Pattern Research Project: An Investigation of The Pattern And Printing Process -Double Diamond

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Double Diamond
The pattern was originally intended to be used in the Islamic world. The intended purpose was to celebrate the Muslim faith by using the identifying geometric patterns of Islamic art. The pattern has evolved from being in religious buildings to mass-produced with the ability to be used in commercial stores. It is currently used as the floor tiles for the restaurant Bar Solita in Richmond, VA. The interior was inspired by a “modern Mediterranean aesthetic” (Thompson & Stewart, 2019). The Mediterranean design incorporates countries that practice the Muslim faith; so while the pattern is not used in a Islamic building, it is used in a space that gets inspiration from the country's style.

Other Marazzi D_Segni Glazed Porcelain Tile Designs

Apart from the double diamond pattern, there are other tile designs that Marazzi has created under the same collection. They are “a classic reinterpretation of traditional hand-made cement tiles, D_Segni™ offers a vast assortment of encaustic-look tiles” (“Glazed porcelain,” n.d.). These tiles are a combination of European encaustic tile craft with geometric Islamic designs.

Craft

- Harder & durable
- More design flexibility
- More refined organic materials
- Low moisture absorption (better for cold climates)

Porcelain vs. Ceramic tile

- More fragile
- Less design flexibility
- Coarse and less dense materials
- Better performance in warmer climates

Culture & History

This pattern’s origin dates back to Islamic culture and the national identity centered around their religion. The Muslim faith has its own artistic tradition and view point that is reflected in the religious buildings, furnishings and patterns created. Islamic art has a long history and is widespread throughout the world. Islamic artwork does not feature much writing or figurative representations because of the religious culture of the Islamic faith. Geometric features have replaced figurative representation to become the key identifying characteristic. (Department of Islamic Art, 2001).

Craft & Materiality

- Pouring colored cement
- Glazing tile

Encaustic Cement vs. Glazed Porcelain

Encaustic cement tiles are made with a mixture of cement, sand, pigment, and mineral powders. The mixture is poured into a metal mold that forms the pattern design, so the pattern is created before the tile is solidified.

Glazed Porcelain

After the tile goes through its first firing in the kiln, glaze is layered over top of a fired clay tile. The colored glaze is added on top to is what forms the pattern, which is then fired again to solidify.

How to make porcelain tiles:

1. Mix porcelain clay mix from with refined organic materials and water
2. Create molds for tiles
3. Add in clay mixture to mold
4. Leave formed clay out to dry then fire in a kiln
5. Apply colored glaze
6. Fire in kiln to solidify glaze

(Stein, 2014).