



1. Cube design. Experimental material mix.
2. Abstract design. Mixed palette of matt full body porcelain tiles and coloured glass.
3. Abstract design. Mixed palette of matt full body porcelain tiles.

Background. Carrara honed marble with penny inset.

Cutting Edge

Sarah Creighton



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“Design is extremely individual,” explains Armatile’s designer, Sarah Creighton, when asked where she finds the inspiration to create her surface designs. “There always will be a fascination with trends and, like all designers, I take note of them too, but a design should always reflect you.”

It is this personal approach that has seen Northern Ireland’s Armatile continue to create intricate tile designs and mosaic surfaces for over 40 years.

Using water-jet technology to create precise designs to any scale and a range of specialist equipment to produce custom finishes, the company draws on heritage to create its unique designs. Using and combining ceramics, natural stone, metals and glass, Sarah and her team create striking, bespoke designs for use in commercial and residential projects.

“We work on a vast range of projects with very different specifications. This is reflected in the materials we use and the way we use them,” explains Sarah. Commissioned to restore a number of churches, Armatile has transformed traditional flooring and marble steps with impeccable detail. And its work in the hospitality and retail sector has seen fresh, modernistic designs being explored.

“Whilst detail is key when working with traditional designs, texture can play a large part in modern surface design,” explains Sarah. “My most recent design is the experimental cube. It uses a selection of textures, colours and materials to create a contrast that alludes to depth. Similar to geometric designs that repeat shapes and patterns to capture the imagination by creating rhythms and a sense of flow, it explores different dimensions thanks to its texture.”

It’s this ability to explore new directions that makes the Irish surface specialists continue to fulfill the needs of both the commercial and residential market and with several large projects in the pipeline, 2015 is set to be a busy year for the team at Armatile.