



# 2020 PINNACLE AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE



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*Congratulations to the winners.*



*Thank you to those who entered.*



# *Recognizing Excellence in the Stone Industry*

<b>AWARD</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>Grande Pinnacle Award</b> .....	<b>4-5</b>
An exclusive Grande Pinnacle award, sponsored by Marmomac, is given to the best project across all categories. This award is bestowed upon the Natural Stone Institute member company and also includes a trip to Marmomac 2020 in Verona, Italy for the architect of record for the project.	
<b>Pinnacle Awards of Excellence</b> .....	<b>6-18</b>
Natural Stone Institute's prestigious Pinnacle Award honors stone companies around the world for projects that stand out above the rest.	
<b>Women in Stone Empowerment Scholarship</b> .....	<b>19</b>
The Women in Stone Empowerment Scholarship recognizes a Natural Stone Institute member with a strong passion to grow their career within the stone industry. Applicants are considered who have not yet had the opportunity to attend one of the key industry events: TISE, Coverings, or an annual Natural Stone Institute Study Tour.	
<b>Person of the Year</b> .....	<b>20</b>
The Person of the Year Award is an important annual recognition chosen by the association leadership team. Following the tradition of the award, this year's Person of the Year has given exceptional contribution and leadership to Natural Stone Institute, as well as mentoring and guidance to its executive team.	
<b>Women in Stone Pioneer Award</b> .....	<b>21</b>
The Women in Stone Pioneer Award recognizes an advocate within the stone industry for their role in recruiting, retaining, and advancing women. The recipient's performance in promoting women should be exemplary, honorable, and inspirational.	
<b>Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement</b> .....	<b>22-23</b>
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 Natural Stone Institute. The award is named for Marble Institute of America's long-time technical director, the late Vincent R. Migliore, who was the first recipient.	



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Disclaimer: Images and notations of project team members presented herein have been supplied to the Natural Stone Institute by the member company submitting the award entry. Every effort has been made for accuracy and thoroughness. The Natural Stone Institute is not responsible for errors or omissions in this documentation, which is intended to reflect the portion of a building, landscape, or other design project in which the submitting member company has been involved.





# *Grande Pinnacle Award*

## **Trinity Church Wall Street Altar & Chancel Restoration** New York, New York







◀ BEFORE

AFTER ▼



## Winning Company

**Rugo Stone**

Lorton, Virginia

Stone Supplier/Fabricator/  
Installer

## Other Project Team Members

**Murphy Burnham &  
Buttrick Architects**

Architect

## Stone

Olympian White Danby marble

Rosso Levanto marble

Bianco P Statuario marble

Caen limestone

Indiana limestone

Located at the crossing of Wall Street and Broadway, Trinity Church is an historical structure that for 174 years has served New Yorkers as a place of worship. During 9/11 the church served as a shelter from the debris caused by the collapse of the first World Trade Center tower.

Trinity Church needed a variety of upgrades including complete conservation and restoration of the Gothic Revival chancel, and the historic Astor memorial altar.

Rugo Stone was selected to dismantle and conserve the Astor memorial altar based on extensive experience in stone and mosaic conservation and restoration.

Their task was to carefully dismantle the marble and the mosaic which formed the altar. The mosaic panels, believed to have been created in the 1870s by acclaimed Italian mosaic artist Antonio Salviati, are considered priceless, as is the Vermont statuary marble altar.

Rugo Stone carefully cataloged the altar by 3D scanning it in place, and then dismantled and transported it to their carving studio. Over the next 6 months, artisans carefully cleaned and restored the damaged pieces, as well as produced new columns, hand-carved capitals, performed dutchman patches, and new gilding, all to create a new configuration for an ADA accessible altar mounted to a new steel frame.

The team also sourced new Caen French limestone to recreate rear wall missing pilasters and base, which was particularly challenging as the original Caen limestone was quarried in the 1860s.

The chancel floor was completely re-done using Olympian White Danby and Rosso Levanto marble pavers with 1/32" joints, patterned to create a bold checkerboard appearance. Rugo Stone's team worked tirelessly to complete all the work for the dedication services scheduled on Christmas 2019. The project turned out beautifully and the effort has been very well received.

## Judges Comments:

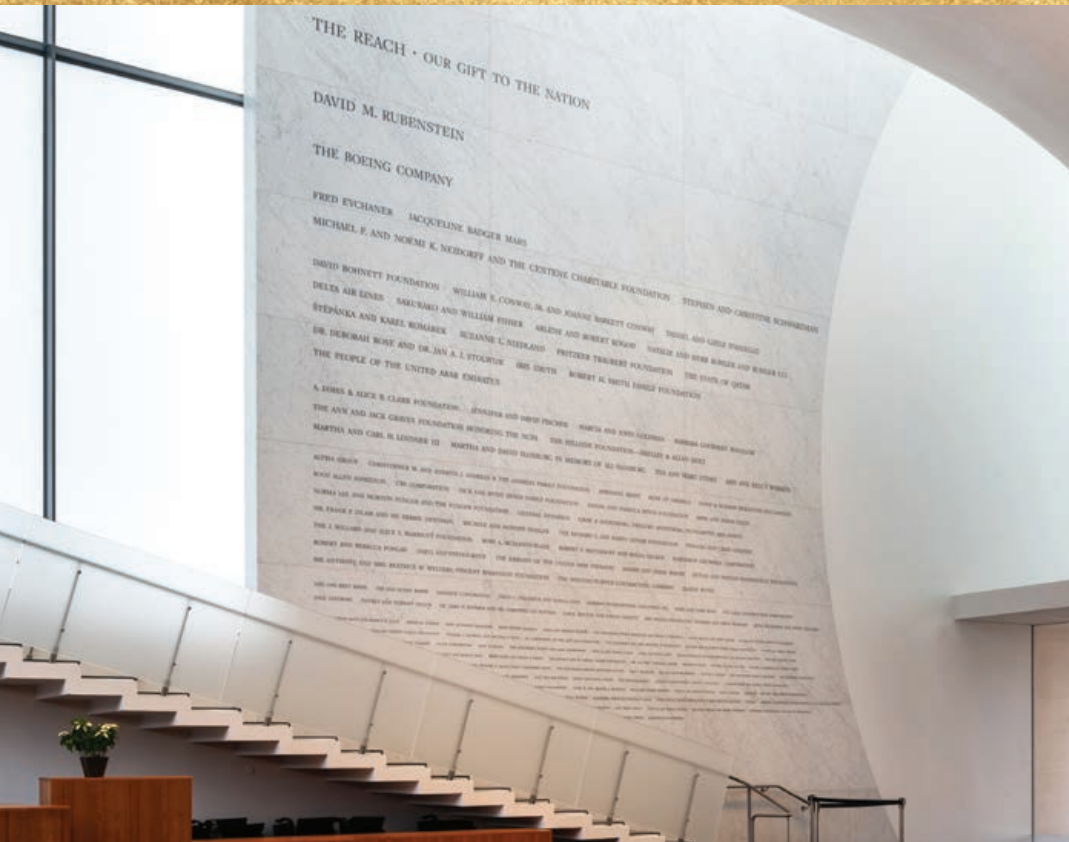
We appreciated all the detail and the difficulty in the historic restoration of this church altar – literally dismantling, restoring and then putting it all back together. Really impressed with the detail and craftsmanship. This is a restoration project that you write home about. The amount, type, source and representation of the stone is all worthy of an award.





## Architectural Carving/Lettering/Sculpture

# John F. Kennedy Center The REACH Donor Wall Washington, DC



### Winning Company

**Rugo Stone**   
Lorton, Virginia

Stone Consultant/Supplier/  
Installer/Lettering

### Other Project Team Members

**Bruce Mau Design**  
Architect

**Euromarble Srl**   
Stone Fabricator

### Stone

**Bianco Carrara C marble**

The new expansion to the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, The REACH was assisted by generous donations of many individuals.

The names of the donors are now memorialized on a 1,200 square foot wall of Bianco Carrara, with panels measuring 8'x4'. Rugo Stone traveled to Italy to source the most uniform block for the large panels. The block selected was very uniform in background color and vein direction. This was critical, as the carvers would later have to engrave all the donors' names on these large panels, and they didn't want the stone veining to interrupt the visibility of the lettering.

The marble was expertly fabricated with the subtle radius, and fully dry set in Italy for a thorough inspection by the owner's representative. Rugo Stone's team designed, engineered, and installed the marble wall as well as its steel support system. This was completed before the dedication of the building in the autumn of 2019.

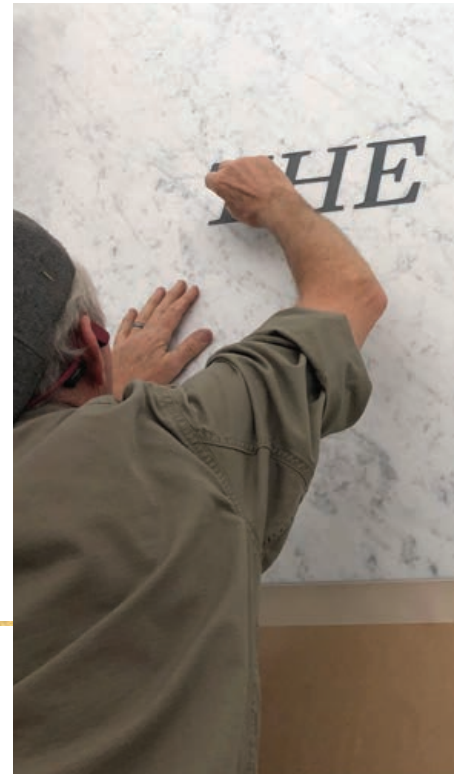
A year later, the engraving artisans returned to the now open-to-the public building to perform the engraving. This engraving designer worked carefully with the owner's graphic designer to prepare all the computer razor cut lettering templates. Master carvers then mounted the templates with a precise layout and set out to delicately sandblast the letters.

The engraving was performed with the use of an inventive portable sandblasting booth system, designed particularly for owner-occupied projects, that allows for easy blasting and containing the medium and the dust. The use of the booth allowed for the lettering to be completed within 3 weeks.

The effect is superb, and the REACH Donor Wall is truly a statement piece that gives proper recognition to those individuals who helped fund the project.

### Judges Comments:

The focal point of the Reach Donor Wall gives the impression that it is curved, but to the amazement of the jurors, this was an ingenious optical illusion. The craftsmen's innovative solution to on-site sand blasting was a masterful feat. Considering the size of the panels, the resulting evenness of veining and color management is incredible.





## Architectural Carving/Lettering/Sculpture

# Nike of Samothrace

Samothrace Island, Greece

### Winning Company

**F.H.L.I. Kiriakidis  
Marbles-Granites**

**Drama, Greece**

Stone Supplier/Fabricator/  
Sculptor

### Stone

Prinos marble



As an homage to ancient ancestors and the unique beauty they created before us, F.H.L.I. Kiriakidis Marbles - Granites had the honor to replicate the "Nike of Samothrace" statue, also known as "Winged Victory of Samothrace." The statue will be donated by the company to the Municipality of Samothrace island in eastern Macedonia and Thrace, Greece. The replica will be displayed at the local museum.

This statue is the second such piece sculpted by F.H.L.I. Kiriakidis Marbles-Granites. The first had been donated to the Municipality of Alexandroupolis in eastern Macedonia and Thrace, Greece, where it is displayed in front of the prefecture of Alexandroupolis, with a "symbolic orientation" facing the island of Samothrace. This second Nike of Samothrace will "look" in the direction of the Louvre museum, so as to demonstrate the constant demand by Greece for the return of the Nike to its rightful home.

The replica has been fabricated in Thassian Prinos marble, which can be found only in the small Greek island of Thassos, long known for its sparkling and pure white marble. The rareness of this all white marble was challenging, given the fact that they wanted to create the statue in one piece. The statue is supported by a marble base, which has been left from the original block in order to support the statue's large size, exhibiting an overall weight of nearly 5-1/2 tons. The one-to-one replica has been fabricated according to the effigy provided by the Louvre museum in Paris, where the original has been displayed since 1884.

Having taken more than two months to sculpt utilizing state-of-the-art robotic machinery, the statue got its careful hand finish by specialized sculptors at the fabrication facilities in Drama, Greece.

### Judges Comments:

It wasn't a design decision to copy a masterpiece, but rather one of skilled execution. The artisans set out to replicate an iconic, hand-crafted sculpture using contemporary 3D scanning and CNC machinery and they were successful. In consideration of the award criteria this project is remarkable in the translation of technology to such intricate and typical hand-tooled detail, and in its exquisite stone choice and management of the blemish-free material.





## Commercial Exterior

# Tenko Omakase Japanese Restaurant

Bangkok, Thailand



### Winning Company

**Stone and Roses International**

Samutprakarn, Thailand

Stone Supplier/Fabricator/Installer

### Other Project Team Members

**Architects 49 Limited**

Architect

### Stone

Grey basalt

Grey quartzite

The upscale Tenko Omakase Japanese restaurant at the Pullman King Power Hotel in Bangkok is one of Stone and Roses' proudest achievements.

The restaurant design concept is a serene Japanese oasis in the heart of the bustling concrete jungle, blending boundaries of traditional and modern architectural design through wood and natural stones. To complement this concept, Stone and Roses was given the opportunity to use one of the company's signature stone texture design: the unique "Texture D."

"Texture D" was designed back in 2004 by Stone and Roses' founder, Philippe Narbonne, who was inspired by knights' armor in the European Middle Ages and the ambivalent nature of stones: eternal beauty with the perfect balance of hardness and warmth. The protruding squares of this texture shows strength, but also softness, as the texture seems to create a moving optical illusion effect, depending on the light. His true passion is to bring out as much as possible the eternal beauty of natural stones—and "Texture D" does just that. This texture enhances the beauty of natural stones and turns them into a unique and mesmerizing work of art.

The project owner of Tenko Omakase restaurant was strongly drawn to "Texture D" because for him, it represented, as well, the armor of Japanese samurai warriors. Because "Texture D" adds an undeniable atmosphere of strength and eternal beauty to the overall design, while at the same time, also adds softness and tranquility—it was the most fitting choice to portray his intentions of the restaurant concept.

Stone and Roses used natural grey quartzites with "Texture D" and executed in a way that elegantly and perfectly complements the solid stone "floating" platform, timber, steel beams, koi pond, and surrounding garden, making this venue a serene world of its own, beautifully hidden in the midst of the city.

#### Judges Comments:

An unusual approach to exterior cladding texture. It impressed with its soft, velvet appearance achieved through an innovative use of stone. A successful interaction between wood, steel, and stone. Its overall design is reminiscent of the Barcelona Pavilion. Controlled execution of the textured application is spectacular.







## Commercial Exterior

# The Williams Inn

Williamstown, Massachusetts

### Winning Company

**Connecticut Stone**   
Milford, Connecticut  
Stone Supplier

### Other Project Team Members

**CambridgeSeven**  
Architect

**Stimson Studio**  
Landscape Architect

**Ashfield Stone Company**  
Stone Supplier

**Champlain Masonry**  
Stone Installer

### Stone

**Liberty Hill granite**  
**Ashfield schist**



Drawing inspiration from the Berkshire mountains and Williamstown's agrarian heritage, the design creates a building deeply rooted in its landscape thanks to harmonious use of stone at the Inn's facade, base, and terraces.

The 60,000-square foot Inn re-imagines New England's "connected farmhouse," distributing program elements among the "main house," which welcomes guests into the warm lobby; the wood-clad "barn," which houses a 50-seat restaurant and additional guest rooms and the "back house," which hosts a Function Room for up to 300 guests.

Key to the project's concept is the use of stone at the Inn's Main House and outdoor landscape rooms. Granite options from over ten New England quarries were reviewed to find a natural stone with variegated veining to complement the dolomite used on campus in the 19th century. Extensive research led to a Connecticut granite selected for its color tones and the scale and richness of its patterning.

The team tailored the stone selection from deeper in the quarry to achieve darker grays and less pink veining for the split-face veneer facade and thermally finished base and window trim details. Corner pieces were carved into L-shapes from a single raw block.

Granite is also used on the terraces and coursed in a random running bond pattern with polygonal cut stones. Landscape walls are built of natural-cleft local schist stacked in a running bond pattern characteristic of local historic farm walls. Large slabs of the natural cleft stone are incorporated into wall tops to create sculptural benches that cantilever beyond the face of the wall. A vehicular bridge at the building's entrance is faced in stacked schist and features a load-bearing stone arch, bookended by vertical monoliths recalling granite gateposts of historic new England farmsteads.

### Judges Comments:

A modern interpretation of a traditional vernacular. The variety of mottling in this Connecticut granite gives a sense that this is not a singular stone. But it's a successful presentation of a single stone in a variety of cuts, textures and applications. Perfect material selection for the campus and the surrounding area. Detailing of the ashlar pattern, especially at the coping, is beautiful.







## Commercial Interior

# Hillsdale College Christ Chapel

Hillsdale, Michigan



Built as a non-denominational chapel to allow all students to fulfill their faith on campus, Hillsdale College Christ Chapel was created as the hub of campus spiritual life. The exterior design of the chapel was inspired by Central Hall, the campus's historic focal point. The interior design pays homage to the English church, St. Martin in the Fields, which in turn inspired Christ Church in Philadelphia. The expansive use of natural stone in the interior gives this chapel a magnificence and beauty not often seen in today's construction.

Upon entering the chapel, the Virtues "Fides," "Spes," and "Caritas" are engraved into the limestone directly below radiused marble roundels set neatly in the brick façade above each doorway. The narthex features a floor pattern using Botticino Classico, Bardiglio Nuvolato and Rosso Asiago marbles. The floor design and pattern coupled with the 15" high cubic Botticino base entice the user to continue their journey through the chapel.


The sanctuary floor is comprised of Botticino Classico, Rosso Asiago and Verde Alpi marbles which pave the way to the crown jewel of the space, the 21' tall high altar fashioned of Bianco Carrara marble that features 10' tall fluted columns beneath hand carved capitals. The Lumachella Oro onyx diamond matched backdrop serves as a compliment to the Bianco Carrara. In addition to the marble, Indiana limestone can be found throughout the chapel; from the structural columns to the limestone wrapping the sanctuary. The intersection of the limestone and marble impost at the high altar quickly became one of the most critical details on the project. The day chapel features a unique marble floor pattern using the same materials as the sanctuary floor but distinguishing itself visually.

Through design, dedication, and craftsmanship, Christ Chapel will serve as the College's spiritual hub for years to come.

### Judges Comments:

We appreciated the choice of stone size and shapes and the combination of colors. The execution was beautiful. Limestone columns contrast nicely with the marble floors. Patterning and jointing are just terrific. It is interesting to see how ecclesiastical work is trending toward more color, making traditional elements more modern, and flashy.

### Winning Company

**Booms Stone Company**   
Redford, Michigan  
Stone Installer

### Other Project Team Members

**Duncan G. Stroik Architect**   
Architect

**Hillsdale College**  
Client

**Bybee Stone Company**   
North Carolina  
**Granite Corporation**   
**Polycor, Inc.** 

**Stone Consulting di Pagliari**  
Stone Suppliers

### Stone

Botticino Classico marble  
Rosso Asiago marble  
Bianco Carrara marble  
Verdi Alpi marble  
Giallo Siena marble  
Bardiglio Nuvolato marble  
Green Autumn marble  
Pink onyx  
Green County granite  
Bethel White granite  
Missouri Red granite  
Silver Cloud granite  
Indiana Buff Select limestone  
Lumachella Oro onyx







## Commercial Interior

# Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Expansion

Hollywood, Florida

### Winning Company

**Twin Stone Designs & Installations**  
Hollywood, Florida  
Stone Supplier/Installer

### Other Project Team Members

**Rockwell Group**  
Design Architect

**Klai Juba Wald**  
**Architecture + Interiors**  
Architect of Record

**Wilson Associates**  
Interior Architecture Design

### Stone

Titanium travertine  
Black travertine  
Coliseum travertine  
Silver travertine  
White Carrara marble  
Antique Brown granite  
Golden Spider marble  
Orange travertine  
Corteccia quartzite  
Avorio onyx



Inland of the infamous Hollywood beaches stands a 450' Les Paul Guitar tower. Its aqua-glass tones reflect the Florida sunlight during the day, and at night, the neon-lit structure thrills guests featuring an intense lighting system visible across county lines. The southeast porte-cochere boasts 12,000 square feet of semi-conical granite water features. Massive blocks of scallop-shaped Antique Brown granite allow water to run down without splashing the guests.

Experience the Oculus entry hub engulfed in greenery and waterfalls, irradiating vast amounts of brightness and sound. The floor's concentric circles closest to the fountain are composed of waterjet cut Titanium travertine and Coliseum travertine from the original Bernini quarry. The surrounding floor is Silver travertine with White Carrara inlays that reflect lighting in the ceiling.

A water, sound, and light show orbits above a reflecting pool made from Antique Brown granite expertly fabricated, carved, and tapered in elevation to hold water without waterproofing. The casino, retail, and hotel render the sense of an outdoor mall. Light shining through the glass overhead casts a shadow of foliage on the terrazzo and marble floor, with brass inlays and colorful reliefs. The lobby showcases Golden Spider marble flooring accentuated with Orange travertine inserts.

The private VIP entrance has over 5,000 square feet of Roman travertine matching a wall within the quarry. The lobby showcases flooring of Carrara marble with brass inlays. The hand-made Amalfi Terra cotta's patterns and colors are a backdrop for the live DJ performance. The bar is clad with vein-matched onyx and curves to the bottom of the guitar tower sitting above. The Guitar and pool pavilion, with over 1 million square feet of stone and 1,271 luxury suites, demanded high-end design, crafted from custom book matched onyx, quartzites and mosaics. Each unit was field measured to produce custom dimensions with mosaics from floor to ceiling while maintaining the demanding weekly schedule of over 30,000 square feet of fabricated stone pieces.

### Judges Comments:

A mastery of an incredible amount of stone, all on a radius with different and difficult geometries. With all the variegation in veining and all the wedge-shaped cuts, it takes a certain ability and a long time to make them look right. Craftsmanship and control of the natural stone is incredible. The installer exhibited exceptional execution.







## Public Landscapes/Parks/Memorials

# Fundidora Park Mural

Monterrey, Mexico



### Winning Company

**Creative Edge**   
**Master Shop**  
Fairfield, Iowa  
Stone Fabricator

### Other Project Team Members

**Tomás Güereña**  
Artist

**NuWa Stones**  
Stone Supplier

**Bostik, Inc.**  
Stone Installer

### Stone

**Black granite**  
**Gray basalt**  
**Black basalt**  
**White granite**

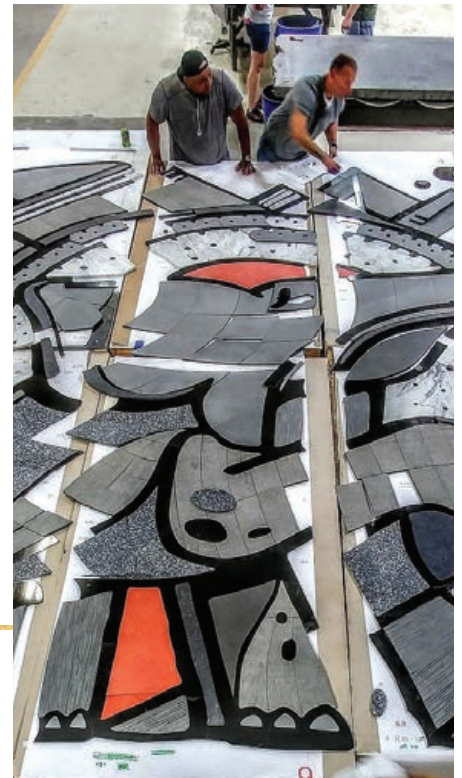
Ten of Mexico's most well-known architectural designers were commissioned to design a unique stone mural for Fundidora Park in Monterrey, Mexico. The park, built on the grounds of what had been a steel foundry, is now where many locals and visitors go to enjoy the many attractions. Bostik, Inc., an international adhesives company, sponsored the competition and along with a panel of judges, selected one out of ten submissions as the Grand Prize mural.

Murals were to be made of natural stone and celebrate the park in a way that would honor its history and attract visitors. Tomás Güereña, an artist who incorporates street art into his style, brought Fundidora's history to life in a 30' x 30' design selected by the panel. Güereña's winning design features four types of natural stone, mainly basalt, each in various textures and colors. Basalt is a dark, finegrained volcanic rock, indigenous to the Monterrey area. Using a variety of stone textures, the pop of color from glazed porcelain and mostly shades of black and gray, the artist skillfully designed a mural that depicts an old steel foundry and preserves its history for others to celebrate. An elephant is featured in the very center, representing the logo for the foundry while it was still in operation. It was important that indigenous rocks be used to accurately represent the history of the area.

Creative Edge took the artist's paper sketch and transformed it into a mural that came to life. Intricate shapes and designs were fabricated using high performing waterjet technology. Throughout the process the fabricator collaborated with the artist to use only the best colors and materials to turn his vision into a reality. Together they were able to create a piece of artwork that the park can be proud of and visitors are excited to learn more about.

### Judges Comments:

An unusual and super different type of stone project with many moving parts. Creating this mural out of stone rather than paint is terrific. It is unusual because of the type of stones used and a variation in jointing should be expected. The quality of the colors and the jointing speak for itself, almost identical to stained glass process.







## Public Landscapes/Parks/Memorials

# Spring Creek Nature Area

Richardson, Texas

### Winning Companies

**Coldspring** 

Cold Spring, Minnesota  
Stone Supplier/Fabricator

**Dee Brown, Inc.** 

Richardson, Texas  
Stone Installer

### Other Project Team Members

**Brad J. Goldberg**

Artist/Designer

**DCBA Landscape Architecture**

Landscape Architect

### Stone

Kenoran Sage granite



With an interest in preserving a rare natural open space within the heart of a dynamic development corridor, the City of Richardson, Texas sought to design two visually enticing entrances for the Spring Creek Nature Area situated near the quick-paced Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Together, the artist and landscape architect envisioned a visually engaging design, viewable from surrounding roadways and development that would complement the beauty of the surrounding nature. The two entrance locations would share common themes, but with independent layouts. Thus, each area would be unique while keeping overall continuity.

The designers felt the park's boundaries needed definition and that some sort of stone sculpture element was needed to draw in visitors while conveying civic pride. It was decided that the sculptures would take on the form of entry portals. Impressive scale was required and Kenoran Sage granite was ultimately chosen for its low maintenance, long lifespan, and ability to convey visual prominence. The artist elected to feature the quarry's drill marks as a textural finish, and to utilize the largest blocks available.

Over 8,250 cubic feet of granite in natural and thermal finishes was used to create the two entry portals, standing at 16 feet tall and 20 feet tall respectively. Stone shipments were orchestrated to allow for elements to be picked from the truck and directly placed. This installation was carried out by an experienced setting crew working alongside the artist. Setting was accomplished by crane, with the heaviest stone being roughly 40,000 pounds. Erection took place over five weeks and was accomplished without breakage. The project was successfully completed in November 2019.

Spring Creek Nature Area's two entry portals now welcome visitors to escape from the urban environment to enjoy a short walk or bike ride and take in the impressive views of Spring Creek.

### Judges Comments:

There is something romantic, and with some difficulty, to cull out and keep the remains of stone cuts. Playing up the drill holes is a nice touch as a use of texture. It softens the face of the stone. We like the massive scale of the stone sculptures and the simplicity of the project as a highly appropriate gateway, marking the entrance to a nature preserve.





## Renovation/Restoration

# Dallas Municipal Building Restoration

Dallas, Texas



"Old Municipal" was designed in the Beaux-arts style and completed in 1914 as Dallas's fourth City Hall. As years past, the building's functions changed while its historical notoriety increased particularly because Lee Harvey Oswald was housed, and later shot there, after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In 2009 it was announced that Old Municipal would become the University of North Texas at Dallas College of Law. But the building's ornate, 100-year old materials would require special restoration methods.

The remediation of the exterior, largely Texas grey granite and Indiana limestone, involved field measurements, cataloguing, patching and crack repair. Damaged pieces were removed and shipped to the fabricator to generate replacements. Varied and sometimes experimental methods of abrasive re-finishing and cleaning were devised to clean or refinish flat, curved, and carved surfaces.

Inside, restoration goals included remediation of historic finishes and re-creation of elements demolished in the 1956 renovation, including the lobby's grand staircase. The interior stone was very dirty. Some was sound, while other stone exhibited cracks or extreme wear. Five types of domestic marble were identified in the building, one of which was no longer quarried. However, 25 blocks were found at that abandoned quarry site, which were shipped and trimmed to determine usefulness. Additionally, where the building's layout was adjusted for the law school, new materials would need to match original selections. Trusted relationships with other quarries allowed extensive discussion about procuring matches of the highest standard for each variety.

The massive, yet elegant ramp and twist on the lobby's grand staircase required careful planning and design, advanced programming of CNC equipment, creative solutions to balance, level, and support the stones for milling, and many hours of hand finishing.

### Judges Comments:

Some missing details that had to be researched, recreated, and impressively restored back to original appearance with excellent workmanship. To reopen a quarry and pull out stone of same color and vein match was remarkable. The balustrade with its purposeful veining and chunky detailing looks to be built from herculean sized stones. We fell in love with the ramp and twist.

## Winning Companies

**Dee Brown, Inc.** 🏆

Richardson, Texas

Stone Installer/Fabricator

**Tennessee Marble Company** 🏆

Friendsville, Tennessee

Stone Supplier/Fabricator

## Other Project Team Members

**Conley Group**

Architexas

**Stantec Architecture, Inc.**

Architects

**Bybee Stone Company** 🏆

Stone Supplier/Fabricator

**AM3 Stone** 🏆

**Gawet Marble & Granite** 🏆

**Vermont Quarries Corporation** 🏆

Stone Suppliers

**Axis Dimensional Stone** 🏆

**Cutting Edge Stone** 🏆

Stone Fabricators

## Stone

**Quaker Gray marble**

**Champlain Black marble**

**Alabama White marble**

**Montclair Striato Danby marble**

**Riverside Light Cloud marble**

**Indiana limestone**







## Renovation/Restoration

# Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

Paterson, New Jersey

### Winning Company

**Ghirardi  
Stone Contracting**  
New York, New York  
Stone Supplier

### Other Project Team Members

**Arthur John Sikula Associates**  
Architect

**Marmi Ghirardi Srl**  
Stone Fabricator

**Aisoni & Co.**  
Stone Installer

### Stone

**Bianco Venatino Gioia marble**  
**Verde Alpi breccia**  
**Repen Classico limestone**



This interior renewal was part of a comprehensive exterior/interior restoration project as a national, state, and municipal designated landmark. The original building was designed by Patrick C. Kiely, a prominent church architect who also designed the Cathedrals of Boston and Chicago. The original building and interior were completed and consecrated in June 1890 and rededicated under the most recent project presented here in 2017, after a previous renovation in 1987.

The original altar, font, and ambo were removed in the 1987 renovation. No other natural stone existed within the interior of the original building. For this design and as the first Italo-American bishop of this Diocese, the Most Rev. Arthur J. Serratelli commissioned the purchase of natural stone mined and fabricated from Italy. The interior of the worship space involved over 16,000 sq. ft. of natural stonework for the pavements. The original building finish floor was wood, so the floor framing needed to be reinforced to stiffen for deflection in accordance with Natural Stone Institute published standards to accommodate the medium setting beds and 24" X 24" X ¾" marble slabs and 1-1/4" stair treads at the platforms. The specified pavements were substantially Bianco Venatino Gioia marble with a border of Verde Alpi breccia and Repen Classico limestone.

All liturgical furnishings were fashioned from solid blocks of the same marbles into neo-Gothic forms using modern CNC and lathe equipment; all decorative frets at the ambo and font were chiseled, finished and polished by hand. The altar mensa is a solid 8" thick, single piece weighing over 4,000 lbs; the ambo base was fashioned from three tiers of equally substantial weight, both of which required challenging solutions for rigging and installation. Its cantilevered basin is large enough to hold an ordained minister and two torch bearers. The font and cathedra are also fashioned of solid pieces of the same natural stone materials.

### Judges Comments:

This new interior has been accessorized with newer and brighter aspects, following a trend in church work that is much like fashion. It added a pop of color and a lot of intricacies that celebrate stone, which is articulated and executed very well. Switching the wooden columns to stone is impressive, especially since significant floor reinforcement was necessary for the extra weight.





## Residential – Single Family

# The Floating Stair

Toronto, Ontario, Canada



### Winning Company

**PICCO Engineering** 

Concord, Ontario, Canada  
Stone Consultant/Fabricator

### Other Project Team Members

**architectsAlliance**

Architect

**Gonmar Trading Co.**

Stone Fabricator/Quarrier

**Precision Stone** 

**York Marble**

Stone Installers

**Webb Yates Engineers**

Stone Consultant

### Stone

**Chinese Black Basalt G684**

No greater compliment of a material is possible than when stone is selected for a historic property renovation within a home rich in tradition and with a celebrated past. This new feature stair addition to a private residence in Toronto, Canada, has an equally compelling story to tell.

Originally envisioned as a wall-supported, cantilevered stone stair, the owner boldly accepted a unique solution for their showpiece element. The 19-tread stair would be designed with 550 lb. solid stone treads, and fully liberated from traditional supports and the adjacent rubble wall. To say, "it would float" is not an exaggeration. The stair would be designed as a monolithic beam spanning 16.5 feet, 10 feet high and 41 inches wide. Aesthetically bold, with a reduced tone from pure black, the basalt stone was the perfect contrast for the white modern interior of the home.

The 3-1/2" tension cables played the most important role by resisting the large bending moment generated by the stone load and stair geometry. Fabrication required precise coordination and care to ensure perfect alignment of the interlocking key, and the corresponding cable holes. The fabrication challenge was achieving the highest level of accuracy in notching, coring, and replicating each tread identically.

Expert precision and skill were key to nesting each tread in sequence and simultaneously with the strands. Meticulous alignment and exacting tolerance assured the true performance and aesthetics were delivered. Hydraulic post-tensioning pulled each cable to 120 kiloNewtons or 27,000 lbs, infusing strength and structural integrity. Removing the temporary support and testing was the last critical step—it was the first time the stone stair would be self-supporting.

The "floating" stair is an ultimate achievement and example of innovation, material strength, fabrication quality, installation precision, and expert coordination. A perfect final chapter to a historical journey and modern ode to stone as structure.

#### Judges Comments:

An engineering masterpiece becomes a unique solution for the addition of this showpiece element, earning high marks for technical merit. The engineering is quite compelling and complex, especially with the use of a tensioning cable system to hold it all together. Stone fabrication required precise coordination and care to ensure cable alignment.







## Residential – Single Family

# SoHo Townhouse

New York, New York

### Winning Company

**ABC Worldwide Stone** 🏆  
Brooklyn, New York  
Stone Supplier

### Other Project Team Members

**Joseph Vance Architects**  
Architect

**BAS Stone NYC**  
New York Stone

**PMI International Stone Importers**  
**Stone Source** 🏆  
Stone Suppliers

**ABR Construction Group**  
Stone Fabricator/Installer

### Stone

Palissandro Ivory marble  
Cipollino marble  
Grey onyx  
Driftwood marble  
Grey Smoke granite  
Super Grey granite  
Travertino Santa Catarina Venato



Formerly the workshop of mid-century artisans, this manufacturing building in NYC's SoHo neighborhood was transformed into an 11,000sf townhouse. The home features a full level spa, two-story living room, six bedrooms, eleven bathrooms, and rooftop addition with pool.

Neighboring buildings were underpinned to lower the cellar to accommodate the spa which features dry stacked stone walls that blend into the swimming pool and hot tub and are featured throughout the entire level. The architect's vision was to have visual recognition that the space was below ground. Thinking about the striations of the earth beneath its surface, he was inspired by the Therme Baths and Spa in Zurich where all the walls are clad with narrow strips of Vals quartzite. After seeing a rendering, the stone supplier advised that only certain stones could survive constant submersion in pool water and the stone should not have the cleft face he had originally imagined due to bacteria issues. Honed, Super Grey granite with white veining was used – the slabs cut into long 3" wide strips installed at random lengths to accentuate the concept of layering as found in the Earth.

The kitchen was designed to feel more like a furnished room to integrate with the family room. The architect addressed this through materials and the design of the over-sized island. The countertop is the only veined stone in the kitchen – a beautiful single slab of Super White marble. The island is clad in mirror-polished stainless steel, transforming it into a beautiful piece of furniture that blends into the space.

A two-story living room with 22' ceilings created a problem of comfortable scale. The key was the fireplace – the strongest vertical element in the room. By using horizontal vein-cut slabs of light-colored Driftwood marble, the scale of the space instantly became more intimate.

### Judges Comments:

Quite an impressive renovation, especially the basement level and spa area, with the excavation that was necessary to achieve the new spaces. The stone selection, finish, and detail of the narrow, coursed stone application that even extended into the pool was interesting. Client and stone installer worked closely to come up with these impressive solutions.





## Residential – Single Family

# Villa Florence

Downey, California



A new home for their growing family prompted owners to construct a seven bedroom – eleven bath, eclectic Italian renaissance-style home, featuring natural stone prominently throughout.

Beginning in the entrance foyer, a diagonal checkerboard pattern of Italian white Carrara and grey Bardiglio marbles trimmed with Bardiglio borders spreads out across the majority of the first floor traveling through corridors and filling the kitchen, dining room, and great room. This paving was installed on traditional drypack mortar beds with tight 1/16" joints. This honed marble paving then transitions into flamed finish Blue Nobile limestone on the exterior. Bardiglio and Carrara marbles used on the interior floor are also on all the counter tops in the kitchen area including a feature island, and the dining room table. Three fireplace surrounds also received natural stone: two with Italian Arabescato Cervaiolo marble, and one with Italian Portoro marble.

All eleven bathrooms in the home are clad in marble, with each uniquely different. Marbles used in these rooms were Piana Carrara, Fior Di Pesco Capria, Grigio Carnico, Arabescato Cervaioli, Nero Marquina, Aliveri Grey, Thassos White, and St. Laurent Noir. Of these eleven bathrooms, one is the showpiece of the residence, the Master Bath.

With its walls clad in Arabescato Cervaioli book matched at key points, and its floor a combination of Arabescato Cervaioli, Aliveri Grey, and Nero Marquina cut into geometric patterns, it surrounds one completely in natural stone. Even the sink interiors are clad in marble.

This home was not originally intended to have as much natural stone in it, but as many do after being exposed to natural stone's beauty, the owners fell in love with it and expanded its presence. Villa Florence is a great example of what can be accomplished with a homeowner who found the passion for natural stone.

### Judges Comments:

Choice of materials and execution are top shelf. A mastery of installation with 1/16" jointing and precise book-match detailing using heavily veined stones. Despite the eclectic and extensive use of natural stones, the project deserves credit for its nod to sustainability in the use of salvage stone repurposed as tiles applied appropriately in smaller rooms of the home.

### Winning Company

**Carnevale & Lohr, Inc.** 

Bell Gardens, California

Stone Supplier/Installer

### Other Project Team Members

**M. Wright Design**  
Designer

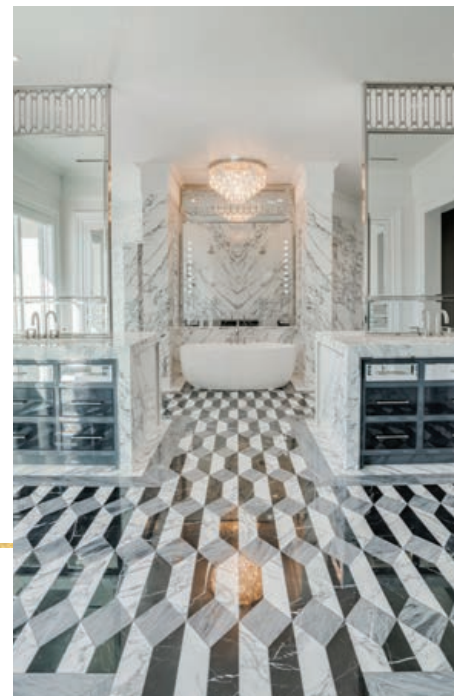
**Manzi Marmi**   
Stone Supplier

**Trade International**   
Stone Consultant

**Custom Building Products**   
Installation Products

### Stone

Carrara White marble  
Bardiglio marble  
Arabescato Cervaiolo marble  
Grigio Carnico marble  
Portoro marble  
Fior Di Pesco Capria marble  
Thassos White marble  
Aliveri Grey marble  
St. Laurent Noir marble  
Nero Marquina marble  
Blue Nobile limestone







## WOMEN IN STONE EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP



**Nicole Renko**

Colorado Custom Stone



Nicole Renko left an uninspiring desk job at an urgent care center for Colorado Custom Stone (CCS), starting as a project coordinator and learning stone basics like sample submittals, material ordering, communication with clients and business partners, reviewing and interpreting cabinet shop drawings and commercial construction drawings, and developing positive partnerships with vendors. The stone industry opened her eyes to a world she never knew existed, complete with camaraderie and the feeling of working as a unit. Nicole became a sponge, soaking up everything she could from colleagues and mentors that have been in this business their entire careers.

Quick promotions immersed Nicole into estimating and project management. These new responsibilities brought challenges that both motivated and prepared her for her next role as commercial estimator. Nicole was now able to interact more directly with customers and be rewarded with experiencing a project from start to finish.

CCS General Manager Ronald Horn describes the commercial segment of the industry as formidable with a demand for a high level of attention, detail, organization and knowledge that Nicole exhibits on a consistent basis. He said: "It is truly exciting to see a person with such drive to learn about the business in general, the target market, applicable geology, technology, technical aspects of fabrication installation and then turn that into the application of her functions within the company."

Today Nicole supervises one staff member and is the lead estimator for the business. Now a mentor to others, Nicole is training and inspiring the next wave of women and emerging stone professionals. "No matter where you are in your current career," she says, "it is never too late to learn and develop new job skills. It is the wonderful mentors in the industry and programs like Women in Stone that make excelling in this industry possible, and I am grateful."

## Awards Ceremony Available On Demand

Thank you to all who joined us for our June 8 virtual awards ceremony celebrating the 2020 Pinnacle Award and Industry Recognition Award recipients. The ceremony is now available to watch on demand via the Natural Stone University. Watching this video qualifies for 1 HSW CEU credit through AIA, LACES, and IDCEC.

**Learn more at [www.naturalstoneinstitute.org/2021awardsceremony](http://www.naturalstoneinstitute.org/2021awardsceremony).**

Thank You to Our Awards Sponsors







# Person of the Year



The Person of the Year award is presented annually to an individual who has provided extensive support to the association's executive team during the year. As a dedicated leader and tireless volunteer, Katie Jensen of Triton Stone Group is a natural choice to be selected as the 2020 Person of the Year.

Katie serves on the Natural Stone Institute's board of directors and was recently asked to join the executive leadership team as secretary for 2021.

Natural Stone Institute CEO Jim Hieb explains why Katie was this year's choice. "She stepped up to help the association overcome obstacles, presented new ideas, and constantly focused on the big picture while inspiring others to do the same."

Her association contributions in 2020 include much more than serving on the board of directors. Katie was instrumental in her company donating stone to multiple Gary Sinise Foundation R.I.S.E. program homes for severely wounded veterans. She also inspired the association to create a natural stone Lookbook to streamline how R.I.S.E. recipients select natural stone for their homes. Katie then personally contacted several quarries to solicit their involvement and contributions to the program.

When asked about her reasons for being so involved, Katie replied: "It is important to give back to the industry. It helps me be more well-rounded. I am able to interact with many different people at many different levels in the industry."

During the early phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, Katie participated in weekly roundtable discussions with industry peers offering insight for the association's executive board and CEO. She served as a mentor in



**Katie Jensen**  
Triton Stone Group

the Women in Stone Mentorship Program and also assisted in key meetings with U.S. Senators addressing legislative issues important to the industry.

Knowing that membership is the lifeblood of any association, Katie deployed the full resources of her company in 2020 to market membership to its suppliers and customers. In that effort, she led all volunteers in recruiting companies to join. She highlights the importance of membership within the Natural Stone Institute by saying: "It's important to connect with those like-minded individuals who are also fabricators, distributors, and suppliers. You're able to learn from one another. There are so many resources that the Natural Stone Institute offers, and really the further that you apply yourself, the more that you are able to enact change and be a better person for your company."

Her long list of 2020 industry involvement includes participating in several educational webinars and offering support to the association's presence at KBIS. She has also provided helpful insight and donations to the Natural Stone Foundation, the charitable arm of the Natural Stone Institute.

Pam Hammond, Executive Assistant to Jim Hieb, worked alongside Katie on several projects and describes her as "someone who has great marketing prowess, is head of 21 locations across the southeastern USA, and mother to 4 children. She's a dynamo!"

In her own words, Katie describes why her commitment to the industry correlates to the success of her company. "It's really not about the dollars and cents. I'll be honest, I truly love what I do. I'm passionate about natural stone."

Congratulations to Katie Jensen, our 2020 Person of the Year.

*"Katie has been a rock star on the Board of Directors. She listens well. Katie sees the big picture and lifts the whole industry."*

Greg Osterhout, Northern Stone Supply

*"Katie's professionalism and dedicated approach is contagious, and she is a great asset to the natural stone industry and furthering the influence of the Natural Stone Institute."*

Blake Christensen, Valley View Granite





# WOMEN IN STONE PIONEER AWARD



In a letter supporting Brie Pfannenbecker for the Women in Stone Pioneer Award, Coldspring's Kathy Spanier described her as an accomplished leader and role model for women in the business world, who represents the spirit of this award in every aspect.

Starting out in their family business as a counter sales representative, Brie was challenged by dealing with some prejudice that a woman selling to contractors and homeowners could encounter. But Brie's knowledge of product and production, along with her strength of character, always persevered.

Brie's knowledge increased and she went on to work in almost every department at Connecticut Stone, always facilitating change in the organization to improve processes and efficiency and stay compliant with evolving government regulations. Today, Brie is Vice President of Operations at the 70-year-old company, proving herself and her capabilities at all times.

Family businesses are more common than not in the stone industry and as such, present a unique set of issues and circumstances in addition to the day to day business at hand. Brie has participated in many roundtable discussions about working in a family business, sharing her insights and perspectives that have helped others, including being a champion advocate for advancing women within the industry and inspiring others to be better.

Paige Gherardi Lamthi of Gherardi & Buttura Granite Artisans gained experiences from Brie through Women in Stone's mentorship program. "Her knowledge and sharing of experiences have helped me identify ways that I can better manage a work/life balance while still feeling like I am doing a good job in both."

Brie has been instrumental in helping to organize and develop the Natural Stone Institute's Women in Stone initiative, serving as the first chair of its Steering Committee.



**Brie Pfannenbecker**  
Connecticut Stone

She has led the charge to establish some of their most successful projects, including a Dress for Success charitable donation, the Empowerment Scholarship, and several live educational events and workshops.

Kathy Spanier credits Brie for providing structure and leadership in developing the Women in Stone program to what it is today. She applauds Brie's commitment: even after she completed her time as chair, she didn't stop serving. She stayed on, helped, and mentored the group.

Brie coordinated many of the WIS events that created greater awareness for the group. With her insight and knowledge of the industry, she developed the Project Model program at Coverings into an innovative way to educate attendees, while also increasing exposure to Natural Stone Institute member companies. By utilizing the exhibition hall before show hours, it allowed uninterrupted access to member experts who demonstrated aspects of finishing and installing stone on a residential project.

Natural Stone Institute CEO Jim Hieb feels it would be difficult to imagine what the Women in Stone program would be like if it hadn't been for Brie's early leadership. "Today there are so many programs that women in the natural stone industry can take advantage of: the mentorship program, the networking, the education. Brie was there from the very start."

Brie continues to be a tireless volunteer and is always the first to raise her hand to help, whether at her children's school, within her business, or for Women in Stone. She continues a passionate and committed dedication to advancing women in the stone industry.

Congratulations to Brie Pfannenbecker, our 2021 Women in Stone Pioneer.

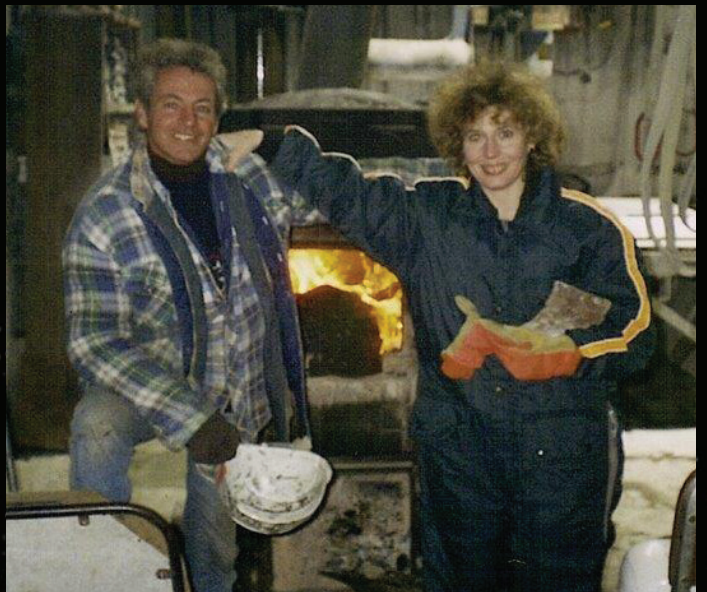
*"Brie is a true advocate of advancing women in the stone industry, and she is a prime example of a woman paving the way for others in the industry."*

*Paige Gherardi Lamthi, Gherardi & Buttura Granite Artisans*

*"As a working mom, she is direct—but calm. As a daughter of a large personality in the industry, Brie has found her own voice and her intelligence and wit have been used diligently to equip women with knowledge in stone; enhance women's self-confidence and self-esteem; and ease the pressure women face."*

*Allyson Humphries, Republic Elite Multifamily Interiors*









## Migliore AWARD FOR Lifetime Achievement

Barbara Cohen has been called many things: a force of nature, a true leader. In a letter nominating Barbara for the 2020 Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement, her colleague Kim Dumais wrote: "There are many individuals who have positively contributed to the success of the Natural Stone Institute and to the natural stone industry. Yet few have done it over the span of several decades as well as her."

Barbara entered the stone industry in the 1970s joining her father Malcolm in the family business then known as Domestic Marble and Stone. Her father was a big inspiration to her. She reflected that he gave her an opportunity to lead "in a time when it was unpopular for a woman to take over ownership of a company, to work in an industry that I love."

As a female in a male dominated industry, Barbara has been a role model for women, in a time when there were so few women in positions of authority or management. She supported people from all walks of life, regardless of where they were from, only wanting to see people who worked with stone do better and to learn from each other by being involved in the association.

During her board service Barbara contributed not only to strategic guidance, but also led the development of the "Color Plate" books and stone reference guides along with providing substantial contributions to the version IV update to the iconic *Dimension Stone Design Manual*. Tennessee Marble Company president Monica Gawet, who served with Barbara on the board, called her a "true leader for all of us in the industry, male or female."

Barbara became president of the MIA in 1998. During her term, she was committed to improving the association's image by striving to have the most inclusive membership possible with the widest net of global representation on the board, so the industry would broaden



**Barbara Cohen**  
Miller Druck  
Specialty Contracting



its opportunities. She was instrumental in improving the association's technical services, particularly as she saw the void that the MIA was not filling to address technical standards in the industry. Barbara worked with Vince Migliore, former MIA Technical Director for whom this lifetime achievement award is named, helping to establish the association as the foremost authority in technical knowledge and assistance.

Barbara herself is a strong technical resource and loves teaching everyone she meets about natural stone. Longtime employee Ismael Garcia affectionately calls Barbara a force of nature and explains her devotion to educating others. "You just need five minutes with her," he says. "One story will turn into three and if you don't learn 20 different things in those 5 minutes, something is wrong with you. You just need to sit and listen and learn."

Barbara has always advocated for opportunities for leadership among women in the industry, even lending her staff support to serve on the Women in Stone Steering Committee and financially supporting the initiative to inspire, empower, and advance hundreds of women in the stone industry. Yet her true legacy will be remembered for the passion with which she talks about natural stone.

"Stone has as much style as the clothes we wear—as the homes we build—as the architects can dream up in their beautiful designs," Barbara said.

Her love of natural stone, leadership philosophy, and contributions to the association now known as the Natural Stone Institute have resulted in significant advancements for the entire industry.

Congratulations to Barbara Cohen, 2020 recipient of the Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement.

*"You have set the standards for excellence in this field. You are tough as nails, uncompromising in technical expertise, but passionate about our industry. You are truly deserving of the Migliore Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations."*

Monica Gawet, Tennessee Marble Company

*"We all love natural stone for its endurance through time, testing and trends. It can with stand great pressure and all the elements and still retain its integrity and natural beauty. Sounds like the definition of Barbara Cohen's leadership and commitment to this industry, doesn't it?"*

Patrick Perus, Polycor, Inc.





# NATURAL STONE

## — FOUNDATION —



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Please visit the website for a complete list of tributes.

[www.naturalstoneinstitute.org/foundation](http://www.naturalstoneinstitute.org/foundation)