

WHY TREES ARE THE NEW INDOOR PLANTS

# realLiving

219 EASY  
ELEGANT  
ACHIEVABLE  
INTERIOR  
UPDATES

MIX IT UP!  
THE SECRETS  
OF ECLECTIC  
DECORATING

INCREDIBLE WOMEN AND  
THEIR STYLISH HOMES

fabulous flooring

TIMBER TILES CARPET CONCRETE



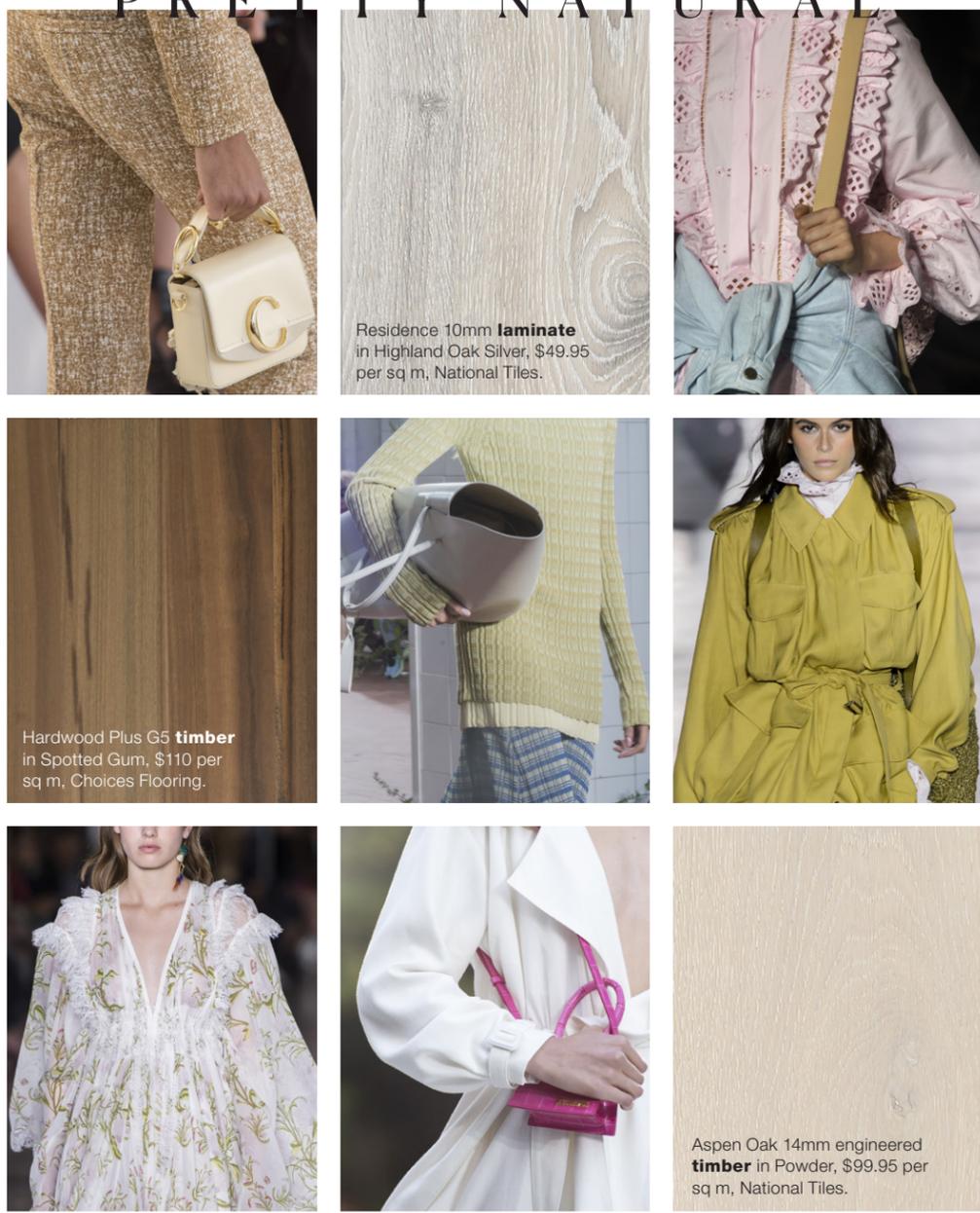
# ON THE FLOOR

We lay down the latest in flooring fashions, plus all the info you need to know to make the right choice for your home

**Native floors** Timber floors in warm tones will complement just about any scheme and add depth to rooms of all sizes. The grain creates a beautiful base for other natural materials, such as these blinds and coffee tables – just add a plush sofa for a luxuriously lived-in look.

photography biggitta wolfgang/sisters agency (left); jason lloyd-evans (catwalk) | styling per mille vest (left)

## PRETTY NATURAL



Residence 10mm **laminate** in Highland Oak Silver, \$49.95 per sq m, National Tiles.

Hardwood Plus G5 **timber** in Spotted Gum, \$110 per sq m, Choices Flooring.

Aspen Oak 14mm engineered **timber** in Powder, \$99.95 per sq m, National Tiles.

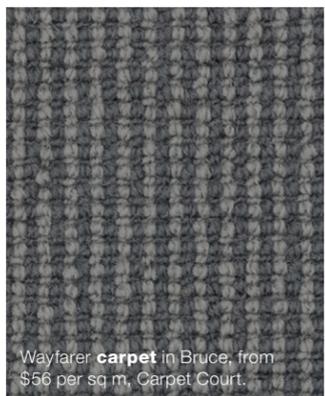
## TIMBER / VENEER / LAMINATE

Timber and timber-look flooring is warming up with soft blonde and brown tones, which are more versatile than black and grey finishes. An ever-popular choice, timber is known for its hardness and insulating properties. Old hardwood boards are easy to freshen up with a professional sand and new coat of paint or stain, while new floors are easier than ever to install – engineered timber and veneer boards (known as floating floorboards) come polished, stained and finished. Laminate – an image of wood on a composite wood base – is a more affordable option with fantastic resistance to scratches, moisture and wear. **Great for** Living areas, kitchens, hallways and bedrooms. **Good to know** Floor sanding is a tempting DIY job, but keep in mind the machine is incredibly powerful and it's so easy to dent the floor, which is not easy to fix. Floating floors are much more DIY-friendly, though you can have a professional install these too. **Expect to pay** \$50 to \$150+ per sq m for solid timber, \$40 to \$100 per sq m for engineered timber or veneer, and \$25 to \$40 per sq m for laminate. →

# MONOCHROME MOOD



Entrend 'Splendid' carpet in Demona, from \$156 per sq m, Choices Flooring.



Wayfarer carpet in Bruce, from \$56 per sq m, Carpet Court.



Temuka 'Atlas Peak' carpet in After Midnight, from \$180 per sq m, Choices Flooring.

## CARPET & RUGS

This season, it's all about monochrome carpet – white, black and all the greys in between. If you want to go warmer, choose a creamy white or an espresso black. Pattern? Checks and stripes are your go-tos. Cut- and loop-piles, shaggy, woven – there's a style to suit every room and decor look. A couple of carpet basics: cut-pile tends to give a plush finish, while loop pile looks more contemporary. As for practicalities, it's great for insulating against sound and cold. **Great for** Bedrooms, living rooms and hallways where a little more warmth and comfort is required. **Good to know** The key to a long-lasting carpet is maintenance. It requires vacuuming at least once a week in low-traffic areas, more regularly in busy spaces, and could benefit from a steam clean once a year. **Expect to pay** From \$20 per sq m for polypropylene, \$40 per sq m for nylon and \$50 per sq m for wool. High-quality wool blends can cost about \$150 per sq m. →

interior design | louse iljencrantz (right) | interior design | louse iljencrantz (right) | photography | jason lloyd-evans (catwalk), erik lefvander (right) | interior design | louse iljencrantz (right) | photography | jason lloyd-evans (catwalk), erik lefvander (right)



**Go large** An oversized rug will unify an open-plan living space, and having something soft underfoot invites you to kick your shoes off. If you can't find the right size rug, choose a carpet and have it cut and hemmed to your measurements. The bigger the better, we say.

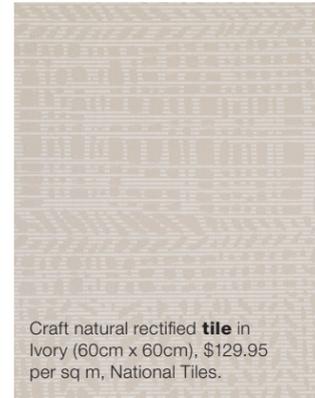
**New terrain** Large tiles in hues that capture the colours of the earth are a stunning feature, both indoors and out. Thanks to its textural beauty, this style lends itself well to an otherwise minimalistic decorating scheme.



## EARTHY TONAL



Simplicity natural **tile** in Mocha (40cm x 40cm), \$29.95 per sq m, National Tiles.



Craft natural rectified **tile** in Ivory (60cm x 60cm), \$129.95 per sq m, National Tiles.



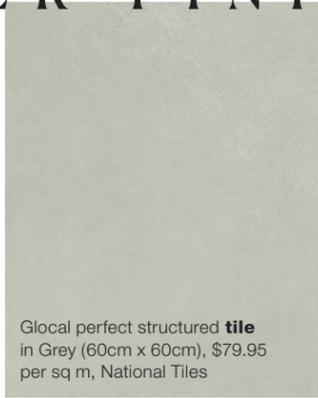
Marble honed **tile** in Coastal Sands (30.5cm x 30.5cm), \$119 per sq m, Beaumont Tiles.

## TILES & NATURAL STONE

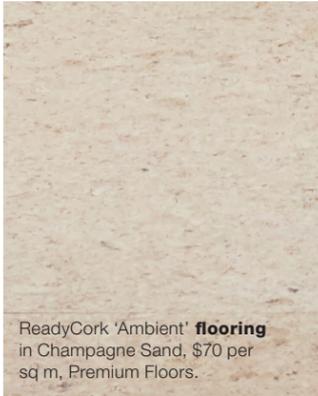
Right now, the trend for tiles is warm, earthy and textural – and it's a look that is here to stay. Think travertine, sandstone and terracotta hues with organic and thatched patterns. There is such a huge range of styles available you can now mimic the look of stone, concrete or timber without the same upkeep and expense. Tiles are simple to clean and maintain (though natural stone may require more TLC) and can be individually removed and replaced if are damaged. **Great for** Entryways, kitchens, bathrooms and laundries. **Good to know** Ceramic tiles are a great option for living areas that flow to the outdoors. Consider an exterior timber-look tile for a deck and its interior equivalent for inside. If using tiles in a wet area, try a sample for slip resistance first. **Expect to pay** \$35 to \$95 per sq m for ceramic, \$50 to \$150 per sq m for porcelain and up to \$150 per sq m for natural stone. →

photography mikkel adsbol, courtesy of time k home (left); jason lloyd-evans (catwalk) | styling pernille vest (left)

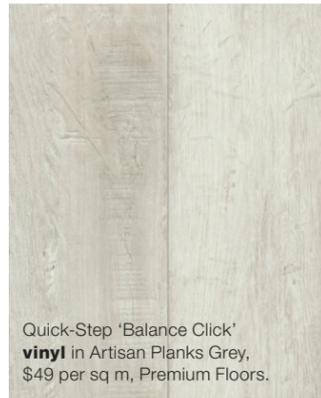
## OTHER FINISHES



Glocal perfect structured **tile** in Grey (60cm x 60cm), \$79.95 per sq m, National Tiles



ReadyCork 'Ambient' **flooring** in Champagne Sand, \$70 per sq m, Premium Floors.



Quick-Step 'Balance Click' **vinyl** in Artisan Planks Grey, \$49 per sq m, Premium Floors.

## CONCRETE / CORK / VINYL

These flooring options allow you to have fun with colour. Concrete floors are low-maintenance, energy-efficient, dust-free and aren't limited to grey. They can be polished, towelled or brandished, and applying special aggregates such as quartz, granite and other coloured minerals will give a buffed stone appearance. Should you want something softer, consider cork – it's quiet and comfortable underfoot, naturally warm and durable. Modern incarnations look amazing, too – take the interiors at The Calille Hotel in Brisbane. Usually associated with bad rental kitchen floors, vinyl has come a long way and has moved into luxury territory with its authentic look and feel, durability, warmth and sound absorption. Available in a range of styles and colours, it can bring texture and pattern to a space. **Great for** Kitchens, living and dining areas. **Good to know** Finished concrete and cork floors need to be sealed to make them easier to maintain and prevent staining. **Expect to pay** \$50 to \$85 per sq m for concrete, \$60 to \$100 per sq m for cork and \$30 to \$90 per sq m for vinyl. ●

photography jason lloyd-evans (catwalk); courtesy of fest amsterdam (right)



**Colour play** Concrete, cork and vinyl come in a range of finishes and colours, and can resemble other flooring options – vinyl that looks like timber, concrete with aggregates similar to fine terrazzo, and cork that could be mistaken for stone.

GROW / NURTURE / ENJOY

**Tree change** Reach for the sky with a glorious indoor tree that will transform your interiors. Turn the page for inspiration and tips. →

# OLD SIDES

photography mikkel adsbøl, courtesy of the k home  
styling perille vest, courtesy of the k home

# SKY HIGH

Add a dash of colour and a sense of drama to your home with a larger-than-life indoor tree. The ceiling's the limit!

HOUSE PLANTS HAVE BEEN AN ESSENTIAL part of our lives for some time now, but if you're looking to take your greenery obsession to the next level, go large. An indoor tree will transform a room, bringing a structural element to living spaces, and colour and life to traditionally sparse areas like bathrooms and laundries. Then there are the practical benefits – indoor plants have been shown to improve air quality, create feelings of relaxation and positivity, and reduce noise levels (handy for apartment dwellers). Of course, not all trees will be happy indoors, and the ones that are might have a few extra requirements that their outside counterparts don't. Mature trees can also be costly, so you may want to start with a younger tree and let it grow and adapt to your home's conditions. Read on for tips on selecting and caring for your indoor tree...

## trees to try



fiddle leaf fig

*Ficus lyrata*

**Needs** bright light; no drafts. **Consider** repotting every year until it reaches desired height.

Raw Earth **plant stand** and **pot** in Slate Blue, \$129, Angus & Celeste.



weeping fig

*Ficus benjamina*

**Needs** a consistent watering regime. **Consider** setting your thermostat to regulate room temperature (around 21°C).

Flor **planter**, \$325 for large, Plyroom.



cornstalk dracaena

*Dracaena fragrans*

**Needs** a light misting on its leaves and soil; filtered light. **Consider** a sheer curtain to protect it from direct sunlight.

Tone **planter** in Bark and Mustard, \$145 for large, Lightly.



swiss cheese plant

*Monstera deliciosa*

**Needs** indirect light, warmth, moisture. **Consider** polishing its leaves with a cloth each week to keep pests at bay.

Makeeba **pot**, \$340 for extra-large, Pop & Scott.



rubber plant

*Ficus elastica*

**Needs** lots of space in a well-lit spot away from direct sun. **Consider** a light fertilise every second week in spring/summer.

Den-Holm 'Bob' limestone **planter**, \$990, Fenton&Fenton.

text stephanie hope | photography anders bergstedt (right) | styling nouvel interior (right)

**Banana drama** With their large green leaves, banana plants will add a touch of the tropics to your decor. Because they grow quite tall, choose a dwarf variety for indoors.



**style tip** Keep the rest of your decor muted to make your indoor tree the hero of the room →

**Palm reading** Contrast a modern interior with a statement palm – pictured here is a dwarf date palm. They thrive in warm, humid environments with natural light, and also love hanging out in bathrooms.



**style tip** Use your indoor tree much like you would a piece of furniture – to fill an empty corner or divide an open space into two defined areas

**photography** birgitta wolfgang/sisters agency (left); thomas loof, courtesy of soren rose studio (right) | **styling** pernille vest (left)

**style tip** Make the most of exposed beams and lofty ceilings and use the height of your tree to draw the eye upwards •



**Let there be light** Fact: children learn better in an environment that includes indoor plants. This fiddle leaf fig will happily oblige, so long as it has good light and regular water top-ups (but don't overdo it).