



COLORFUL DETAIL: Minos Mosaic Forest Floor by Ann Sacks

## Stoned Floors

No matter which stone flooring you choose, use color and pattern to take the chill off and add warmth to the room. **By Tammy Minn**

One of the hottest things you can do to a stone floor is warm it up by mixing and matching color, materials and patterns. Stone floors can seem cold, giving an almost hollow feel to a room. But Kate Simcoe, residential designer with Hanson & K Interiors, says it doesn't have to be that way. "Adding a mosaic or inserting patterns of different stone or ceramic tiles really warms the look," Simcoe says. "Travertine with slate inserts or mosaics are great. You can get those wonderful French chateau looks by combining materials." But if Old World isn't your style, don't worry. Mosaics offer a rich range of designs, colors and patterns that can be customized to fit your decorating scheme. In fact, some of the mosaics and patterns can give a geometric or minimalist look, Simcoe says.

Metallic accents are also finding their way into custom stone flooring. "When you combine the stone with metallic accents, you get this wonderful color palette. Don't forget that stone is a natural resource and it mellows. It has its own patina that says, 'I'm living here. I'm creating my own history,'" she says.

The price of stone varies. Granite starts at about \$57 per square foot. Limestone is about \$13.40, and travertine is about \$5 to \$6. Those prices may not reflect installation and custom detail. For information, call Simcoe at Hanson & K Interiors, (909) 335-1610. ●

## ROCK ARTIST

Dawn Grimes Myers paints houses, but doesn't need ladders and drop cloths. The Claremont artist uses native rock as her canvas, creating images of people's homes, public buildings or favorite relaxation spots, such as the 18th hole at a country club. Using stones as the canvas, she has painted a Chino dairy, Los Angeles Union Station and Guasti Winery, to name a few.

"The beauty and solidity of the stone just seems to fit the idea of a structure," says Myers, who holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from UCLA. Myers loves architecture and has a passion for learning the history behind structures. She says part of the fun in painting is learning the special meanings that different structures hold for different people.

For more information, see [www.sketchedinstone.com](http://www.sketchedinstone.com) or contact Myers at (909) 624-7925.

