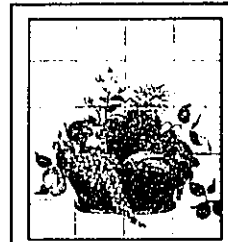
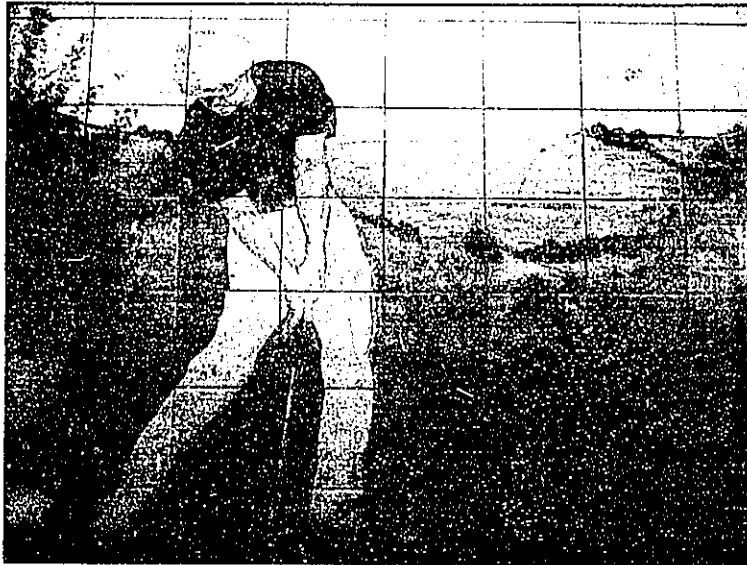


COVER STORY

**Linking up:**  
 Tiles by Dianne Stewart of Stewart Specialty Tiles of Troy connect art with science. She has made a mural featuring golfer Ben Hogan (right) and tiles that resemble cobblestone (below). Stewart is featured at the Fall Remodeling Show in Novi.



**On the cover:** Custom work by Dianne Stewart of Stewart Specialty Tiles includes arrangements of colorful fruits and vegetables.

**TILES GIVE FINISHING TOUCH**



BY MARY KLEMIC  
 AT HOME EDITOR

The traditional meets the new in the ceramic artistry of Dianne Stewart.

Her Stewart Specialty Tiles of Troy creates custom handmade tiles, handpainted tiles with special textures, finishes and colors. These include her tiles that have the look of cobblestone.

"I wanted something different," said Stewart, who will be one of 200 exhibitors featured at the Fall Remodeling Show at the Novi Expo Center, Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 26-29. "I've always loved ... cobblestone."

"I've always liked the natural look of rocks. It's homey."

Her cobblestone tiles have been placed on the floor surrounding a tub as well as on the outside of the tub. Stewart works from templates that she designed so the tiles interlock with each other. The bullnose edges have a smooth finish; the cobblestone shape continues apparently unbroken from the rim of the tub to the side.

Stewart's tiles merge art with science, creativity and imagination with exact measurement. They are like functional works of art. For a fireplace project, she sketched the area on large sheets of paper and arranged the pieces on it. Allowances have to be considered for shrinkage and color change in the heating and glazing process.

It's a challenge to "put them all together so they fit."

The results are breathtaking. Stewart's tiles fit in any room. She has made arrangements of Pewabic-style squares on the wall and floor around a fireplace, and painted baskets of basketry fruits on tiles to adorn a kitchen wall. Tiles on tiles can be made to match wallpaper, a chaise lon-

tern or a picture. The colors can be muted or dazzling - blues and teals can shimmer like water. Crushed glass in the glaze can give a powdery texture.

One of the murals by Stewart to be displayed at the remodeling show features a colorful world of tropical fish; another to be shown features golfer Ben Hogan. The fish mural measures three by three feet; the golfer mural measures four by six feet.

"No two tiles are alike. (There's) a lot of keeping track."

Work by Stewart Specialty Tiles was seen in the foyer and kitchen at the Designers' Showhouse earlier this year.

The tiles combine Stewart's love of painting and sculpture.

"It's so spiritual," Stewart said of ceramics. "It speaks to you however you (want) it to."

When: 2 - 10 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday

Where: Novi Expo Center, 1-96 and Novi Road.

Admission: \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for children ages 6-12, free for children under 6. Family tickets for two adults and accompanying children are available at Farmer Jack stores for \$9. Free admission coupons for opening day are available at all Frank's stores.

For information: Call (810) 737-4478.

