

# JAMESTOWN REAL ESTATE MARKETPLACE

## Gorgeous Glass Tile

By Gaye Weatherly

Glass tile is one of today's most popular tile products. While many of my local clients choose watery blue-green tones for bathrooms and swimming pools, glass tile is available in a rainbow of colors and for nearly any purpose.

Glass tile can be handmade or mass produced. Handmade tile varies in color and shape, creating a textural look. Factory made tile can imitate that variegated look, or provide consistent color, form and texture. Each type can be architecturally stunning.

One of my handmade tile suppliers is a small New England shop where I've observed their multi-stepped process. Clear glass tile is molded from the initial gathers of molten glass. Colors and additives are then melted

sequentially in the crucible to produce the shop's orders for custom colors, including iridescence and other special effects. Each batch of tile becomes more complex in its coloration, since the remains of

all of the earlier batches combine in the molten glass of the crucible. The last batch is always amber, their most complex and prized tile color.

Surface finish offers yet another set of choices. The



tumbled and frosted look of beach glass is very much in demand. Some tile is jewel-cut to reflect more light. Of course, the most reflective tile is mirrored glass, for the ultimate in bling-bling surfacing.

Accent and trim pieces add interest to any tile installation. In a Newport show house a few years ago, for example, I combined a pristine white wall tile with glass accent and floor tile in a lavette. A row of aquamarine glass listello caps the subway wall tile, which, in turn, is topped by a decorative

white capello. The glass floor tile is Italian handmade mosaic. The classic bordered design uses two iridescent tile colors: mother-of-pearl and aquamarine. White setting material is used throughout, to avoid dulling the apparent glass color.

Please stop by my showroom, Weatherly Tile & Stone, Inc., at 3030 East Main Road in Portsmouth (683-5577), to see what many designers and architects have called the best selection of glass tile in New England.