[0007] Because the "design" or "contrast" carpet tile areas is positioned at and extends inwardly from an edge of the carpet tile, it is contemplated that cuts on similar tiles do not necessarily have to formed such that the "design" or "contrast" carpet tile areas on the respective tiles can vary from tile to tile. In some examples, at least some of the design elements area on otherwise like tiles can vary, and in an installation of such tiles some tiles might appear to have misplaced design carpet tile areas. It is contemplated that an assembly of such tiles with design" or "contrast" carpet tile areas positioned at and extends inwardly from an edge of the carpet tile can appear to a viewer to be intentional and attractive. In someexamples, such intentional, attractive variation of tile appearance can also be achieved by using design elements having different sizes, shapes or other features of appearance within the "design" or "contrast" carpet tile areas as well as differing off-edge positioning.

[0007a] In view of the above, according to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a carpet tile having first and second end edges and first and second side edges, the distance between the first and second end edges of the carpet tile corresponding to a length of the carpet tile, the distance between the first and second side edges of the carpet tile corresponding to a width of the carpet tile, the carpet tile comprising: a first portion having a background pattern comprising at least two colors; and a second portion having a contrast pattern intermixed with a portion of the background pattern, wherein the second portion adjoins a selected side edge of the carpet tile, the second portion of the carpet tile extending substantially the entire length of the carpet tile between selected portions of the first and second end edges, the contrast pattern comprising at least one contrast color different than the at least two colors of the background pattern, the second portion of the carpet tile having a width, wherein width of the second portion of the carpet tile is about 50% or less of the width of the carpet tile, wherein at least a portion of the contrast pattern extends to the selected side edge, and wherein a majority of the contrast pattern therein the second portion is positioned proximate to the selected side edge.

[0007b] According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a floor covering comprising a plurality of carpet tiles, as disclosed herein, positioned thereon a flooring surface.

[0007c] According to a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a carpet tile system comprising: a plurality of carpet tiles, each carpet tile having first and second end edges and first and second side edges, the distance between the first and second end edges of the carpet tile corresponding to a length of the carpet tile, the distance between the first and second side edges of the carpet tile corresponding to a width of the carpet tile, each carpet tile comprising: a first portion having a background pattern comprising at least two colors; and a second portion having a contrast pattern intermixed with a portion of the background pattern, wherein the second portion adjoins a selected side edge of the carpet tile, the second portion of the carpet tile extending substantially the entire length of the carpet tile between selected portions of the first and second end edges, the contrast pattern comprising at least one contrast color different than the at least two colors of the background pattern, the second portion of the carpet tile having a width, wherein the width of the second portion of the carpet tile is about 50% or less of the width of the carpet tile, wherein at least a portion of the contrast pattern extends to the selected side edge, and wherein a majority of the contrast pattern therein the second portion is positioned proximate to the selected side edge, wherein the plurality of carpet tiles are configured for selective positioning relative to one another such that the contrast pattern of each carpet tile has a desired visual appearance relative to the contrast patterns of adjacent carpet tiles, and wherein the plurality of carpet tiles are configured to cooperatively define a floor covering.

[0007d] According to a fourth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for forming a floor covering, the method comprising: providing a plurality of carpet tiles, each carpet tile having first and second end edges and first and second side edges, the distance between the first and second end edges of the carpet tile corresponding to a length of the carpet tile, the distance between the first and second side edges of the carpet tile corresponding to a width of the carpet tile, each carpet tile comprising: a first portion having a background pattern comprising at least two colors; and a second portion having a contrast pattern intermixed with a portion of the background pattern and adjoining a selected side edge of the carpet tile, the second portion of the carpet tile extending substantially the entire length of the carpet tile between selected portions of the first and second end edges, the contrast pattern

comprising at least one contrast color different than the at least two colors of the background pattern, the second portion of the carpet tile having a width, wherein the width of the second portion of the carpet tile is about 50% or less of the width of the carpet tile, wherein at least a portion of the contrast pattern extends to the selected side edge, and wherein a majority of the contrast pattern therein the second portion is positioned proximate to the selected side edge, and selectively positioning the plurality of carpet tiles relative to one another thereon a flooring surface such that the contrast pattern of each carpet tile has a desired visual appearance relative to the contrast patterns of adjacent carpet tiles, wherein the plurality of carpet tiles cooperate to define a floor covering.

[0007e] According to a fifth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a carpet tile having first and second end edges and first and second side edges, the distance between the first and second end edges of the carpet tile corresponding to a length of the carpet tile, the distance between the first and second side edges of the carpet tile corresponding to a width of the carpet tile, the carpet tile comprising: a first portion having a background pattern comprising at least one color; and a second portion having a contrast pattern intermixed with a portion of the background pattern, wherein the second portion adjoins a selected side edge of the carpet tile, the second portion of the carpet tile extending substantially the entire length of the carpet tile between selected portions of the first and second end edges, the contrast pattern comprising at least one contrast color different than the at least one color of the background pattern, the second portion of the carpet tile having a width, wherein the width of the second portion of the carpet tile is about 50% or less of the width of the carpet tile, wherein at least a portion of the contrast pattern extends to the selected side edge, and wherein a majority of the contrast pattern therein the second portion is positioned proximate to the selected side edge.

[0007f] According to a sixth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a carpet tile having first and second end edges and first and second side edges, the distance between the first and second end edges of the carpet tile corresponding to a length of the carpet tile, the distance between the first and second side edges of the carpet tile corresponding to a width of the carpet tile, the carpet tile comprising: a first portion having a background pattern comprising at least two colors, the first

portion of the carpet tile having a width; and a second portion having a contrast pattern intermixed with a portion of the background pattern, wherein the second portion adjoins a selected side edge of the carpet tile, the second portion of the carpet tile extending substantially the entire length of the carpet tile between selected portions of the first and second end edges, the contrast pattern comprising at least one contrast color different than the at least two colors of the background pattern, the second portion of the carpet tile having a width, wherein the width of the second portion of the carpet tile is about 50% or less of the width of the carpet tile, wherein at least a portion of the contrast pattern extends to the selected side edge, wherein the respective widths of the first and second portions of the carpet tile combine to define the width of the carpet tile, and wherein the majority of the contrast pattern therein the second portion is positioned proximate the selected side edge.

[0007g] According to a seventh aspect of the present invention, there is provided a carpet tile having first and second end edges and first and second side edges, the distance between the first and second end edges of the carpet tile corresponding to a length of the carpet tile, the distance between the first and second side edges of the carpet tile corresponding to a width of the carpet tile, the carpet tile comprising: a first portion having a background pattern comprising at least one color; and a second portion having a contrast pattern intermixed with a portion of the background pattern, wherein the second portion is positioned proximate a selected side edge of the carpet tile, the contrast pattern comprising at least one contrast color different than the at least one color of the background pattern, the second portion of the carpet tile having a width, wherein the ratio of the width of the carpet tile to the width of the second portion of the carpet tile ranges from 2.5:1 to about 20:1.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate several aspects described below and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention. Like numbers represent the same elements throughout the figures.

[0009] FIGS. 1-3 are top views of exemplary carpet tiles as described herein. FIG. 1 displays an exemplary carpet tile having an abstract contrast pattern as described herein. FIGS. 2-3 display exemplary carpet tiles having contrast patterns formed of a plurality of parallel stripes as described herein.

[00010] FIGS. 4A-4C display exemplary stripe configurations for contrast patterns thereon various exemplary carpet tiles as described herein.

[00011] FIGS. 5A-5D display exemplary rotational configurations for the carpet tiles as described herein.