

WHIMSICAL WALL 'ART'

Dina Bandman anticipates increased interest in bold accent walls, such as the one she created for this Jack and Jill bathroom that features New Ravenna's Otomi mosaic tile.

"People need to be happy right now," says the principal, Dina Bandman Interiors, in San Francisco, CA, and president, California North ASID.

Plus, unique, handmade tile such as this can elevate a space to make it feel special, she adds.

"You're essentially putting art in the form of tile on the walls," she says. "I don't know how you can elevate a room more than when you envelop it in art."

As the focal point of the room, the designer sheathed the upper portion of its walls with the vibrant blend of hand-nipped Absolute White, Peridot, Aventurine, Lapis Lazuli, Sardonyx, Citrine and Ruby mosaic jewel glass that creates a lively motif of colorful critters, including llamas, deer, foxes and rabbits, frolicking amongst an assortment of flowers.

"I wanted the room to be whimsical, colorful and happy," she remarks. "This bathroom was created for a brother and sister to share, so the playful design works for both genders."

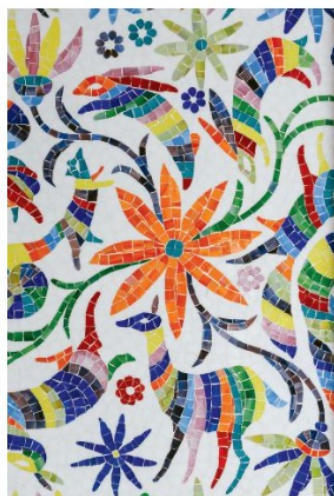
Additionally, the pattern brings a lot of movement to the relatively small space and adds an element of fun that can encourage youngsters to more readily complete potentially mundane tasks.

"It can sometimes be a challenge to get kids to brush their teeth and hair," she says. "Creating a fun environment like this can distract them from doing tasks they might not like."

Covering the entire room – except the ceiling, which is painted a high-gloss, pastel pink – with tile also promotes a sanitary environment that is easy to clean. In addition to the mosaics, Bandman used several other tiles, including white subway that is laid in a traditional brick pattern for the bottom half of the walls and the shower. Accents of Hot Red ticking stripes from Sonoma Tilemakers offer a unique twist and add interest to an otherwise plain white field. For the floor, the designer laid tile in a basketweave pattern, giving it a contemporary look with white, rather than black, dots.

A custom red lacquered vanity grounds the room and adds sophistication.

"I really believe that bathroom vanities should look like furniture," she says, noting an affinity for those that look like vintage chests. "It makes the space feel less utilitarian. In this case, we included one that has beautiful bamboo details."



Photos: Christopher Stark Photography

As the focal point of this Jack and Jill bathroom, Dina Bandman sheathed the upper portion of its walls with a vibrant blend of colorful mosaic jewel glass tile that creates a lively motif of colorful critters frolicking amongst an assortment of flowers. She complemented the whimsical pattern with several other types of tile, including white subway tile that is highlighted with accents of red pencil tile.