

Winter 2005 Volume 11 No. 1

CONTEMPORARY
STONE & TILE
design
A **brp** PUBLICATION



HIGH-END RESIDENTIAL / TILE TRENDS / SCULPTOR DARRELL PETIT / SHANGHAI CUSTOMS HOUSE

Providing A Blank Canvas

Upon noticing the popularity of using stone and tile in homes, architect Mike Krupnick and his wife, Kim Ray Krupnick, a designer and artist, are currently incorporating the decorative materials into their most recent project — the Avenue Lofts in the Flagler Village area of Fort Lauderdale, FL.

According to Mike Krupnick, architect and owner of Krupnick Studio, Inc. of Corrales, NM, the goal of the project was to create a neighborhood atmosphere. "We wanted to fill a void by establishing a creative place to live," he said. "The people moving in are young professionals looking for a different lifestyle," said Krupnick. "Essentially, we provide them with a blank canvas. They can move in and express themselves by adding their own element of personality to the space we have created."

For the kitchen backsplashes Carter Glass Mosaic Series TA825m Porcelain Blend in 1/4-inch tiles was implemented. These materials, distributed by Hakatai Enterprises Inc. of Ashland, OR, were chosen because of their "great value and great look." The walls and floors of the bathroom showers for Phase I of the Avenue Lofts project are ornamented in Hakatai Ashland Series MG001 1-x1-inch Crystal Blue glass tiles.

"It was intuitive," said Krupnick, who divulged that his wife had much more to do with selecting the materials than he did. "It just felt right. The blue tile has an amazing shine to it when it is installed. We researched the materials a lot by visiting tile showrooms on the



For the kitchen backsplashes in the Avenue Lofts in Fort Lauderdale, FL, the designers selected Carter Glass Mosaic Series TA825m Porcelain Blend in 1/4-inch tiles. **Designer:** Krupnick Studio, Inc. Corrales, NM; **Tile Distributors:** Hakatai Enterprises (Carter Glass mosaics); Sikes Tile (VMPGlas); **Tile Manufacturer:** Carter Glass Mosaic



The mosaic tiles provide the kitchen area with a clean contemporary look.



The walls and floors of the bathroom showers for Phase I of the Avenue Lofts project are ornamented in Hakatai Ashland Series MG001 1- x 1-inch Crystal Blue gloss tiles.



The Afyon Cloud marble floor, in large-format 14- x 36-inch tiles, enhanced the modern design of this Avenue Loft residence. **Tile Supplier:** Marmiro Stones Inc., Fort Lauderdale, FL (Afyon Cloud marble); Euro Tile, Fort Myers, FL (Villi®Glas)

Internet. The Hakatai tile was favored by both us and the developer.

"Mid-century modern art is becoming popular," continued Krupnick. "People want to feel the hand of the craftsmen involved in the project because it adds a human quality to it. With mosaics, you can mix and match colors to get the total value you want, and it offers a clean, contemporary design with a lot of texture."

The exterior entryway is comprised of Sikes Tile's Villi®Glas line in 8- x 8-inch squares in Paris Blue and Ceylon Green. According to Krupnick, "tile was used as decorative elements to mark the entry, and add color and texture."

Although concrete floors are the most common for the units, one homeowner chose to use Afyon Cloud marble in 14- x 36-inch squares from Marmiro Stones Inc. of Fort Lauderdale, FL, for the floor and countertops. "It is an amazing product, with a great brushed finish," said Krupnick. "[It offers] a very rich and elegant looking, timeless material."

According to the architect, Phases I and II are completely sold out, and there are to be a total of five phases altogether. "People are starting to copy us," he said. "The city is very excited and they believe in our vision."

When selecting stone and tile, Krupnick believes that people look for value, maintenance and texture. Lately, he is finding that concrete countertops are his best-selling option, along with 1-inch tile mosaics as "texture and flair of mid-century modern design."