



# 2009 MIA Awards

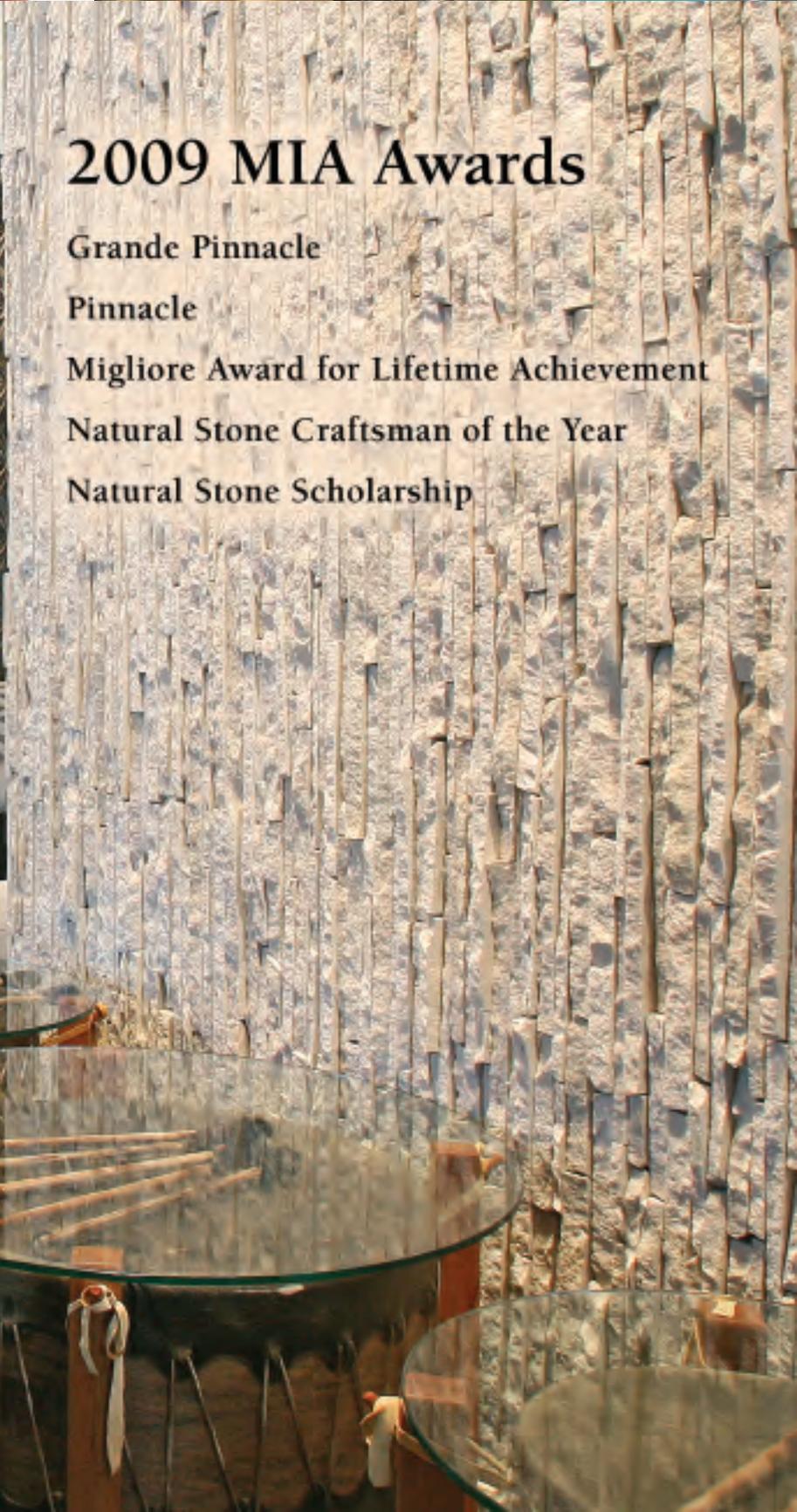
Grande Pinnacle

Pinnacle

Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement

Natural Stone Craftsman of the Year

Natural Stone Scholarship



MARBLE  
INSTITUTE  
of America



## Letter from the President

Over the years, MIA's Annual Awards Luncheon has recognized excellence in a number of areas, including stone projects entered in the Pinnacle Awards competition, the Natural Stone Scholarship Award winner and the Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Last year, the Grande Pinnacle Award was added, which recognizes the best of the Pinnacle Award winners. The Grande Pinnacle Award, sponsored by Marmomacc, has taken the industry's most prestigious award program to an even higher level.

This year, we have added another award, the MIA Natural Stone Craftsman of the Year. The Craftsman of the Year competition drew entries from across the country and a winner, whose body of work in the natural stone industry stood out above everyone else, was selected as the inaugural winner.

In this brochure, you will find all the winners of the various competitions. Join me in congratulating all of the winners and thanking our generous sponsors – Marmomacc for the Grande Pinnacle Award and Campolonghi Italia and Laticrete for the Natural Stone Craftsman of the Year Award.

Guido Gliori  
2009 MIA President  
Grazzini Brothers & Co.

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# In Recognition of Excellence

## Pinnacle Award

The Marble Institute of America's prestigious Pinnacle Awards, which honors stone companies around the world for projects that clearly stand out above the rest, drew a record number of entries in 2009 and at the same time presented the largest number of awards in its many-year history.



Marmomacc, the world's most important stone show, held in Verona, Italy.

Awards are presented to projects whose beauty, creativity, ingenuity and craftsmanship exemplify professional mastery in the use of natural stone.

The Pinnacle Awards are open to all MIA member companies. Projects submitted must comply with MIA standards as defined in the *MIA Dimension Stone Design Manual*.

The 2009 Pinnacle Awards were judged in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The judges included:

**Christian R. Pongratz**  
*Pongratz, Perbellini Architects*  
Verona, Italy

**James Hogan**  
*Immediate past president, MIA*  
*Carrara Marble Company*  
City of Industry, CA

**Peter A. Follett, AIA**  
*Pelli Clarke Pelli*  
*Architects*  
New Haven, CT

**David Meyer**  
*Meyer + Silberberg*  
*Architects*  
Berkeley, CA



## Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement



The Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement was established in 2003 to recognize an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the natural stone industry and the Marble Institute of America. The award is named for MIA's long-time Technical Director, the late Vincent R. Migliore, who was the first recipient. The 2009 award winner was chosen by the MIA Board of Directors from nominations submitted by the MIA membership.

## Natural Stone Craftsman of the Year



The Marble Institute of America established the MIA Natural Stone Craftsman of the Year Award in 2009, adding a new dimension to its recognition programs. While it has long presented awards to top stone projects in its highly publicized Pinnacle Awards competition, the new award is designed to recognize the skilled individuals who actually craft and install stone and train the young people who are the future of the natural stone industry. There is nothing more important than excellence in craftsmanship to get the most out of nature's finest and most beautiful building material. The MIA Natural Stone Craftsman of the Year Award is sponsored by two leading industry supporters:



The 2009 award winner was chosen by a panel of 6 past presidents of the MIA.

## Natural Stone Scholarship Award



The MIA Natural Stone Scholarship Award was established by the Marble Institute of America to provide educational opportunities for aspiring fabricators, installers, or administrative apprentices interested in furthering their careers within the natural stone industry.

The scholarship covers travel and registration costs to StonExpo/Marmomacc Americas and the MIA Annual Meeting. Scholarship winners have the opportunity to gain valuable technical and practical knowledge, meet and network with leading stone professionals, and explore potential for future leadership.

Funds are made possible through the generous donations of MIA members worldwide.



## MIA Member Company:

### Italbec U.S.

Dania Beach, Florida  
Stone Fabricator and Installer

## Other Project Team Members:

### NBWW Architects

Project Architect

### KM-Plaza Construction Services

General Contractor

### Ciot Tecnica of Montreal, MIA Member

Stone Supplier

## Stone:

Grigio Orobico  
White Quartzite  
Cipollino Marble  
Zalto Nero Marble  
Bianco Pana Marble  
Marron Fantassime Marble  
Misty Carrara Marble  
Absolute Black Granite



## Judges Comments:

*"Tried it all, textures, mixes of materials, finishes and created the mood."*

*"It's a showroom of the use of stone and its varied patterns, colorations and textures."*

*"Brave 'Baroque' presentation of materials, texture and style. The composition of light, metalwork and stone brings richness to the space that enriches this project above and beyond the rest."*

*"The Grande Pinnacle award this year underlines the current trend that natural stone can play an important role in shaping the interior atmosphere through ornament in its texture, tactility and color."*



## 'W' Hotel – South Beach South Beach, Florida

Italbec U.S. supplied and installed over 400,000 square feet and \$14.5 million dollars worth of granite, marble, quartzite, ceramic tiles and semi-precious stone at this new luxury hotel on Miami's South Beach. The goal of the project was simple – provide the best of everything for a very discerning clientele.

The work encompassed all guestroom flooring, walls, bathrooms, kitchens, restaurant, ballroom, nightclub, bars and lounges, public bathrooms, terraces and lobby areas. Especially challenging was the book-matching and installation of numerous 30 to 35 square foot, highly polished panels of Grigio Orobico on walls over twenty feet tall in the interior of the lobby. Various other marbles, including Zalto Nero, Bianco Pana, Marron Fantassime and Misty Carrara were used in this project. This immense undertaking was completed in less than 18 months by a crew of over 200 stone and ceramic craftsmen. The overall impression of the hotel is one of obvious quality of materials assembled with the greatest care by top notch craftsmen.





## Bryant Residence Austin, Texas

The challenge for this project was to find materials that fit into the owners' architectural style, self-titled "Texas Hill Country Contemporary"; warm and inviting, but also clean and contemporary. The architect and the owners were determined not to copy the typical "Tuscan" style so popular for upscale homes in the Austin area. The main feature of the house is the use of both indoor and outdoor spaces and is designed so that everyday life flows through all of the spaces. The material selections had to be compatible to color schemes inside and out, blending with the local cut stone used on the exterior of the house, but also functional in their application.

Interior flooring: AG&M furnished hone finish Selina Gold limestone tile from Egypt for the majority of ground floor paving. Since this material has a wide range of color, the selection was made from a particular quarry and a particular layer within that quarry.

Exterior paving, pool coping, fireplace facing: Goldstone granite was chosen because it performs well in exterior applications and has the soft coloring of limestone. The paving and coping is chisel finish and the outdoor fireplace is clad with split face Goldstone to match.

Kitchen countertops: Apollo Storm granite in a polish finish with matching full-height, end-matched backsplash.



### MIA Member Company:

**Architectural Granite & Marble**  
Austin, Texas  
Stone Supplier

### Other Project Team Members:

**Hill Country Granite, MIA Member**  
Countertop Fabricator/Installer  
**Cornerstone Group**  
Architect

### Stone:

Selina Gold Limestone  
Goldstone Granite  
Apollo Storm Granite  
Calacatta Gold Premium Marble



## Los Angeles County Museum of Art Los Angeles, California

Eight walls and 400 panels totaling 56,000 SF of dually finished Travertine combine to create the iconic first phase of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) transformation, designed by renowned Architect Renzo Piano.

The soft color of the Travertine is in direct contrast to the rough texture created by the bushhammered and water jet finishes. Ultimately it is this weathered and timeless stone finish that helped seamlessly blend the two new buildings into the well established downtown Los Angeles neighborhood.

The hand set stone saw tooth roof profile provides the building with an art element in its own right. While being artistic they also serve a vital purpose; in conjunction with the sun shades they invite in the strong California sun, without allowing direct sunlight to disturb the art below.

From the dramatic roofline to the purposely set fire engine red exterior I-beams, to the art embracing scrim curtains, they all accent the prominent Italian Travertine while never taking away the undeniable beauty.

True to his reputation, Mr. Piano utilized the subtle color of the stone, while the vibrant labyrinth of red I-beams and exterior escalator help to define LACMA as the prominent art institution that will surely be treasured for years to come.

### MIA Member Company:

#### **Columbia Stone, Inc.**

Tualatin, Oregon  
Stone Installer

### Other Project Team Members:

#### **LACMA/BCAM**

Client

#### **Renzo Piano**

Design Architect

#### **Gensler**

Working Architect

#### **Matt Construction**

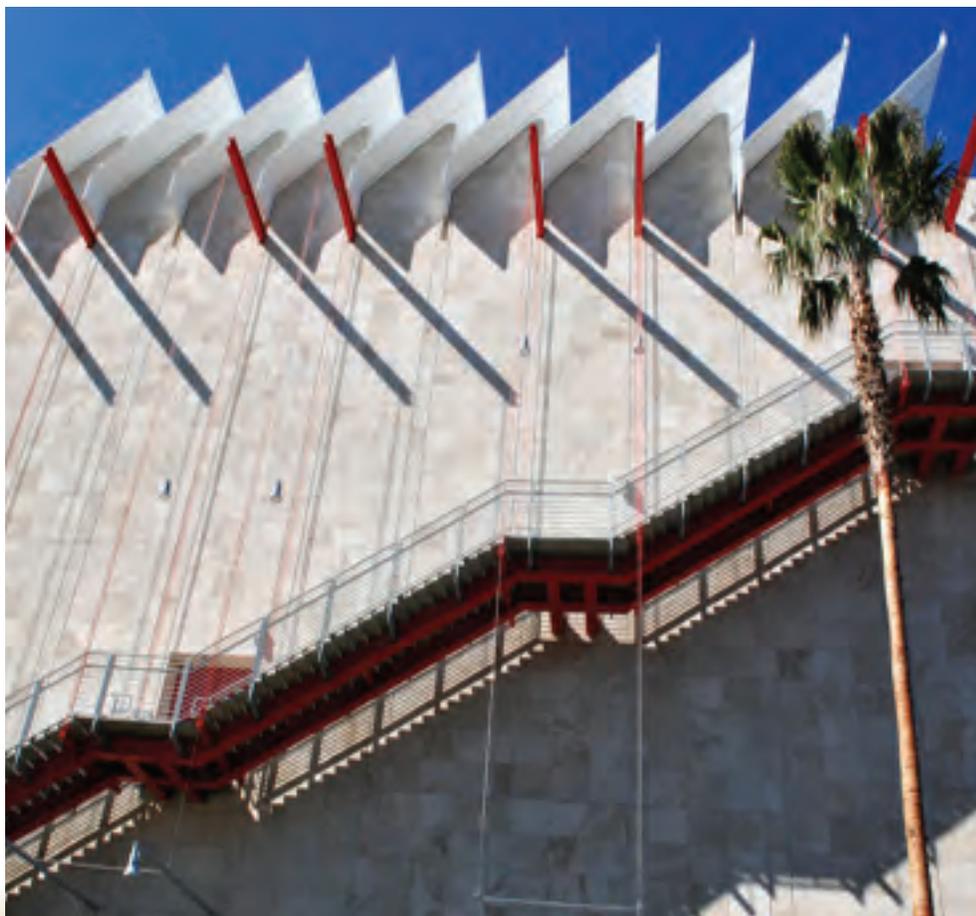
General Contractor

#### **Freda Marmi**

Stone Supplier and Fabricator

### Stone:

Coliseum Travertine



## Residential Interior/Exterior | Award of Merit



### MIA Member Company:

**Rugo Stone LLC**  
Lorton, Virginia  
Stone Supplier, Fabricator and Installer

### Other Project Team Members:

**David Kleinberg Design Associates**  
Architect

**Gibson Builders**  
General Contractor

### Stone:

Gohare Beige Limestone  
Thassos White Extra Marble  
Bianco Rhino Onyx Marble  
Calacatta Sponda Marble  
Beige Turkish Limestone

## Private Residence | Washington, DC

This project is very unique, it is a 13,000 sq ft two story condominium located in the Four Seasons Hotel in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, DC. The project consists of over 9,000 sq ft of highly detailed limestone, marble, and onyx. The project required seven months to fabricate and six months to install. The designer is from New York City, and very acclaimed for his modernist detailing and very precise alignments, nothing about this project was random.

The entire home is paved in 2cm limestone, marble, and onyx. All the base, door surrounds, and portals are cased with custom profiled Gohare beige limestone moldings. There are no wood base boards or wood door cases, the entire casement is detailed in custom profiled limestone and marble. The project has an internal elliptical spiral stair which features stone treads and risers, as well as ramp and twisted stone stringer and rail caps.

The bathrooms are all paved and clad in white onyx mosaic, the counters and tub decks in the baths are all Thassos White Extra marble. The kitchen is paved in a custom three color epoxy terrazzo, and the counters are all first choice Calacatta Sponda 3cm marble. The powder room is very unique in that it has a solid dome of Gohare beige limestone to create the ceiling. The project required very custom detailed shop drawing, exhaustive field measuring and a combination of local and Italian fabrication.

## Residential Interior/Exterior | Award of Merit



### MIA Member Company:

**SMG Stone Company**  
Sun Valley, California  
Stone Installer

### Other Project Team Members:

**EBTA Architects**  
Architect

**Mark Falone Construction**  
General Contractor

**Walker Zanger, Sun Valley, CA,**  
**MIA Member**  
Stone Supplier

### Stone:

Roman Travertine

## Private Residence | Newport Beach, California

This 6,000 square foot residence in Newport Beach, CA exemplifies classic elegance through a combination of glass, wood and split-face Roman Travertine. The Roman Travertine was purchased directly from an Italian supplier by the general contractor. Accurate shop drawings and cut lists developed by SMG Stone Company allowed the material to be ordered effectively and ensured a smooth transfer and installation of the stone to the job.

Approximately 3,300 square feet of split-face Roman Travertine dressed interior and exterior walls using a mechanical attachment system with stainless steel clips and ungrouted joints. Some onsite work included chiseling face edges to match the split-face finish of each piece. Shop drawings allowed planning for slightly oversized pieces to accommodate the field finishing of 4" thick pieces with a height of 24" and varying lengths of 12"-60". From an installation stand point the lintels proved to be the biggest challenge of the project because the size of the doors were 6'-8' and longer. Due to this each piece had to be handled by hand due to the small space of the job site. After five years of stone selection and detailed drawings, this dream home was completed in 2007.

## Commercial Exterior | Award of Merit



### MIA Member Company:

**KEPCO+**  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
Stone Installer

### Other Project Team Members:

**Sun Valley Company**  
Client and Owner

**Ruscitto/Latham/  
Blanton Architectura, P.A.**  
Architect

**Intermountain Construction, Inc.**  
General Contractor

**Mariotti Carlo & Figli, S.p.a.**  
Stone Supplier and Fabricator

### Stone:

Este Light Roman Travertine

## Sun Valley Music Pavilion | Sun Valley, Idaho

Nestled against the mountains of one of the world's premiere resort locations, the new Sun Valley Music Pavilion achieves a perfect fusion of art and nature. To blend with its mountainous environment, split-faced Roman Travertine was selected for the majority of the stonework, while an unfilled honed finish was used on the stone caps and ends of site walls. The joints between the stones were left open to enhance the Pavilion's rugged aesthetics while also facilitating the escape of any moisture from behind the stone. The structure only incorporates one straight wall – the rest of the walls are radial, and each one has a different radius, presenting unique fabrication challenges. All of the travertine was cross-cut, and a typical cleft stone weighs approximately 160 pounds and is 14 5/8" x 29 5/8" in size. A total of 12,002 individual travertine pieces were installed, with stone thicknesses varying from 4 cm to 11 cm.

A striking blend of beauty and function, this state of the art facility was completed in July of 2008 and incorporates nearly 33,000 SF of travertine.

## Commercial Exterior | Award of Merit



### MIA Member Company:

**Connecticut Stone Supplies**  
Milford, Connecticut  
Stone Supplier

### Other Project Team Members:

**Michael Van Valkenburg Associates**  
Architect

**Syrstone  
Ithaca Stone Setting**  
Stone Installers

**Lechase**  
General Contractor

### Stone:

Hamilton Bluestone  
Portage Bluestone

## Bailey Plaza – Cornell University | Ithaca, New York

Connecticut Stone won a prestigious Tucker Award for this \$4.5 million dollar project, which converted a one acre parking lot into a stunning pedestrian plaza connecting Bailey Hall Auditorium to Cornell's historic Arts and Agriculture quadrangles. The pedestrian pathways are lined with natural cleft and thermal finish bluestone, a resilient type of the legendary Llenroc, the locally quarried shale-dense stone.

Bailey Plaza's heavily trafficked location in the heart of campus, along with Ithaca's rugged northeast weather, meant that the construction and design needed to be durable as well as beautiful. The pivotal architectural element of the plaza is a majestic stone Hamilton bluestone fountain. The 50-foot-long outcropping of layered stone slabs, slopes from ground upward at nearly a 45-degree angle – a feature that includes gently seeping waters mimicking the nearby gorges.

The Bailey Award credited Connecticut Stone with creating richness and warmth with choice paving materials, as well as movement and structure with the design. Natural stone works in harmony with water, plants and wood, allowing the space to serve as both an architectural achievement and a practical pedestrian walkway.

## Commercial Exterior | Award of Merit



### MIA Member Companies:

#### **Bestview International**

Wood Dale, Illinois  
Stone Supplier

#### **Caffall Tile and Stone Co., Inc.**

Salt Lake City, Utah  
Stone Installer

### Other Project Team Members:

#### **Naylor Wentworth Lund Architects**

Architect

#### **Okland Construction Co., Inc.**

General Contractor

### Stone:

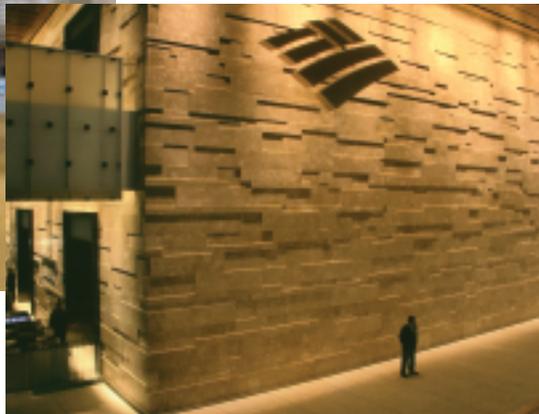
Uinta Gold Granite  
Wyndam Grey Granite  
Grey Classic Granite

## Oquirrh Mountain Utah Temple | South Jordan, Utah

The new Oquirrh Mountain Utah Temple is built on a bluff on the edge of the Daybreak development in South Jordan, Utah. The edifice features a single stone clad spire soaring to a height of 193 feet, topped by a 9-foot statue of the angel Moroni. The temple sits at the foot of the Oquirrh Mountains that form a western edge of the Salt Lake Valley and face east towards a panoramic view of the Wasatch Mountains. The temple features stone highlights that are found throughout, typical of the great details that accompany an LDS Temple, including: architectural woodwork, marble, stained glass windows, high-quality carpets and furniture, and works of art (statues and paintings). The project is clad in Uinta Gold granite in honed and river washed finishes. It is the first LDS Temple project to incorporate a darker colored stone.

The stone work began in November 2007 and was completed May 2009. More than 11,300 cubic feet of stone were used. There are 18 sets of intricately carved flank columns at the windows. The project used 73,000 man hours with 65 men on the project at peak production. There are two Tulip shaped carved planters at the entrance weighing over 7,000 lbs each. In addition, the project also includes Wyndam Grey and Classic Grey for the paving.

## Commercial Interior | Award of Merit



### MIA Member Company:

#### **Wilkstone, LLC**

Paterson, New Jersey  
Stone Fabricator and Installer

### Other Project Team Members:

#### **Cook + Fox Architects**

Architect

#### **The Durst Organization**

#### **Bank of America**

Developers

#### **Tishman Construction Corp.**

Construction Manager

### Stone:

Jerusalem Gray Limestone  
Kashmir White Granite

## One Bryant Park | New York, New York

Bank of America's One Bryant Park was the first skyscraper designed to achieve a U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environment Design (LEED) "Platinum" Rating.

The key component in the interior design is the 9,000 square foot feature walls of the Main Lobby which consist of varying sized pieces of Jerusalem Gray Limestone. The slabs were shipped from Israel and fabricated in the Wilkstone shop in Paterson. Digital photos were marked up by the architect, indicating the acceptable, useable areas for each slab. Varying thickness of the stone and the perimeter shadow lighting further dramatizes this unique and signatory appearance. Each stone is individually supported with stainless steel clips.

Another key component of the interior of the building was the more than 40,000 square feet of Kashmir White Granite paving quarried and fabricated in India. For interior public spaces, the floor paving piece sizes primarily consist of 60" x 30" with a 1-1/4 inch thickness. All of the granite paving pieces were dry laid out at Wilkstone's fabrication facility prior to installation so that they could be viewed and approved by the architect and owner.

## Commercial Interior | Award of Merit



### MIA Member Company:

**Carnevale & Lohr, Inc.**  
Bell Gardens, California  
Stone Contractor and Supplier

### Other Project Team Members:

#### **Maguire Properties**

Owner

#### **Aref and Associates**

Architect

**Trade International, Inc., MIA Member**  
Consultant

#### **Corporate Contractors**

General Contractor

### Stone:

Piana Carrara Marble  
Thassos Marble  
Neoparies  
Mt. Airy Granite

## Maguire Lobby | Los Angeles, California

A remodel of the entry and elevator lobby of the 45 story KPMG office in Los Angeles, this project consists of twenty foot high walls, columns, and ceilings, with the upper portion being 7,500 feet of White Neoparies (having panels as large as five feet long by three and a half feet tall) and the lower portion being 5,800 feet of Piana Carrara marble (some panels as large as six feet long by three and a half feet tall) with stainless steel fin insets, installed on a special frame allowing it to "float" eight inches away from the White Neoparies upper wall and base course below. The project also has 3,800 feet of Mt. Airy granite flooring, with White Neoparies borders.

The Piana Carrara marble used on the project was hand selected for color and character at the quarry in Italy by the architect, building owner, and Carnevale and Lohr, Inc. Every panel was inspected and photographed in Italy by Carnevale and Lohr, Inc. to insure it was consistent with the criteria set out in the selection visit. Any change in shading in the marble panels was blended to create a seamless look.

## Commercial Interior | Award of Merit



### MIA Member Company:

**Rugo Stone LLC**  
Lorton, Virginia  
Stone Supplier and Installer

### Other Project Team Members:

#### **Morrison & Foerster LLP**

Client

#### **Mancini Duffy Architects**

Architect

#### **Hitt Contracting Inc., Hitt Law Division**

General Contractor

#### **A. Grebelsky & Son**

**Stone Source Inc., MIA Member**

Stone Fabricators

### Stone:

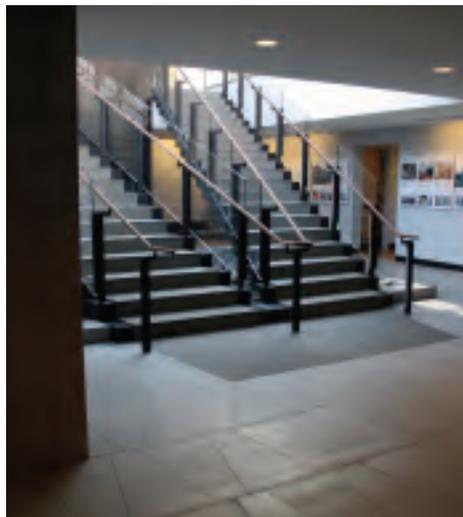
Ramon Grey Gold Limestone  
Concordia Quartzite

## Morrison & Foerster LLP | Washington, DC

This project consists of a four story open glass stair well with side walls clad in 2" thick Ramon Grey Gold Limestone with a hand chiseled finish. This unique rustic material is quarried outside of Jerusalem. The paving stone at the various levels is a honed black quartzite material quarried in China, known as Concordia.

The limestone support system required a cantilevered support system at each floor level which allowed for incremental floor deflection. Rugo installed each floor up to the last course height, then waited for the floor above to deflect with the new imposed load of limestone from above. Once this deflection had occurred, and the bottom course of the above floor reached its deepest settlement point, the top course of limestone could be installed on the floor below. This approach allowed for minimal deflection joints, which were concealed by using a sand dust sealant joint which looks like a true pointed portland cement joint. Rugo Stone was tasked with installing these 1200 heavy pieces in a very confined space, working two shifts per day, 6 days per week. The original installation schedule was 8 weeks, Rugo condensed this to 3 weeks with a highly coordinated installation crew and masterful shop drawings. The result is a combination of old work stone finishes and modern stainless steel and glass detailing, which creates a stunning open space for a law firm occupying four floors.

## Renovation/Restoration | Award of Merit



### Bowdoin College Museum of Art | Brunswick, Maine

Designed and built in the late 1800s, the Museum of Art at Bowdoin College has served for decades as the cultural center of the campus and surrounding community. In conjunction with a complete restoration of the building's foundation, granite plinth blocks surrounding the main entrance were removed, cut-down to 4-inch veneer and reinstalled over a waterproof and insulated substructure. Additional blocks, capstones and curbing were fabricated from Sterling Grey granite to accommodate minute changes to the facade's design. Each component demanded extensive bush-hammering to accurately match the color and texture of the existing stonework. Sterling Grey was also chosen for many interior applications, including key elements of the newly constructed 12,600-square-foot pavilion. Hundreds of large trapezoidal tiles line the floor and support columns in the pavilion's lower level, while Zimbabwe Black stair treads create a perceptible contrast. Combining modern design and technology with sensitivity toward architectural tradition, the Museum of Art at Bowdoin College will remain a world-class facility.

#### MIA Member Company:

**J.C. Stone, Inc.**  
Jefferson, Maine  
Stone Fabricator and Installer

#### Other Project Team Members:

**McKim, Mead & White**  
Original Architects  
**Machado and Silvetti Associates**  
Renovation Architects  
**Consigli Construction Co., Inc.**  
Construction Manager  
**Indiana Limestone Co., MIA Member**  
**Fletcher Granite Co.**  
Stone Suppliers  
**Granite Importers**  
Stone Fabricator  
**Consigli Construction Co.**  
**SD Szetela, Inc.**  
**Stonescape**  
Stone Installers

#### Stone:

Light Buff Indiana Limestone  
Sterling Grey Granite  
Zimbabwe Black Granite

## Residential Interior/Exterior | Special Award of Merit for Use of Stone



### Fifth Avenue Apartment | New York, New York

The project was done in a residence on 5th Avenue in New York City. The project was designed by Molyneux Studio, the contractor was Clark Construction. There were three separate rooms involved in the job, his bath, her Bath and a powder room. All the stone was two centimeters thick. Green and White Onyx were used in his bath, while, Yellow and White Onyx was selected for her bathroom. The powder room was done in Calacatta Vagli. Everything, except the shower floors were polished. The shower walls were flat panels. The rest of the walls in both baths were done as a wainscot. This wainscot was designed in a stile, rail with beveled center panel all set on top of a profiled base and topped off with a profiled chair rail. The door casings were built up to mimic three inch thick material. This build up was done in such a way that no lamination is visible. Projects of this nature pose challenges of many different types. The most difficult challenge comes from the fragile nature of the material and working it into such a wide variety of different elements. Of course, the stile and rail design require a great degree of fabricating accuracy. I think my fellow fabricators can appreciate the skill and effort required to complete a project of this nature.

#### MIA Member Company:

**Fordham Marble Company, Inc.**  
Bronx, New York  
Shop Drawings, Fabricator and Installer

#### Other Project Team Members:

**Juan Pablo Molyneux**  
Designer  
**Clark Construction Company**  
General Contractor  
**ABC Worldwide Marble and Granite**  
**Reliance Marble and Granite**  
**Saymar Stone**  
Stone Suppliers

#### Stone:

Green Onyx  
White Onyx  
Yellow Onyx  
Calacatta Vagli Marble

# Marble Institute of America | Natural Stone Scholarship Award



**Michael Schumacher**  
Valders Stone and Marble, Inc.  
Valders, Wisconsin



## “Green” Initiative Helps Win MIA Scholarship

The Natural Stone Scholarship Award was established by the Marble Institute of America to provide educational opportunities to aspiring fabricators, installers or administrative apprentices interested in furthering their careers in the natural stone industry. This year’s winner is Michael Schumacher, a LEED AP, Sales, Business Development Specialist at Valders Stone & Marble, Inc., Valders, Wisconsin.

There is no doubt the future of the natural stone industry is dependent on our ability to attract and keep the best and brightest young talent and help them develop a genuine passion for the products we sell and the industry as a whole. That’s the purpose of the MIA Natural Stone Scholarship. Michael Schumacher personifies what the scholarship is all about. In his eloquent entry essay, Schumacher told how, shortly after he joined the firm in 2007, he proposed becoming a LEED Accredited Professional and is now one of only a few stone representatives with this accreditation.

“Since passing the LEED exam, I’ve been busy carving a niche for natural stone in the LEED process” he said. “This scholarship would allow me to contribute to the natural stone industry as a whole. I’m fortunate to work where I do, and I will be taking advantage of every chance I can to perpetuate the natural stone movement.” In a letter of recommendation, Bryan Frankovis, Sales Manager of Valders Stone & Marble, Inc. said, “Mr. Schumacher’s decision to apply for the MIA Natural Stone Scholarship does not come as a surprise. In the short amount of time he has been employed here, he has constantly shown his initiative and willingness to learn product knowledge, applications, and awareness of the marketplace. He has the drive and energy necessary to make sure any project he is working on is complete, and done to the best of his ability.”

## Thanks to Our Award Sponsors



*Sponsor of the MIA Grande Pinnacle Award*



*Sponsors of the 2009 Natural Stone Craftsmanship Award*

## About the Marble Institute of America

For over sixty-five years, the Marble Institute of America has served as the authoritative source of information on standards of natural stone workmanship and practice and the suitable application of natural stone products.

Membership in the association is worldwide and includes natural stone producers, exporters/importers, distributors/wholesalers, fabricators, finishers, installers, and industry suppliers — all committed to the highest standards of workmanship and ethics.

MIA publishes a monthly newsletter for members, markets a range of technical publications and consumer pamphlets on natural stone, sponsors business and technical meetings and seminars on industry-related topics, provides educational programming for architects and construction specification professionals, and conducts the annual Pinnacle Awards competitions recognizing outstanding natural stone projects worldwide. And new this year, the MIA Natural Stone Craftsman of the Year award recognizes one craftsman who has physically performed outstanding stone fabrication and/or installation over a period of many years. MIA also sponsors an industry accreditation program for high quality fabricators and commercial installers.

MIA is also a leading promoter of stone usage in the commercial and residential marketplaces. MIA produces a number of consumer education materials on the use of natural stone and its proper care and maintenance and hosts an informative website for consumers at [www.usenaturalstone.com](http://www.usenaturalstone.com).

# Marble Institute of America Natural Stone Craftsman of the Year



## Randy Severson: Craftsman, Mentor, Business Leader

Little did Randy Severson know when he joined Carrara Marble Company as a driver nearly three decades ago, that one day he would help set the standard for what is a great natural stone craftsman. For the past 28 years, Randy has been a loyal and dedicated employee of the Carrara Marble Company. He began his career as a driver/dispatcher and soon after began an apprenticeship as a stone setter. A short three years later, he became a journeyman. As Jim Hogan of Carrara Marble Company said, "His strong work ethic, quick mastery of technical skills and his proficiency with all types of stone qualified him as a potential foreman." So he was appointed foreman of the California Plaza project, a very complicated 55-story building in downtown Los Angeles.

Six years later, Randy was unanimously chosen to succeed Carrara's retiring superintendent and his ascension to General Superintendent came when Carrara opened offices in San Francisco and Las Vegas. He has applied his expertise to every conceivable application of natural stone. His imprint is on hundreds of projects all over California, Nevada and across the country.

Finishers, apprentices, setters, and more importantly, foremen that Randy has trained really set him apart. Many of these



**Randy Severson**

foremen have changed the skyline of Los Angeles, San Francisco and Las Vegas. Over a period of almost 30 years, Randy Severson has established himself as a leader and mentor.

"Randy Severson really epitomizes everything you could ask for in an employee and particularly one in the stone industry," said Jim Hogan, senior vice president of Carrara Marble Company. "He has everything required. He has the technical skills. He has the experience. He has an understanding of how to accomplish things and he has a tremendous empathy for the people working in the field, the architects who demand that their products be installed, and everything that goes on in between."

Severson got hooked on the stone business early in his career. "What I liked about the business is that at the end of the day

you can feel like you've put in a hard day's work and then you can step back and see what you've actually created" said Randy. He knew he had arrived in the business when he was given the opportunity to be foreman for the California Plaza project in downtown Los Angeles. "It was the big wow of my career," he said. Severson relishes the opportunity to work with young people in the industry, "It's very important that my journeymen, foremen and I take time to teach the young guys the proper way to install material."

Randy, Debbie, his wife of 24 years, and their three children share a passion for baseball, especially the LA Dodgers. Recently, they took a stadium trip to seven cities and the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. He beamed when asked how he correlated his job with the game of baseball.

"I have coached my sons in baseball since they were Peewee. I put together my team here at Carrara Marble just like it. I have some utility guys. I have some guys who have some pop. I have some guys who have the finesse. All of these guys are gamers, which is why when I get into a meeting that has an intense schedule and tight deadline, at no time do I think we can't make it happen. The reason is that I've got the best team behind me. I have a world championship team."

# Marble Institute of America *Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement*



## Terry O'Neill: The Right Man at the Right Time

Throughout the MIA's 65-year history, there have been a handful of times when one could look back and say, "there would be no MIA today" if someone hadn't committed critical time and energy to the association and the industry. Terry O'Neill is one of those rare individuals who stepped up to provide volunteer leadership during some very trying times.

It is fortunate for the stone industry that Terry even had an entrance into the stone industry. In 1975, his wife, Joanne, wanted to return to Pittsburgh from Newport News, VA., where he was working in a different industry. At the time Terry was attempting to obtain new employment at Westinghouse, however, they had a hiring freeze in place. So Terry and Joanne moved to Pittsburgh yet O'Neill was encouraged by Westinghouse to remain in contact for when the hiring freeze ended. Terry then went to work for his father-in-law who owned Columbia Marble Company, Inc. O'Neill shared that, "When Westinghouse called two years later I was already hooked on the stone business."

If Terry had answered the call to Westinghouse, there would not be an MIA today. He would go on to serve as a director and president of the MIA. It was the mid-1990's and the Marble Institute of America was struggling financially. The bank account showed a meager balance and the association was deeply in debt. The MIA Annual Convention and trade show were plagued by declining attendance, and the association was transitioning to a new executive director and moving its headquarters from Detroit to Columbus, Ohio. MIA's 1995 president had just undergone serious surgery in the middle of his term, and was forced to resign. In stepped Terry O'Neill, moving up from vice president to president with hopes that he could stop the financial drain and rebuild the organization.



**Terry O'Neill**

O'Neill admits that the situation was "scary" but to this day feels that his experience running a small stone shop, Columbia Marble Company of Pittsburgh, prepared him well to meet the challenges. He turned out to be the right man at the right time. "What basically happened was that because I'm a mom and pop shop, I think we understand a little better that you do most things by yourself," he said in an interview in his Pittsburgh office. "The simple solution was that we didn't do anything, we had to pull our wings in to survive until we could find revenue and whatever to continue," O'Neill explained.

Terry's leadership was evident first and foremost in the financial matters facing the association. One of the things that got MIA into financial difficulty in the first place was the printing contract for the association's *Dimension Stones of the World* (color plate book), which cost the Institute over \$500,000. As part of his MIA recovery plan, O'Neill found a printing company close by his shop who took on publishing the second edition of the popular books for less than one quarter of the price and they were to be paid as the books were sold.

During these difficult financial times, Terry also showcased that he was always a hands-on guy. To save the association money, O'Neill, using his own truck and labor, helped pack up the MIA offices near Detroit and moved them to Columbus.

Terry also helped engineer a merger of MIA's Annual Convention with StonExpo that called for a sharing of any profit. In the first year of this arrangement, MIA's share was \$75,000, and it grew from there.

Over the years, Terry O'Neill has contributed to the MIA and the entire industry by expanding its international outreach; by introducing a new consumer brochure, the MIA's *Care & Cleaning of Natural Stone Surfaces*; by the addition of a restoration and maintenance section to MIA's *Dimension Stone Design Manual*; approving the establishment of [www.marble-institute.com](http://www.marble-institute.com); by introducing an Education Committee, revamping the Technical Committee; and much more.

One man can make a difference. Terry O'Neill is that one man who made the difference and we, the MIA of today, are a vibrant, vital and dynamic organization because of Terry O'Neill. And, of course, there was a little luck involved. "As fate would have it, we entered into the second stone revolution, where stone became very popular and a lot of the newcomers joined MIA.

Those of us who today enjoy the benefits of the MIA owe a deep debt to Terry O'Neill – a debt we can never really repay; not that he would ever accept it. We can, however, publicly recognize and thank him by awarding him the highest individual honor that MIA has.

For his rescue and rebuilding of the MIA, and his long-term and ongoing support of the MIA and the natural stone industry, the Marble Institute of America is proud to present Terry O'Neill with this prestigious award. He is in the distinguished company of previous Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement winners – the late Vincent Migliore, Joe Kapcheck, Malcolm Cohen, Bernie Polak, Vic Green, and Louie Carnevale.



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