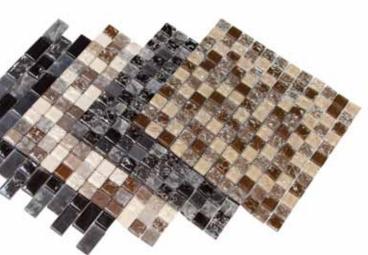
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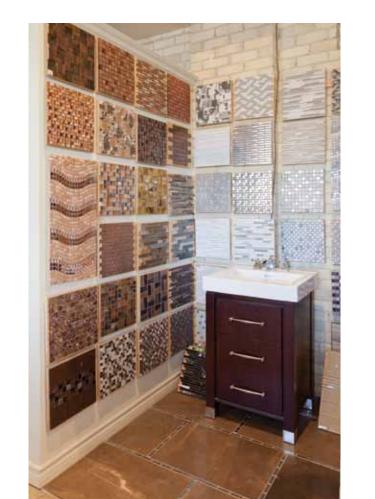
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON HARTOG

THE PLACE: Located inside the beautiful Hacienda Sarria building on Union Street in Kitchener, Casa Bella Tile & Stone Inc. is obviously a first-class company. Owners Mary Werenko and Kim DeVries have been doing business here for five years, but they've been selling tiles for what they call "forever." They've been in business together for about 20 years. Mary's daughter Jennifer Legault joined them three years ago. Their showroom is packed with tile samples for every room - and for long-term use. "We show people how not to get caught up in trends," says Mary.

THE STYLE: With a massive selection of sleek and modern designs, Casa Bella Tile & Stone has every colour, texture, shape and size of tile anyone could ever want. The showroom is bright and fresh and displays on one side of the room showcase how different tiles can really transform a space.

WHAT'S HOT: Mary says "fancy, fancy glass" is extremely popular right now. This includes cracked glass tiles, shiny mosaics and pretty pebble tiles. "A lot of people don't want to commit to a lot of colour with tile because it's so permanent," says Kim. But touches of colour can be combined with neutrals to create unique looks.





SEASONAL: As soon as summer weather hits, people start visiting Casa Bella Tile & Stone for outdoor tiles. Mary says many people are updating their yards or looking for nice stones for around their pools.

FAVOURITES: All the ladies are drawn to different tiles and their top picks change frequently. Right now, Mary says she likes patterned tiles, including some that look like grass cloth. Kim loves tiles in earth tones with a bit of shine. "Earth colours but not earth texture," she says.

WHERE: 1254 Union St., Kitchener 519.579.8000, www.casabellatile.ca он

Left to right: Kim DeVries,

Mary Werenko and Jennifer Legault.