

BUMMER

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**Mo'
Money,
Mosaics**
The most
modern
of ancient
luxuries
is back.

NEW RAVENNA

With a 24-karat-gold background, 15 colors of jewel glass used to create the birds and cherry blossoms, and four grout colors, *Egrets* highlights the complexity and beauty achieved in a custom mosaic.



VANITY, THY NAME IS MOSAIC. After thousands of years, the intricacy it takes to reproduce, say, the destruction of Pompeii with millions of tiny pieces is still captivating us.

But this art form is not for the faint of heart—or the empty of pocket. Companies like Bisazza, Sicis, and New Ravenna still painstakingly handpick and assemble every three-eighths-inch piece of glass, stone, mother-of-pearl, or 24-karat gold to depict whatever you can dream up. For example, a client in the south of France fell in love with an Emilio Pucci print and commissioned Bisazza to clad his swimming pool in that pattern. New Ravenna created a Neptune mural with three stallions roaring out of a wave, for which they charge up to \$2,000 per square foot. And who needs a wall? One of Sicis's clients had his Tata Nano car outfitted with Indian street scenes reflecting the chaos, sounds, and colors of the country.

Not every mosaic is this expensive or fantastical, of course. Depending on the makeup, they can run as low as \$100 per square foot or less, but for the avid lover of this ancient art form, the cost and time it takes to receive your special delivery—four to six weeks on average—is well worth every penny. The only problem: A customized mosaic is just half

▲ SICIS

Paying homage to the famous 16th-century Italian painter Arcimboldo and his flower portraits, this mosaic features colorful tesserae reflecting the light and quality of the original oils.

TOP RIGHT: Hand-cutting the mosaic for Egrets.



complete when it arrives. It can be ruined by installers that haven't worked with custom mosaics before and ignore the labeled installation diagram or use the wrong grout color (white is absolutely *not* universal). And this snafu is not fixable—it only comes down with a hammer, in pieces. One company, Artaic, is pushing back against tradition by using computers and robots to create their mosaics at a fraction of the time and cost. Purists balk at the idea, but it does represent mass customization, a growing trend in the world of consumer access to personalized goods. Really, the choice is yours. Whatever you want, rest assured you'll leave your mark for generations to come—whether they agree with your taste or not. ■



▲ ARTAIC

An uploaded family-vacation photo became the backsplash for a kitchen in Boston.

▲ BISAZZA

A private spa in Barcelona is wrapped in a Swarovski-crystal skull-and-crowns glass mosaic.



Smart and beautiful, Johnson Controls' **GLAS** thermostat has a translucent OLED touch screen that lets your wallpaper or paint color be seen, while monitoring indoor and outdoor air quality and tracking energy use. And, of course, it's voice-enabled. \$319. [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



In a nod to Campaign- and Regency-style furnishings, the **Pullman** cabinet collection is fashioned on 1960s cabinets with L-brackets and integrated brass trim. Available in 24 colors, eight stains, and seven hardware finishes. Prices upon request. [waterworks.com](https://www.waterworks.com)

The **Select** door-lever system from Emtek is a semi-custom program that allows mix-and-match finishes of knobs, levers, rosettes, and back plates for the ultimate design flexibility—so the interior and exterior door handles can have two completely different looks. \$150 each. [emtek.com](https://www.emtek.com)



*Reno Is Not
a Four-Letter
Word*
Start over or
refine what
you already have
using these
five ideas and
products as your
inspiration.



Inspired by the aesthetic of ancient properties across Europe, the **French Door** collection from Atelier Domingue utilizes hand-welded steel from Switzerland to create the customized line of slim-profile doors and windows. Available in seven finishes and three glass offerings. Prices upon request. [atelierdomingue.com](https://www.atelierdomingue.com)

Architecture, jewelry, interior design, and traditional metalwork inspired this **Smoke and Brass Pro Range** from JennAir, part of a limited-edition series of 50. Hand-crafted to provide a living-finish alternative to standard stainless steel, the end result is a perfect combination of rustic industrial and the softness of nature. \$20,000. [boundbynothingjennair.com](https://www.boundbynothingjennair.com)

