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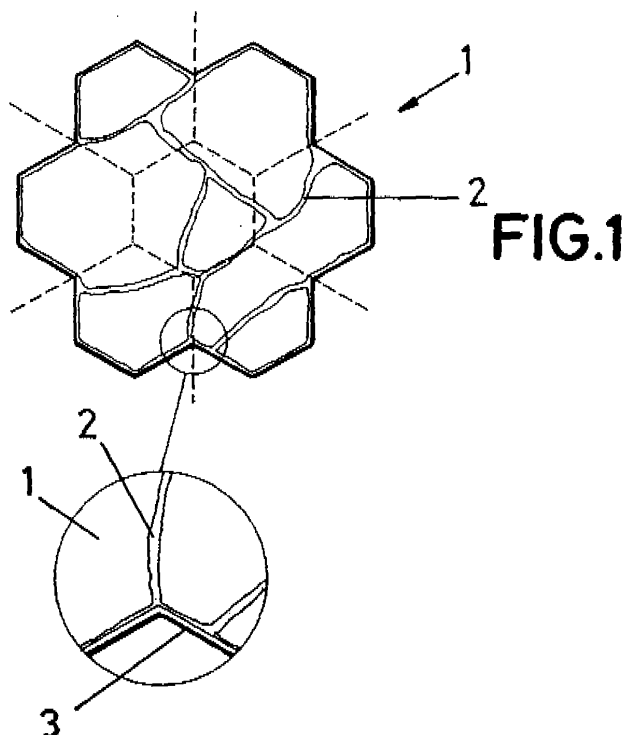
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(54) **CLADDING AND PAVING TILE**

(57) The invention relates to a cladding and paving tile which is intended to be mounted on the wall or ground in order to give the appearance of natural paving, the surface of the tile comprising the corresponding ornamental pattern (2). The peripheral contour of the inventive

tile (1) corresponds to the contour formed by seven identical tiles which each have a regular hexagonal shape and which are disposed in such a way that the six sides of a central piece are positioned adjacent to the six remaining tiles.



Description

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

[0001] As stated in the title of this descriptive specification, the present invention relates to a cladding and paving tile whose essential purpose is to facilitate the creation of claddings preferably intended for the wall and ground which imitate natural paving and in which the corresponding decorative pattern has an irregularity giving it the appearance of natural stones of various sizes, the tile having a geometry such that helps to make it difficult to appreciate the patterns that are being repeated. Nevertheless, the inventive tile will also be valid for decorative patterns in which it is wished to appreciate the patterns that are being repeated. To achieve this, the inventive tile has a very characteristic geometric contour and perimetric recess which permits the inclusion of a filler that reduces or increases the visibility of the corresponding joints in the union of several tiles.

PRIOR ART OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Different cladding and paving tiles are known with contours that have very diverse inlets and outlets in order to combine the corresponding decorative patterns in different ways, such as for example Industrial Model 156.274 or Utility Model 200101861.

[0003] Some of the known types of tile present a star shape though their sides do not have the regularity necessary for being able to be combined and achieve multiple finishes.

[0004] Other known types of tile facilitate the concealment of the corresponding joints by virtue of their design, though these have limitations due to not having a regular perimeter in all their inlets and outlets, which, moreover, creates restrictive conditions at positioning.

[0005] We do not know of any tile in the current state of the art whose contour presents the shape facilitated by the tile of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0006] In order to achieve the objectives and avoid the drawbacks stated in the above sections, the invention consists of a cladding and paving tile preferably intended for a wall and ground which imitates natural paving and whose surface includes the corresponding ornamental or decorative pattern.

[0007] As a novelty, according to the invention, the tile thereof presents a peripheral contour corresponding to the one that would be generated with seven equal pieces, each of which has a regular hexagonal shape and which are laid in such a way that the six sides of a central piece are positioned adjacent to the six remaining pieces.

[0008] In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the tile has a perimetric recess in which the corresponding ornamental or decorative patterns are interrupted and

which is intended to house a filler which reduces or increases, as wished, the visibility of the joints in the unions between various tiles. Moreover, in that preferred embodiment of the invention the ornamental or decorative pattern consists of an imitation of irregular paving, such that when an array of tiles is laid it becomes very difficult to distinguish the arrangements of regularity.

[0009] With the configuration that has been described, the inventive tile is ideal for creating floors and walls in which it is wished to imitate natural and irregular paving, with very broad possibilities of combination among tiles, since each tile can be laid next to another in six different positions and with six different orientations in each of those positions. With some appropriate ornamental patterns, it becomes very difficult to distinguish any arrangement of regularity in the ornamental pattern, though for cases in which this is desired, the inventive tile also permits the design of ornamental patterns with arrangements that repeat themselves as wished.

[0010] Below, in order to facilitate a better understanding of this specification and forming an integral part thereof, some figures are attached in which, on an illustrative but in no way limiting basis, the object of the invention has been represented.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0011]

Figure 1.- Represents an upper plan view of a cladding and paving tile embodied according to the present invention, showing an enlarged detail of one of its edges.

Figure 2.- Represents an upper plan view with several tiles similar to that of the previous figure 1 and laid fitting into each other in order to form the corresponding cladding.

Figure 3.- Represents a partial view in sectioned profile of the joint of two tiles similar to those of the previous figures, showing a filler that is used to reduce or increase the visibility of the corresponding joints.

DESCRIPTION OF AN EXAMPLE OF EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

[0012] A description is now going to be made of an example of the invention, making reference to the numbering adopted in the figures.

[0013] So, the cladding and paving tile of this example of the invention is a tile 1 whose contour 18 presents equal sides as shown in figure 1, in other words, a contour whose geometry coincides with that which would be generated with 7 equal pieces which each have a regular hexagonal shape and which are laid in such a way that the 6 sides of a central piece are positioned adjacent to the 6 remaining pieces, as represented by the imaginary dashed lines of figure 1.

[0014] The upper surface of the tile 1 has an ornamen-

tal or decorative pattern 2 which imitates natural and irregular paving, in such a way that when several tiles 1 are laid adjacent to each other it becomes difficult to distinguish an arrangement of regularity, as appreciated in figure 2.

[0015] Moreover, in order to contribute to the joints between the tiles 1 being less visible, each tile has a perimetric recess 3, as can be seen in the detail of figure 1, so that, when several tiles 1 are joined together there remains a kind of channel in which a filler 4 will be applied, as shown in figure 3, this filler 4 having an appearance similar to the ornamental or decorative pattern 2 so that the join between tiles 1 becomes indistinguishable. Nevertheless, in other embodiments, it might be of interest to distinguish some kind of pattern or the joints between tiles, in which case the filler 4 would have an appearance that contrasts with the ornamental pattern 2 so that the corresponding joint can be appreciated, though the normal thing would be to wish to conceal the joint between tiles.

[0016] In the present example, the ornamental or decorative pattern 2 consists of an imitation of irregular paving, in such a way that, when an array of tiles 1 is laid, it becomes very difficult to distinguish the arrangements of regularity, as can be seen in figure 2.

Claims

1. **CLADDING AND PAVING TILE**, preferably intended for walls and floors which imitate natural paving, the surface of the tile comprising the corresponding ornamental or decorative pattern (2); **characterised in that** the tile (1) presents a contour corresponding to that which would be generated with 7 equal pieces, each of which of a regular hexagonal shape and laid in such a way that the 6 sides of a central piece are positioned adjacent to the 6 remaining pieces.
2. **CLADDING AND PAVING TILE**, according to claim 1, **characterised in that** it presents a perimetric recess (3) in which the ornamental or decorative patterns (2) are interrupted and intended to house a filler (4) which reduces or increases, as wished, the visibility of the joints in the unions between several tiles (1).
3. **CLADDING AND PAVING TILE**, according to claim 1, **characterised in that** said ornamental or decorative pattern (2) consists of an imitation of irregular paving, in such a way that, when an array of tiles (1) is laid, it becomes very difficult to distinguish the arrangements of regularity.

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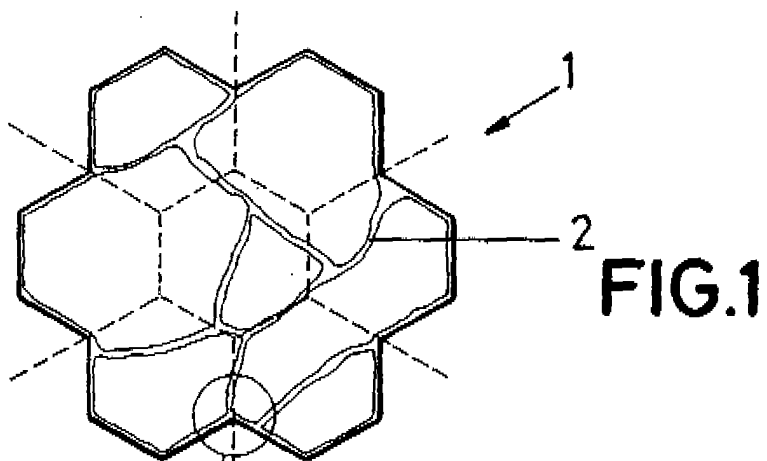


FIG.1

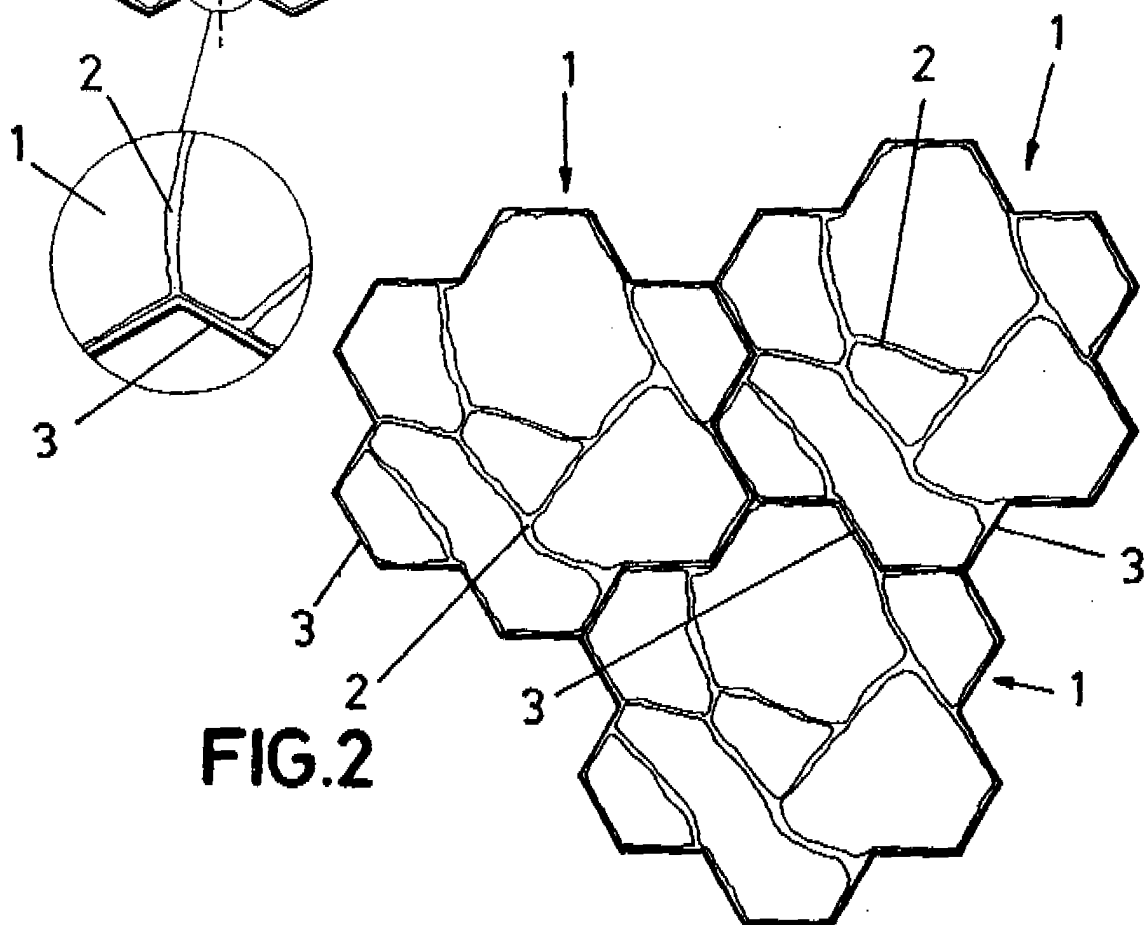


FIG.2

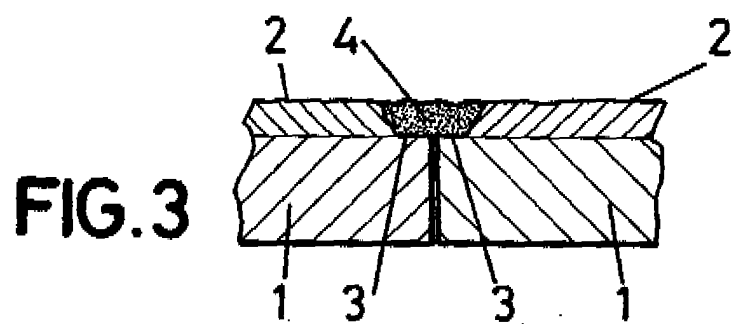


FIG.3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/ ES 2006/000207

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

see extra sheet

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

E04F15/02,E04F15/08, E04F13/08, E04F13/14, E01C5/+; EC: E04F15/02,15/08 ,E04F13/08C,13/08K,13/14,13/14J, 13/18B,E01C5/+

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

CIBEPAT,EPODOC, WPI,JAP

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	ES 0156274 I (PAVIMENTOS IMPRESOS SOBRE HORMIGÓN, S.L.)16.09.2003, BOPI (16.09.2003), TOMO III, pag.5366, diseño I.	1-3
Y	DE 2500970 A (DICKERHOFF & WIDMANN)15.07.1976, page 1, primer paragraph; page 6, último paragraph; figures 8 and 9.	1-3
Y	EP 0814218 A (ESTORACH)29.12.1997,abstract, column 5, line 45- column 6, line 6,figures 1-4.	2,3
A	ES 1049710 U (EMIGRES,S.L.) 01.01.2002, the whole document	1,4

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"I"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance.		
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date		
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure use, exhibition, or other means	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
	"&"	document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/ ES 2006/000207

Patent document cited in the search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
ES 0156274 I	16.09.2003	NONE	
DE2500970 A	15.07.1976	NONE	
EP 0814218 A	29.12.1997	FR 2750151 A EP 19970430015 DE 69712261 D	26.12.1997 18.06.1997 06.06.2002
ES 1049710 U	01.01.2002	WO03008736 A EP1416104 A US2004211145 A	30.01.2003 06.05.2004 28.10.2004

Form PCT/ISA/210 (patent family annex) (April 2005)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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E04F 15/08 (2006.01)

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