

PERSONAL SHOPPER

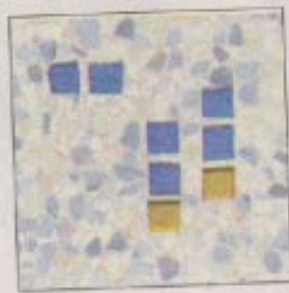
Marianne Rohrlich

The Choice Is More Than Clear
When It Comes to Glass

THIS season's fashionable kitchen-and-bath material is glass, which is pushing aside granite, stainless steel and concrete for countertops, walls and floors. It comes in many forms and finishes, offering rooms without much natural light a reflective surface or one that allows light to pass through. There are even new fake-glass tiles, made of acrylic.

Glass products offer different degrees of tempering, thickness and scratch and heat resistance. All glass is nonporous and cleans to a sparkle, an appealing attribute in these hygiene-obsessed times.

1. White tempered glass, a quarter- to a half-inch thick, can be used for cabinet doors, tabletops, walls and backsplashes. And Joel Berman Glass Studios, in Vancouver, B.C., is having a white sale. Through September, it is offering glass products in a variety of shades of white at 50 percent off, or \$12.50 to \$22.50 a square foot (not installed). For dealers, www.jbermanglass.com (click on Contact Us) or (888) 505-4527.



2. A 1½-inch-thick countertop can handle temperatures of up to 700 degrees and has a pattern below the surface to camouflage scratches. The surface and edges can be polished or textured. It is sold by the sheet (up to 86 by 130 inches) and in one of two colors, clear or aqua; \$80 to \$110 a square foot, not including cutouts for sinks and the like, from Think Glass, thinkglass.com or (314) 325-0052.

3. For those who like the translucence of glass but prefer something less weighty, there are acrylic Scintilla tiles by Sensi-Tile. The tiles, suitable for countertops, walls and even floors, react to changes in light, making them sparkle. The tiles are square or rectangular, and come in several sizes, from 4 to 12 inches. Colors include red and yellow as well as clear, and there



Lara Kivve for
The New York Times

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are polished or frosted finishes. The manufacturer says the acrylic is scratch resistant but recommends the frosted finish for tabletops and counters; \$16 to \$190 apiece at Sensi-Tile, sensitile.com or (313) 872-6314.

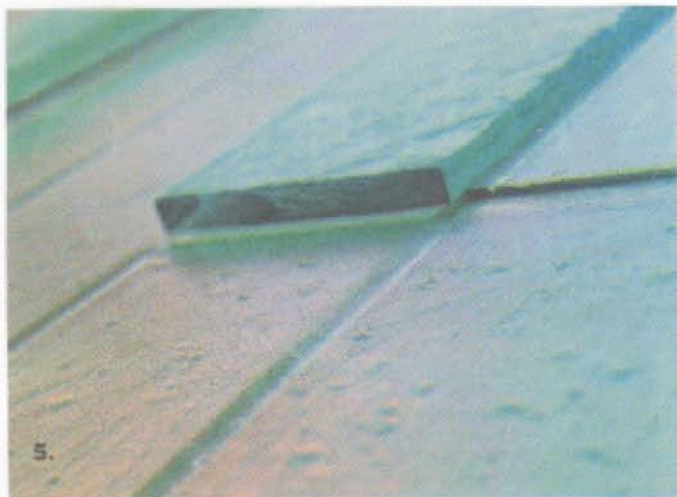
4. For an unusual fireplace surround, there are Illuminescence Prism Tiles, whose iridescent finish gives them a backlit appearance. The tiles are textured and can also be used for walls or tabletops. They come in nine colors and are about three inches square and a quarter-inch thick. The

Surface materials that
make the most of the
available light in a room.

tiles are \$1.50 to \$1.85 apiece; for dealers, www.crossvilleinc.com or (931) 484-2110.

5. Traditional building materials like wood boards and terra cotta bricks were the inspiration for a new collection by Joel Berman Glass Studios called Sticks, Boards and Bricks. The panels, up to 52 inches wide and 108 inches long, come in seven finishes and three thicknesses, and can be used for interior or exterior walls; jbermanglass.com or (888) 505-4527.

6. Terrazzo floor tiles — made with cement and marble chips — can be customized with Murano glass insets in various shapes and colors. The tiles, 24 inches square and ½-inch thick, start at \$30 a square foot with up to five pieces of colored glass. To order from Habitus, www.habitusnyc.com or (212) 426-5500.



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