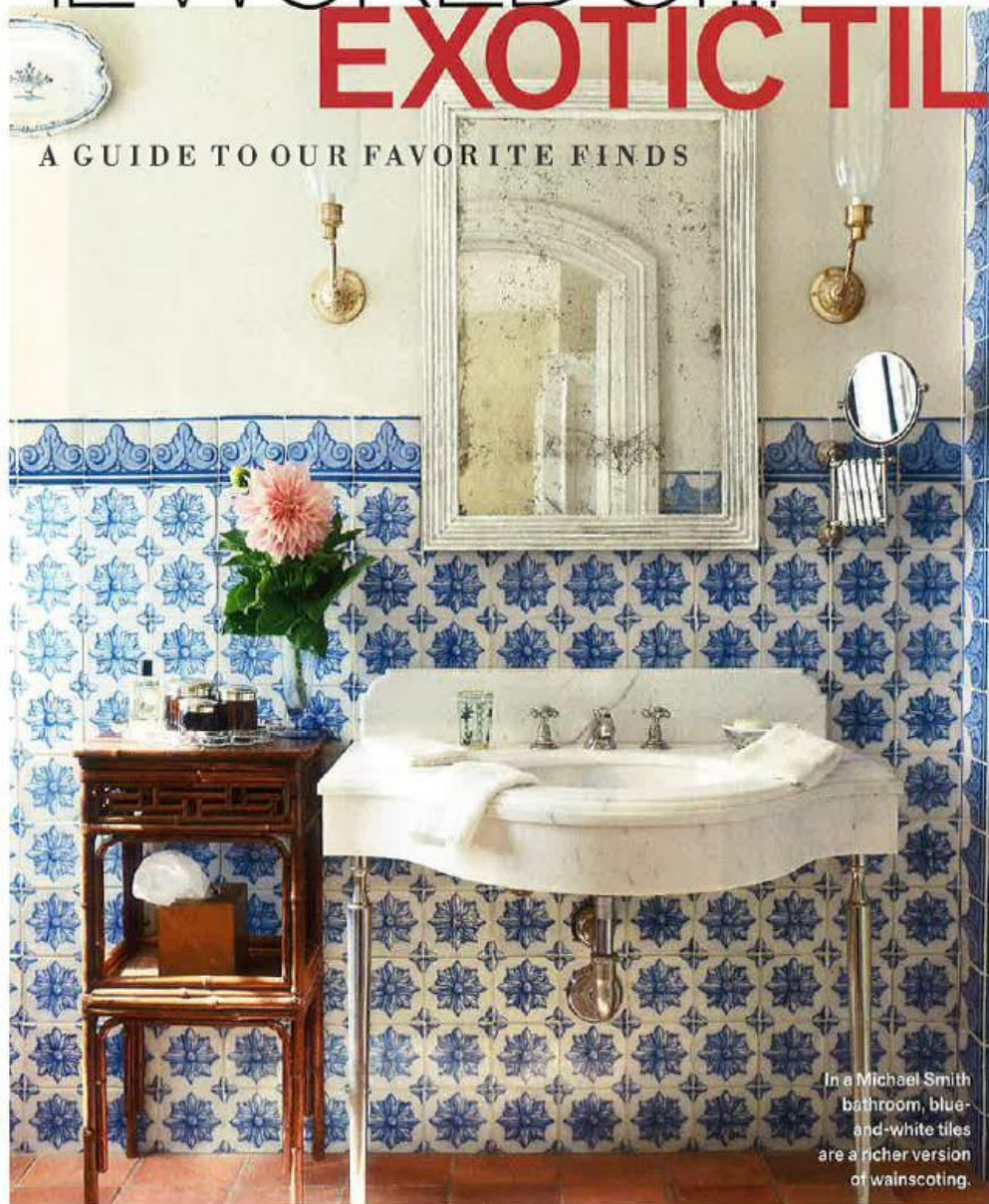


THE WORLD OF... **EXOTIC TILE**

A GUIDE TO OUR FAVORITE FINDS



In a Michael Smith bathroom, blue-and-white tiles are a richer version of wainscoting.

Decorative tiles span boundaries and centuries. You can find them in soaring medieval mosques, baroque Iberian palaces, jasmine-wreathed *riads*, and rococo *hôtels particuliers*. Indeed, versatility is their calling card. Used in moderation—as a stand-in for wainscoting, or an accent around a fireplace—they introduce a welcome layer of color and intrigue. Covering entire walls, they create a sensual, enveloping atmosphere that is unparalleled. No matter how you use them, the results are bound to be refreshingly unexpected.

TURKISH DELIGHT

The *Ufarna Desenli* from Ann Sacks is a vivid, modern-day take on a traditional Iznik, from \$477 per square foot; 800-278-8453.



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A grand room by Jean-Loup Daraux gets some levity from lovely Delft tiles in a fireplace surround.



LASCAUX TILE's Spanish-style *Anniso* includes vivid hues that are tempered by an antique finish—gorgeous for lining stair treads or a gurgling fountain, \$22 each; 323-939-6039. The *Alhambra Mosaic Field* from **RENAISSANCE TILE & BATH** glimmers with a gold-and-ivory Moorish motif that can fit in almost anywhere, \$75 per square foot; 404-231-9203. **EXQUISITE SURFACES'** *Carocim Reproduction*

(232) balances a florid pattern with a toned-down color combo, from \$12 each; 800-970-9798. *Capelistas* is a blue-and-white design from **FILMORE CLARK** with inky depth and plenty of oomph, \$40 each; 310-652-6867. **POPHAM DESIGN**'s *Zig Zag* is emblazoned with a flame-like zigzag that comes alive when installed over large surfaces, from \$23 per square foot; through Ann Sacks, 800-278-8453.