

..... This custom-designed floor is in white composite stone and Italian marble.

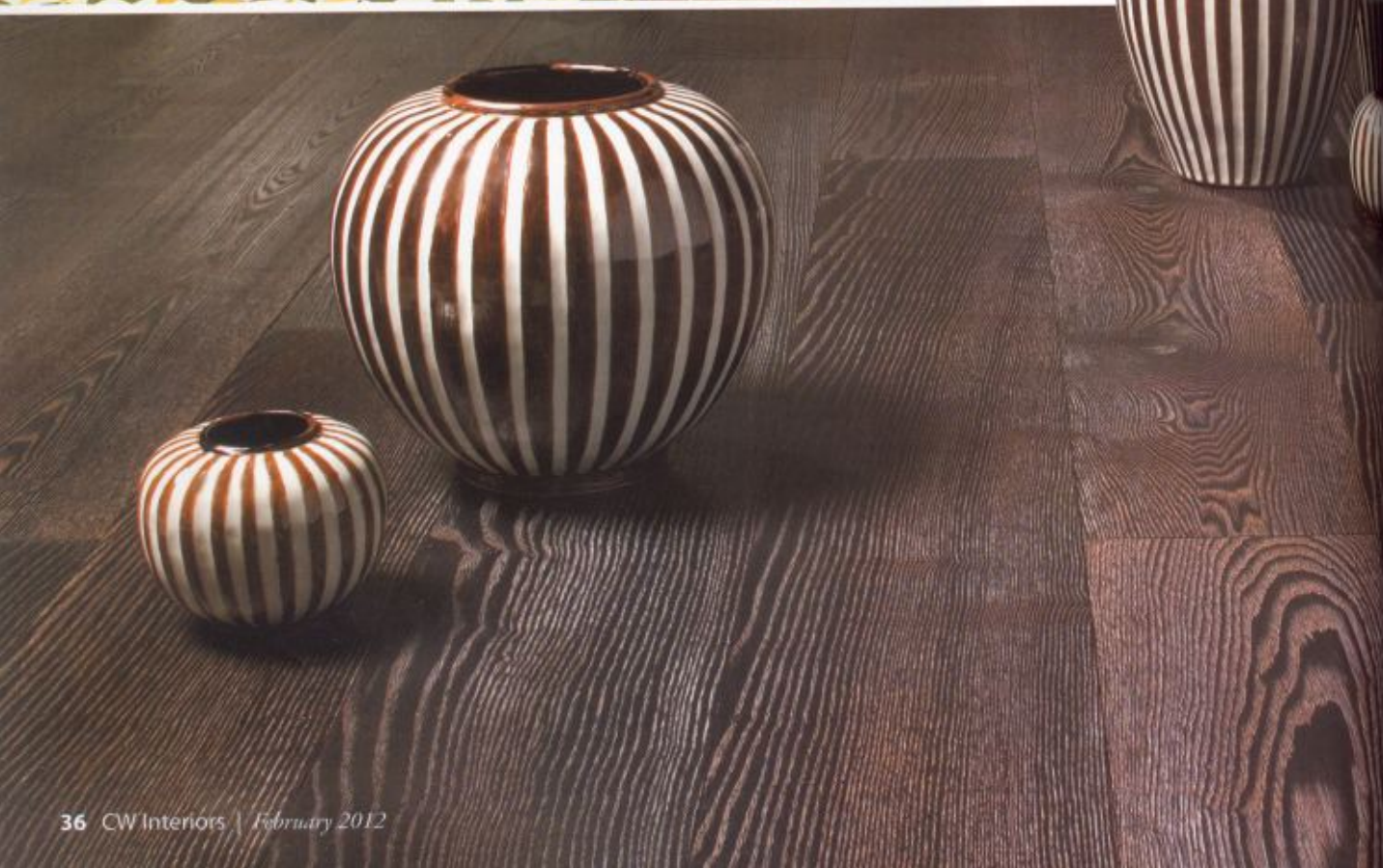


the impact of an active child. Moreover, these floors do not become very cold in an air conditioned environment."

Safety being of paramount importance in children's areas, rubberised flooring is fast catching on here, and in the physical health field. Rubber is recyclable, non-toxic, and can absorb impact, electricity and sound. Special treatments can enable it to weather the harshest of climatic conditions. And, it comes in exciting colours!

Carpet concerns

Gaba gives carpets in children's areas a nod due to their dust-gathering tendencies. However, **InterfaceFlor India** finds that carpet tiles, which are being used in hospitality, retail areas and high-end residential homes, are a quick solution to maintaining better indoor air quality in a room. "Its biggest disadvantage becomes an advantage by ensuring that the dust does not continuously swirl through the air," says Raj Menon, Country Manager, **InterfaceFlor India**. Maintenance is a must, though.



Types of wooden floor

Solid wood

A solid piece of log, which can be re-polished. It comes pre-finished, with a top coat of ceramic and aluminium oxide for a hard, wear-resistant surface.

Hardwood/engineered wood

This is more stable than solid wood and cheaper to install. Made of several layers of wood panels, the top layer is the actual specie of wood, and the bottom is multi-layered with pine/spruce and ply.

Wooden laminate

Made of wood-based fibres with a top surface of laminated wood décor, it looks like hardwood but is easily maintained with its aluminium laminate coating. The coat renders it scratch and skid resistant.

Outdoor decking

Specially treated for varied outdoor use. It can be used near pools, in terraces, gardens, steam/sauna rooms since it is treated with special outdoor oils.



Here, the designers have used an eclectic combination of granite, deck wood flooring and 2 inch leatherite gravel.

→ Symphony solid wood flooring is available in a width of 125 mm finished with superior German lacquers or oils.



Stone look tiles from Nitco are an alternate to stone flooring.



Action Tesa offers a different range of wooden flooring in the form of HDF based laminate floor boards.

While stones still remain a preference, tiles are not far behind. Having started off with ceramic tiles, the industry has now graduated to using the latest technologies to attract customers. Whether it is the manufacturing of vitrified tiles, known for their high strength and durability, or the various finishes that these tiles are topped with – scratch, skid, germ proof, etc – these are rapidly being used as in flooring.

A recent advance in tile technology is the use of digital tiles. While earlier, this was limited to just walls, companies have now come out with technologies for the floor as well. For instance, RAK Ceramics recently introduced the Nanopix range of digitally enhanced wall and floor tiles. Adding to this is the latest, eco friendly printing technology by Hewlett Packard (HP). Using special Latex and UV materials, one can now print any graphic design on tiles, glass, wood, and even paper. According to Puneet Chadha, Director-GSB, HP India, "The print remains robust even in high footfall areas for up to 20 years. Moreover, it can even be used in the outdoors!"

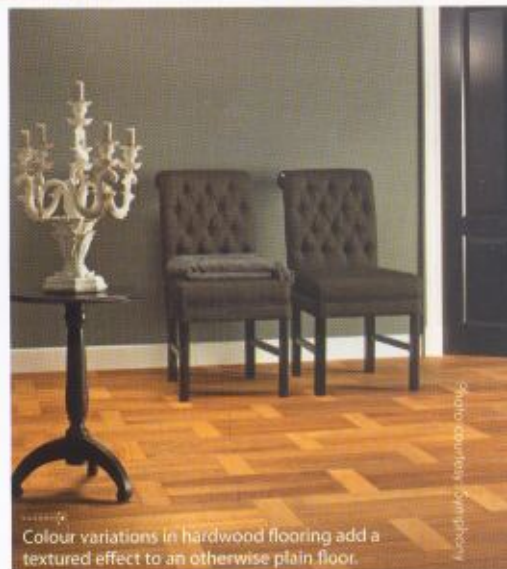
Although every flooring solution has its own pros and cons, the final outcome lies in the designer's technique. Quraishi has the last word: "What's important is not how many materials

you have used but how you can use the same material differently, everytime." And, that certainly clinches the deal!

TEXT: Shanti Padukone

CONTACT

Niels Schoenfelder,
044-2461 4000.
Kajal Gaba, Tel: (0)98211 53451.
E-mail: kajal@onceuponmywall.com
Ujjval Fadia, Tel: 079-2656 5190.
E-mail: fadiaujval@yahoo.com
Simeen Quraishi, Tel: 040-2532 5222. E-mail: moriqin@gmail.com
Pergo, www.pergo.com
Square Foot, www.squarefoot.co.in
BGSB Concrete Solutions
www.polishedconcrete.in
Wood Floors India,
www.woodfloorsindia.com
Classic Marble Company,
www.classicmarble.com
InterfaceFlor, www.interfaceflor.in
Symphony,
www.symphonyfloor.com
Hewlett Packard, www.hp.com/in
Armstrong, www.armstrong.co.in
Action Tesa, www.actiontesa.com
RAK Ceramics, www.rakindia.com



Colour variations in hardwood flooring add a textured effect to an otherwise plain floor.



Concrete floors are jointless surfaces that can be cast in place.

Photo courtesy: BGSB Concrete Solutions



Action Tesa offers a different range of wooden flooring in the form of HDF based laminate floor boards.

While stones still remain a preference, tiles are not far behind. Having started off with ceramic tiles, the industry has now graduated to using the latest technologies to attract customers. Whether it is the manufacturing of vitrified tiles, known for their high strength and durability, or the various finishes that these tiles are topped with – scratch, skid, germ proof, etc – these are rapidly being used as in flooring.

A recent advance in tile technology is the use of digital tiles. While earlier, this was limited to just walls, companies have now come out with technologies for the floor as well. For instance, RAK Ceramics recently introduced the Nanopix range of digitally enhanced wall and floor tiles. Adding to this is the latest, eco-friendly printing technology by Hewlett Packard (HP). Using special Latex and UV materials, one can now print any graphic design on tiles, glass, wood, and even paper. According to Puneet Chadha, Director-GSB, HP India, "The print remains robust even in high footfall areas for up to 20 years. Moreover, it can even be used in the outdoors!"

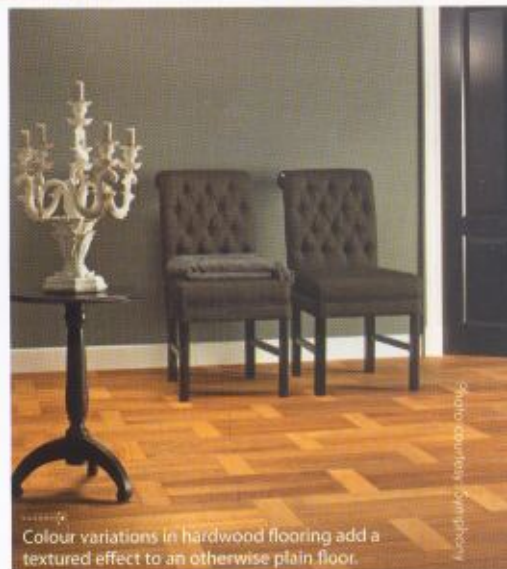
Although every flooring solution has its own pros and cons, the final outcome lies in the designer's technique. Quraishi has the last word: "What's important is not how many materials

you have used but how you can use the same material differently, everytime." And, that certainly clinches the deal!

TEXT: Shanti Padukone

CONTACT

Niels Schoenfelder,
044-2461 4000.
Kajal Gaba, Tel: (0)98211 53451.
E-mail: kajal@onceuponmywall.com
Ujjval Fadia, Tel: 079-2656 5190.
E-mail: fadiaujval@yahoo.com
Simeen Quraishi, Tel: 040-2532 5222. E-mail: moriqin@gmail.com
Pergo, www.pergo.com
Square Foot, www.squarefoot.co.in
BGSB Concrete Solutions
www.polishedconcrete.in
Wood Floors India,
www.woodfloorsindia.com
Classic Marble Company,
www.classicmarble.com
InterfaceFlor, www.interfaceflor.in
Symphony,
www.symphonyfloor.com
Hewlett Packard, www.hp.com/in
Armstrong, www.armstrong.co.in
Action Tesa, www.actiontesa.com
RAK Ceramics, www.rakindia.com



Colour variations in hardwood flooring add a textured effect to an otherwise plain floor.

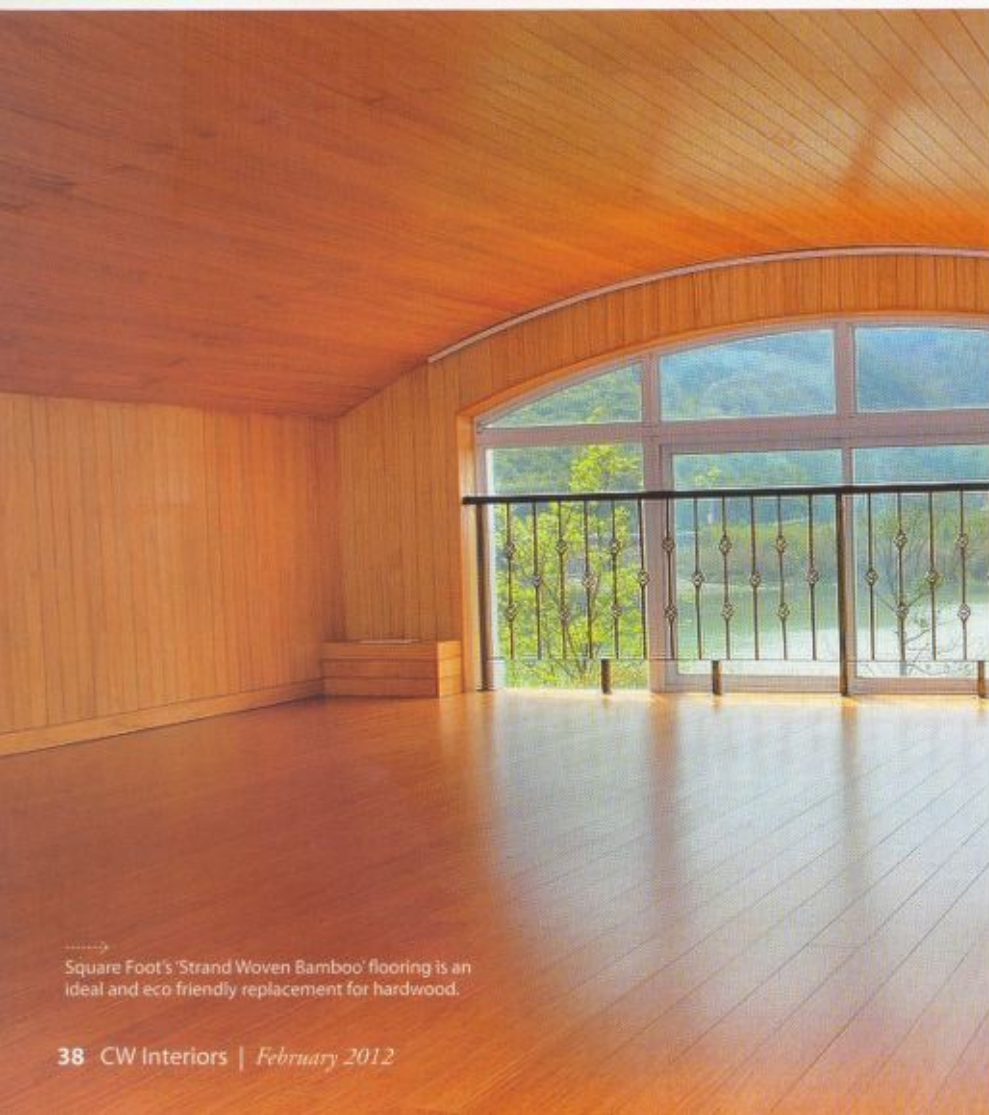
Concrete floors are jointless surfaces that can be cast in place.



Photo courtesy: BGSB Concrete Solutions



Orient Tiles' Alps Cotto range comes in a matte finish, in a size of 395 mm x 395 mm and a range of colours.



Square Foot's 'Strand Woven Bamboo' flooring is an ideal and eco friendly replacement for hardwood.

Basic vacuum cleaning and a once-in-a-month dry vacuuming schedule can maintain any carpet tile for at least 15 years. Carpet tile can also be easily installed, and the possibility of selective replacement makes the product more cost effective.

The stone age

Given the variety of new materials that have been taking the market by storm, where do you go for stone? Designers say stone continues to maintain a strong position and is being innovatively used. "Stone flooring comprises natural marble, granite, travertines and engineered marble. To make these solutions more attractive, one can also opt for inlay work and special surface finish treatments," says Subodh Shah, Director, Classic Marble Company. Engineered marble, a new kid on the block, comes in a range of options at Classic Marble Company under the name Kalingastone.

Granite is the perfect choice for outdoor areas like parking lots and driveways. In engineered stone, quartz holds the same position. "Natural stones have no real drawbacks," says Shah. "...but, in a huge expanse, colour variations could appear. Also, the availability of identical stone after a long time is not guaranteed."