating a feature wall is an

easy way to instantly transform

a room. One hot look that has

made a big comeback – grass

cloth – lets you set an earthy

wall treatment can be fragile,

bathroom, where humidity is

high and can weaken fibers.

numerous vinvl options that

simulate the natural material

but are much hardier to stand

household. Another benefit:

up to the activity of an average

Fortunately, there are

mood with a fun and funky

focal point. However, the

especially in a high-traffic

area or in a room, such as a

Earth-inspired walls

and tear.

Throughout the home. you can find examples of home design options in which alternative versions of high-end materials can be incorporated.

In the fashion and design

world, alternative materials

that emulate high-end looks

are trendy not only for their

lower price point and low

maintenance qualities, but

thanks to advancements in

design and technology, are

often hard to differentiate from

Metallic bling

the real thing.

Bright, golden tones are big right now, but few homeowners have the financial means to deck out the family home with mirrors, sconces and other decorative items made of genuine gold. Fortunately, these, and a wide range of other accessories, are available in finishes that mimic the look of real gold, with price tags that won't leave you feeling like a fool.

the "imitation" versions tend to be a bit more uniform, eliminating the color variation or texture inconsistency that are inherent to the natural varieties and can make it very difficult to match to other decor and accessories.

Stylish stucco

Another way to add interest to your walls is to incorporate dimension – literally. Forget faux paint finishes that give the illusion of depth. Achieve a look that is more "now" with a stucco-like finish. Using some simple painting tools, multi-tone paint and a material such as joint compound, you can easily – and relatively inexpensively – create a stucco

surface that adds genuine texture you can see and feel.

Touchable textiles

The use of diverse fabrics is an age-old method of introducing variety and polish to a well-decorated space. Contemporary designers are looking to opulent options such as rich leather, suede and fur to create a high-end ambiance. You can enjoy the look without the expense by opting for synthetic versions of these coveted textiles. Even better, these simulated materials will prove more practical for everyday wear and

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