



**CERAMICS OF ITALY ANNOUNCES 2012 TILE COMPETITION WINNERS**  
***A Celebration of Italian Ceramic Tile in Architecture and Design***

**(April 2012)** Every year, the Ceramics of Italy Tile Competition showcases the work of prominent North American architects and designers who use Italian tile in their projects. The annual awards program, sponsored by Confindustria Ceramica (the Association of Italian Ceramics) and the Italian Trade Commission, continues to yield great results going into its 19<sup>th</sup> year. Submissions to the three categories – Residential, Commercial/Hospitality and Institutional – offered excellent and competitive projects for the international jury to consider. After carefully narrowing down the finalists, they have selected a winner and an honorable mention in each category based on the project’s functionality, visual appeal, original use of tile and overall design. The winning projects all reflect how the A&D community is using Italian tile to move forward in terms of technology, aesthetics and sustainability.

The recipients of this prestigious prize were officially announced on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> during the Ceramics of Italy Press Conference at Coverings in Orlando, Florida. The winning architects and designers were each awarded \$4,000 and a five-day trip to Bologna, Italy to attend Cersaie 2012 – the premier international exhibition of ceramic tile and bathroom furnishings – in the fall. Ceramics of Italy also awarded \$1,000 to the contractors and distributors involved in each winning project, who help bring great design to fruition.

**Residential Winner: Fractal Construction, LLC**

**Project:** Gramercy Townhouse

**Tile Manufacturer:** Sant’Agostino

**Contractor:** Ross Lee Renovations

**Distributor:** Nemo Tile

Fractal Construction’s design philosophy focused on intricate detailing, innovative material selection, and weaving traditional styles with contemporary design, was the perfect match for the revitalization of the Gramercy Townhouse. With its grand bones and patrician façade, the 1848 New York City townhouse presented exciting challenges in making an old structure modern and livable while maintaining and honoring the historical framework. To accommodate a new open floor plan, Fractal Construction used 2’x2’ grey porcelain tiles by Sant’Agostino to give the townhouse a sleek and clean look throughout.

The **Cooper Residence** designed by **Anna Marie Fanelli**, co-owner and designer at Floor & Decor, receives an *Honorable Mention* for this year’s Residential category. Using elegant and eco-friendly porcelain tiles from four Italian companies – Cotto d’Este, Novabell, La Fabbrica and Lea – Fanelli transformed a 4,000 square foot space in Trump Plaza into a tile couture showcase that’s stylish as well as maintenance-free.

**Commercial/Hospitality Winner: Leo A Daly**

**Project:** Union Square 999

**Tile Manufacturer:** Lea Ceramiche

**Contractors:** R Bratti Associates, Diamond Tile and Sandia Ceramics

The renovation of Union Square 999 by Leo A Daly's Washington D.C. office was chosen as the winner of the Commercial category. With two buildings comprising over 600,000 square feet of government office space, this LEED silver certified project features three innovative tile collections from Lea Ceramiche. Slimtech Basaltina Stone Project, a versatile collection of super slim porcelain tiles, can be spotted across the campus from the lobby floor to the bathroom walls, bathroom dressing room walls and walls of the fitness room showers. The firm also choose the LEED-compliant collections Tecnoquartz and Stonehenge for the floors of the bathroom and fitness room showers to create a striking, modern space.

**RSP Architects** receives the Commercial *Honorable Mention* for the **Software Headquarters Facility**. The rapidly growing software company, located on a beautiful property in the Western suburbs of Minneapolis, wanted a sleek, clean, modern design for the corporate interiors. Aiming for LEED Gold certification, the architects chose "Ecotech" by Floorgres for its recycled content as well as its texture, color and availability in large formats. The tiles were used extensively throughout the large space – in the central "Commons" area, corridors, restroom/locker rooms and lunchroom.

**Institutional Winner: RSP Architects**

**Project:** Musical Instrument Museum

**Tile Manufacturer:** Caesar and Lea Ceramiche

**General Contractor:** Ryan Companies

**Contractor:** Bell Stone

**Distributor:** RBC Tile and Stone

The Musical Instrument Museum by RSP Architects is the recipient of the Institutional award for its inspired use of tile. The world's first museum devoted to musical instruments from around the world, the Phoenix project employs tile in a way that reflects the theme of the venue. The firm needed a material that was both beautiful and durable for the main circulation space. They chose tiles from Lea Ceramiche and Caesar for their warmth and texture, which gracefully connects the theater, galleries and courtyards. The variety of tile sizes also allowed them to continue the rhythm established throughout the interior and architectural elements.

**Bogdan Newman Caranci, Inc.** was awarded an *Honorable Mention* in the Institutional category for the **Bradford West Gwillimbury Library and Cultural Center** in Ontario. Designed to meet LEED Silver certification, the firm chose Italian tile for its high quality, elegant appearance, recycled content and cost efficiency. Mirage "Stone 2.0" tiles in two different sizes were used to create a random running bond pattern throughout the space. It gives life to the building but also creates a natural flow from the entrance gallery to the main atrium and up to the second floor.

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Ceramics of Italy is the trademark for Italian manufacturers of ceramic tiles, sanitaryware and tableware, that are members of Confindustria Ceramica. For more information on the ceramic tile sector, visit [www.italiantiles.com](http://www.italiantiles.com). For instant updates on Ceramics of Italy follow the industry at [www.facebook.com/CeramicTilesOfItaly](https://www.facebook.com/CeramicTilesOfItaly) or [http://twitter.com/tilesofitaly](https://twitter.com/tilesofitaly).

Media Contacts: Novità Communications 212.528.3160 [chris@novitapr.com](mailto:chris@novitapr.com) or [kristin@novitapr.com](mailto:kristin@novitapr.com)