

INSTALLATION TIPS / USE / FEATURES / GROUTING

# ZELLIGE HANDMADE TILES



BYZANTINE  
DESIGN

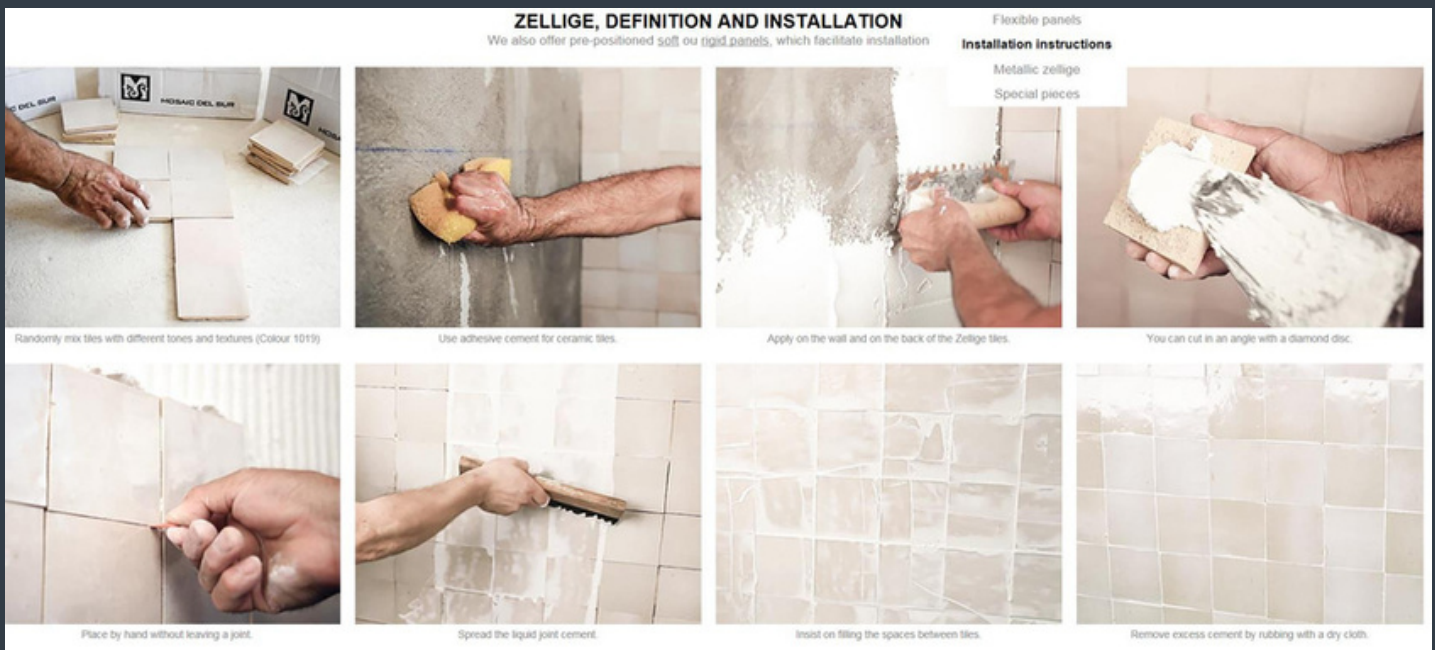
# ZELLIGES

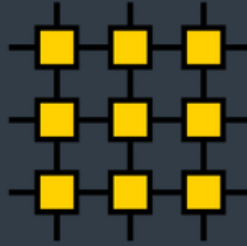
## - GENERAL TILE LAYING RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Laying edge to edge: All zellige tiles must be laid almost edge to edge, with a gap of maximum 1mm.
2. However, the irregular character of zelliges means that in certain places, it has to be accepted that the joint will be slightly wider. DOUBLE SPREAD OF ADHESIVE AND ADJUSTMENT OF THE TILES in relation to each other. The double spread is to allow the zelliges to be adjusted, thus avoiding sharp edges to become visible. USE A VERY LIQUID GROUT, never a pasty type. This is essential for filling thin joints. The tiles must also be very carefully cleaned with water to which chlorine-free non-acid detergent has been added after grouting and before the final waxing phase.
3. USE : Traditional Moroccan terra cotta enameled or unglazed tiles, mainly for the walls. In the ancient Moroccan palaces, the enamel is sometimes very used and showing the terra cotta underneath, in places where the traffic is heavy, in spite of the habit of taking one's shoes off when entering these places. These imperfections and small defects must be appreciated by each according to one's personal taste and tolerance. Some will love the patina and "ancient" effect of the naked terra cotta on floors where the traffic is intense.
4. SPECIAL FEATURES - The method of manufacture of zelliges means that there may be variations in colour within the same box, as well as between two boxes. Therefore, we advise taking tiles at random from several boxes during laying, to avoid areas of different colour being too pronounced. - There will always be minor defects which, taken in isolation, may seem unacceptable, but which contribute to the subtle overall appearance. So there is no reason to sort the zelliges so as only to use "perfect" tiles. Given the very traditional character of the production methods, up to 5% of larger defects will have to be tolerated. However, there will be very little wastage if care is taken to use these tiles where cut tiles need to be laid. In fact, our zelliges are already subject to very strict selection during manufacture, and it should be borne in mind that there is an inherent contradiction in wanting tiles that are traditional in character, at the same time as wanting total uniformity. It would be a real pity to lay zelliges in any other way, because they were not designed for that, and the presence of a wider joint detracts from the comparison of their infinite qualities. A tiler who is used to handling sometimes perfectly sized industrial tiles will initially be disturbed by the irregularities of the zelliges, but will not have any particular difficulties with laying them.

5. LAYING ZELLIGES WITH ADHESIVE We recommend laying zelliges on very even substrates, using flexible white high-bond mortar or flexible white paste adhesive, with a double spread of adhesive forming a coat of at least 3 mm after laying. PLACE THE ZELLIGES ALMOST EDGE TO EDGE, WITH THE NARROWEST JOINT POSSIBLE (MAXIMUM 1 MM), WITHOUT WORRYING TOO MUCH ABOUT THE REGULARITY AND ALIGNMENT OF THE JOINTS. • We consider a wider joint as a serious defect, justifying refusal to accept the work, except of course, if the customer prefers a wider joint. • Adjust the zelliges alongside a taut string and in relation to each other so that the edges touch as far as possible, so as not to leave any sharp edge exposed. • There can be differences in thickness between zelliges and they are never perfectly flat. • Make sure that the whole surface of the zellige is in contact with the high-bond mortar (otherwise an overhanging tile may crack in the corners).

6. GROUTING OF GLAZED ZELLIGES - The grouting can be done 2 or 3 days after laying. Just before grouting, wet the joints until they do not absorb any more water. This is essential for filling thin joints. - Use a very liquid grout, then wipe the edge of the joints with a damp sponge. Perform this operation several times, until the joints are completely filled. - Clean immediately with water, a mop or a sponge, and remove any remaining blemishes as soon as possible by hand.





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