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IDEA ↑

## fabulous floors

FLOORING CAN EITHER UNIFY OR DEFINE areas in a home and, like any other room element, impart a tangible sense of formality or casualness. While it's only one piece of the design puzzle, and may not be strong enough to carry a theme, flooring shouldn't be minimized.

It's often an afterthought in many home designs. To remedy that, architectural designer Dick Sherer, of Deep River Partners, suggests a holistic approach that considers every element in your house an integral component of the desired look — an approach that allows a fabulous floor to stand out beautifully without overwhelming.

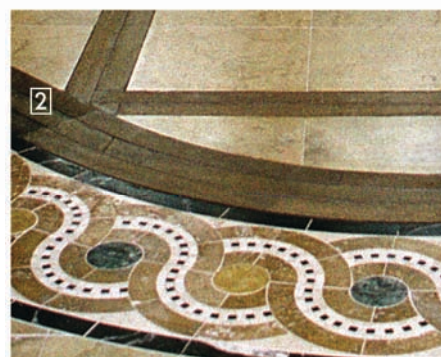
Some of Deep River's more unusual installations, shown here, involve uncommon materials in unusual combinations, special designs that meld the designers' ideas, the suppliers' and installers' materials knowledge, and the clients' vision.

**1** **STONE & PEBBLES** This combination for a floor and sunken bath dances between the natural and the refined. High-quality stone tile paired with a customized pebble border joins an angular grid with the wandering nature of pebbles.

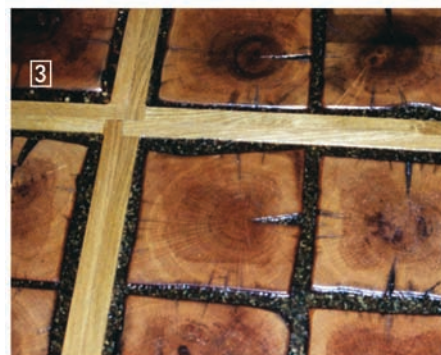
**2** **MARBLE MOSAIC** In this reception gallery an elaborate mosaic-tile border sets off an oak parquet floor inset with marble tiles. Located in a transition space between many rooms, marble serves as the unifier. The pattern enhances the home's Greek revival neoclassical architecture while the entire floor design defines its formality.

**3** **WOOD & PEBBLES** Crafted for a log cabin home, these "tiles" are made of wood cut across the grain and squared off, then set into a grout of native river granite pebbles. Wood planks define each section.

**4** **RACCOON TRACKS** To personalize a children's bathroom these custom-made slate tiles were etched with tracks to give the impression that a raccoon has just skittered across the floor. This playful design will grow with the children, and yet it reflects the home's elegant atmosphere. **MH**



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— K.F.