

## gallery

# Beauty underfoot

When designing and decorating the rooms in our homes, we often think about the many ways to embellish our walls and ceilings with decorative trim details, interesting painting techniques, and a variety of coverings like wainscot or wallpaper. But don't forget to look down at that hardworking surface on which you walk each day. Whether as the first impression in an entry foyer, an interesting transition from a kitchen to a dining area, or a way to incorporate a little whimsy and personality in a bedroom, the floors in your home can also serve as a creative canvas. —*Maureen Friedman*

## Creative combination

Located on a lake in central Vermont, the floor in this kitchen is a mix of Vermont ash with a custom light-gray stain and handmade concrete tiles. Six different tile designs are arranged so there is no repeated pattern. During the design process, the architect created a 3D CAD file and rotated and moved the tiles until the pattern was just right. The homeowners could then preview the design and the installer had a very clear layout to follow during installation.

**Architect** Elizabeth Herrmann, Elizabeth Herrmann Architecture + Design, Bristol, Vt., [eharchitect.com](http://eharchitect.com)

**Builder** Northern Timbers Construction, East Middlebury, Vt., [northerntimbers.com](http://northerntimbers.com)

**Photo** Susan Teare, [susanteare.com](http://susanteare.com)







### By the sea

Designer Mary Douglas Drysdale often uses paint as a way to add great decorative appeal without great expense. Since this summer home is located on the water, the image of shells and the seaside is a natural fit for this little girl's room. To add whimsy to the design, Drysdale incorporated a phrase in the floor border.

**Interior design** Mary Douglas Drysdale, Drysdale Inc., Washington, D.C., [marydouglasdrysdale.com](http://marydouglasdrysdale.com)

**Stencil and hand-painted details** Billet Collins, Darnestown, Md., [billetcollins.com](http://billetcollins.com)

**Photo** Brian Vanden Brink, [brianvandenbrink.com](http://brianvandenbrink.com)

### Faux carpet

The floor in the entry of this home in Jamestown, Rhode Island, is made of 6-in.-wide rift-sawn white-oak planks finished with a low-sheen polyurethane. This area of the home serves as a gallery to display some of the homeowners' art and antique furniture. To create the illusion of a runner on the floor, the interior designers painted a rug pattern in tinted pigments in between the coats of polyurethane.

**Architect** Michael O. McClung, Shope Reno Wharton, LLC, South Norwalk, Conn., [shoperenowharton.com](http://shoperenowharton.com)

**Interior design** Joanne De Palma, New York, N.Y., [joannedepalma.com](http://joannedepalma.com)

**Photo** Brian Vanden Brink, [brianvandenbrink.com](http://brianvandenbrink.com)



### Entry rug, New Hampshire-style

Mud season, which can last a long time in New Hampshire, is very rough on a wood floor. Rather than the usual plain slate or ceramic tile often seen in an entry foyer, a sophisticated design mimicking an entry rug was created out of tile during the remodel of this distinguished older home.

**Architect** Daniel V. Scully, Scully Architects, Keene, N.H., [scullyarchitects.com](http://scullyarchitects.com)

**Photo** Brian Vanden Brink, [brianvandenbrink.com](http://brianvandenbrink.com)

