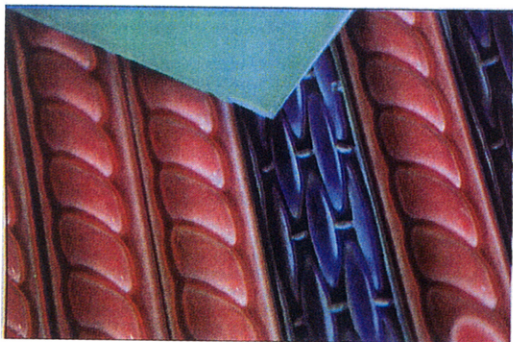


# Tile with Style



**When it comes to tile, variety is the spice that fills Gaye Weatherly's shop**

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PORTSMOUTH

**A**LTHOUGH it's a one-woman business, Gaye Weatherly believes her new shop for specialty tile and stone products will be successful because of customer relations.

Being courteous and making house calls are her weapons.

"People don't have time for people anymore," she said, "unless there is a dollar amount attached to it."

The Weatherly Design Group, at 1826 East Main Rd., had its grand opening Sept. 22. It displays more

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than 400 lines of granite, marble and limestone tile as well as more unusual materials.

There is only one other tile store on Aquidneck Island, in Middletown, she says.

"[Customers] will be treated well and welcomed, and you don't have to do that Sakonnet River bridge thing or use a token to get to me," she explained. "I also try to choose things no one else is doing."

She has a background in decorating and has worked for other companies on tile projects for inns and homeowners.

Friends and customers encouraged her to open her own shop.

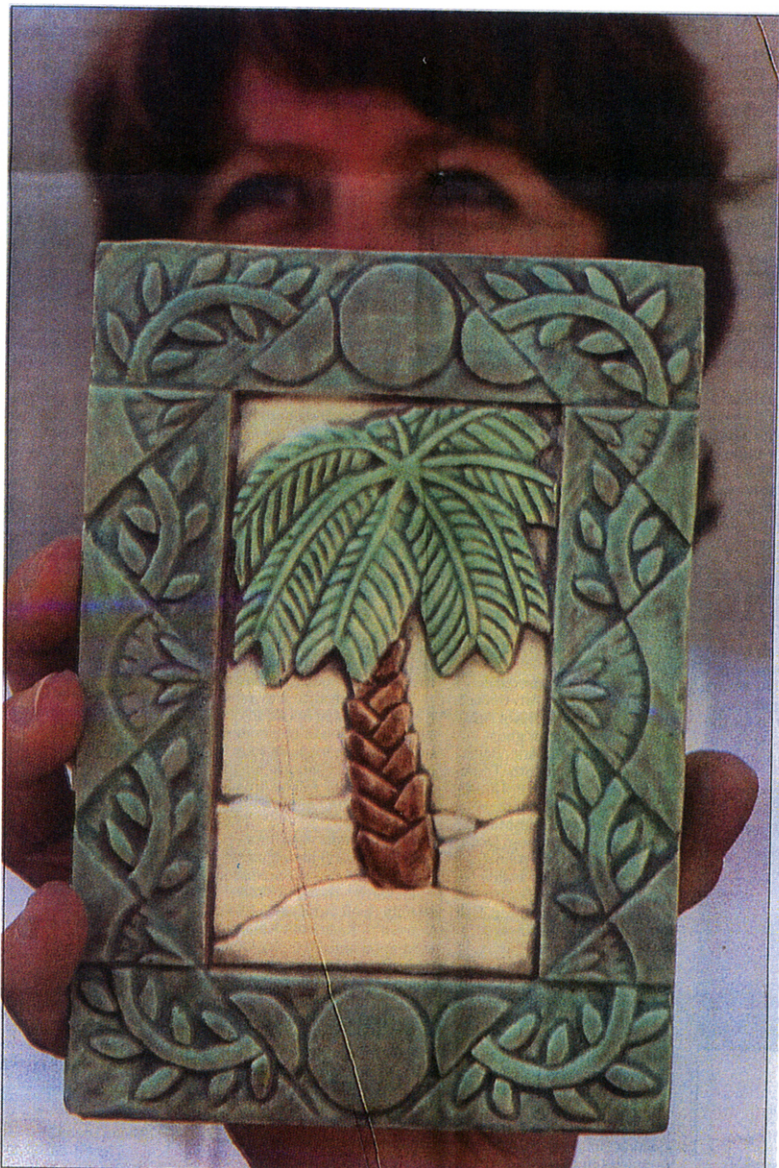
One line of tile has been made by hand. It is a polychrome glass tile made in San Antonio, Texas. Each piece can be used with others to create a unique bathroom or kitchen back splash, shower walls or as a border for a floor.

Other more exotic tiles include reclaimed French terra cotta tiles, which are more than 100 years old, Italian glazed floor tile and glass mosaic tile.

"Unusual slates are making a wonderful comeback," Weatherly said while picking up a polished green granite tile.

Scratching her head, she looked

SEE **TILE, C 3**



JOURNAL PHOTOS / BOB THAYER

**BEAUTY IN TILE:** Gaye Weatherly shows one of the dozens of unique tiles she carries in her shop. The tile she's holding – a composite ceramic piece made in California – is called Jungle Palm. At top left, the edge pieces are from Westchester Ceramics; the handpainted tiles at right are called Day Lily.

*The more exotic tiles at Weatherly Design Group include reclaimed French terra cotta tiles, which are more than 100 years old, Italian glazed floor tile and glass mosaic tile.*





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**THE DOORS ARE OPEN:** Gaye Weatherly at her Portsmouth tile shop, Weatherly Design Group, which opened Sept. 22.

## Tile

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around the room. She returned with several other tiles and put them together like a jigsaw puzzle.

"See, this will make a phenomenal foyer floor," she said with a smile.

Customers can come in and look, but Weatherly believes some might not know what a finished project would look like just by seeing separate tile pieces

mounted on the shop's walls.

"People, in general, don't have the ability to visualize," she said. "That's why I have loose pieces, so we can put together a floor right here or play with pieces on the wall."

Individual tiles made of stone are \$6 and up. Ceramic and porcelain tiles start at \$2.50 each. Decoratives, such as the hand-made tiles, are as low as \$3 per square foot to as high as \$100 apiece.

Most of those decorative tiles,

she explained, are custom-ordered. To do a custom kitchen in granite, for example, Weatherly's turn-around-time is three weeks.

Weatherly has a full line of upholstery, bedding and drapery fabrics, including one of her favorites, thi baut. Her job, she says, is to aid people with coordinating their home.

And once customers get to her store, they won't have an excuse to leave, she said, laughing. She provides food, drinks, disposable diapers, children's games,

"It's just a good place to come," she said. "Now that's what I call service."

Store hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday. The store is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is closed Sundays and Mondays.

For more information, call 683-5577.