2017 PINNACLE AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE
THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ENTERED.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS.
Recognizing Excellence in the Stone Industry

AWARD PAGE

Grande Pinnacle Award ........................................................................................................ 4-5
An exclusive Grand 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 2018 in Verona, Italy for the architect of record for the project.

Pinnacle Awards of Excellence ....................................................................................6-16
Natural Stone Institute’s prestigious Pinnacle Awards honor stone companies around the world for projects that stand out above the rest.

JURY PANEL:
Richard Bertman, FAIA, LEED AP
Principal | CBT Architects, Boston, MA
David Hacin, FAIA
Principal and President | Hacin + Associates, Boston, MA
Craig Copeland, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Senior Associate Principal | Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, New York, NY
David Castellucci
Director of Business Development | Kenneth Castellucci & Associates, Lincoln, RI
Charles J. (Chuck) Muehlbauer
Technical Director | Natural Stone Institute

Natural Stone Scholarship ..............................................................................................19
The Natural Stone Scholarship was established to provide educational opportunities for aspiring fabricators, installers, or administrative apprentices interested in furthering their careers within the natural stone industry. Funds are made possible through the generous donations of Natural Stone Institute members worldwide.

Women in Stone Empowerment Scholarship ..........................................................19
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.

Natural Stone Craftsman of the Year ..........................................................................20-21
The Natural Stone Craftsman of the Year Award is designed to recognize the skilled individuals who 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.

Person of the Year ......................................................................................................... 22-23
The Person of the Year Award is an important annual recognition that has long been part of the Building Stone Institute legacy. 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 Vice President.

Women in Stone Pioneer Award .................................................................................. 24-25
The Women in Stone Pioneer Award recognizes an advocate within the stone industry for their role in recruiting, retaining, and advancing women. The winner’s performance in promoting women should be exemplary, honorable, and inspirational.

Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement .................................................................. 26-27
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.
2017 GRANDE PINNACLE
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

520 W 28th Street Lobby Feature Wall
Port Morris Tile & Marble | Bronx, New York
GRANDE PINNACLE Award of Excellence

Port Morris Tile & Marble  Bronx, New York
Stone Fabricator | Stone Installer

520 W 28th Street
Lobby Feature Wall
New York, New York

Envisioned and designed by late renowned architect Zaha Hadid, the 520 W 28th Street project is a futuristic and upscale residential condominium building developed by New York City real estate firm, Related Companies.

Apart from the stone work in the condominium’s luxurious apartments, the client also commissioned the engineering and execution of an artistic feature stone wall and matching floor design in the lobby area. Artfully carved from Grigio Brasile marble, the wall creates a breathtaking piece of art that expands a dramatic 34 feet across the lobby. This stone was chosen in part due to its highly durable characteristics, as well as its beautiful smoky grey color tones.

The initial phase of the project started with sourcing marble blocks in Greece that were just the right color variations and quantities for the monochromatic design. The next steps involved working closely with Hadid’s team to refine the layouts required to accommodate the sizeable blocks, as well as to allow for proper installation of the large three-dimensional portion of the wall.

From Greece, the stone was shipped to Italy for a highly detailed fabrication process, then carefully transported via airfreight to New York, where the expansive blocks of marble were expertly installed like one big vertical puzzle.

The 520 W 28th Street feature lobby wall project exemplifies unique collaboration of creativity, experience and craftsmanship and is now a standing landmark that represents how an inspired vision combined with skill and engineering can push stone design to the limits.

JURORS’ COMMENTS

“In addition to being a beautiful design, the project’s flawless execution and the careful celebration of the stone’s natural characteristics represented a very high level of achievement.”

“The feature wall in this residential building lobby is art. The characteristics of the marble used is a big part of the success of the execution. One of a kind!”
Award of Excellence | Commercial Interior

Euromarble  Carrara, Italy
Stone Supplier | Stone Fabricator

Brookfield Place Tower 2
Perth, Australia

Brookfield Place Tower 2 is a 16 story office building in the City Square commercial precinct of the Perth Central business district. Its four story central podium links the street frontage at the lower level to the spectacular commercial lobby and public realm of the square. Statuario Venato marble was selected to clad the elevators and lobby core while Nero Zimbabwe granite was used as wall cladding and flooring in the space.

The stone package incorporated intensive client involvement in the sourcing of the stone, especially for the Statuario Venato cladding to the core, which was seen as the focal element of the project. The client, architect, and design managers traveled with the stone supplier to Carrara, Italy to select the three blocks chosen for the core façade, to inspect the stone during processing, and then to ultimately approve the dry lay for the whole façade. Inspection and approval of Nero Zimbabwe leather finished floor tiling and cladding, sourced from Verona, Italy, was also incorporated into this process.

A homogenous stone aesthetic on the outer facades of the core was referred, but no one block was of sufficient mass to provide enough slabs to produce all the cladding. As a solution, an aluminum and fiberglass composite board was fixed to the slabs and then split in a process that provided twice the usable material from this single preferred block.

All slabs were then individually scanned and panelized with each slab typically providing four cladding panels. Careful attention to grain utilization and aesthetics was critical to approval before processing.

An attachment system of Series 316 Stainless Steel was designed to make the connection between the stone/aluminum panels and the stainless steel Unistrut® frame.

OTHER PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

Woods Bagot, Perth Studio
Architect

Marble + Cement Work Group
(Natural Stone Institute Member Company)
Stone Fabricator | Stone Supplier

Antolini Luigi
(Natural Stone Institute Member Company)
Stone Quarrier

STONES

Statuario Venato marble
Nero Zimbabwe granite

JURORS’ COMMENTS

“Every aspect of the quarrying, block selection, slabbing, laminating, cutting to size, anchoring system and installation has been carefully planned, managed and executed with stunning results.”

“The execution of this handsome design has been improved by the creative use of modern technology, utilizing photographic studies.”

www.naturalstoneinstitute.org/awards
Award of Excellence | Commercial Interior

Camarata Masonry Systems Ltd. Houston, Texas
Stone Installer

609 Main Houston, Texas

609 Main is a LEED Platinum, fifty story office building occupying a full city block in the heart of the Houston business district.

The project’s congested downtown location necessitated detailed sequencing and just in time delivery of the material. Camarata Masonry Systems, Ltd. was responsible for the shop drawings, engineering and installation of interior stone cladding, paving and feature panels. All stone was dry laid in Italy, establishing a specific single location for each of the 7,651 pieces of stone.

The architect was focused on atypical angles and their interface with a variety of finishes. The sloping end condition of the 31'-6" tall Moca Cream limestone wall, with its’ ¾" reveal at each course, had to tie in precisely with the sloping glass wall located around the corner. The 11'-3" arrowhead spandrel of Moca Cream limestone that towers 20’ above the lobby floor mirrored the transition of the Aurisina limestone and Lasa Macchia Vecchia marble paving. The attention to angles continues with the antiqued Impala Black granite walls that clad the 50 foot long parallelogram infinity fountain.

Stone “paintings” comprised of Irish Green and Lapis Blue granites; Lasa marble; and Fusion Fire and Azul Macauba quartzites prominently appear as interior artwork panels of book-matched exotic stones that highlight the back walls of the elevator lobbies with their enormous size and precise layout.

In a risky attempt to meet deadlines, two paving installation crews worked simultaneously to meet at the centerline of the revolving door on Main Street, reducing installation by approximately 20 days.

JUROR’S COMMENT
“Quality control over all the material types has resulted in both floors and walls with excellent color/vein consistency.”
OTHER PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP
Architect

Architects 61 Pte Ltd
Project Architect

Tre Emme Import Export S.R.L.
Stone Supplier

Ascon Marble and Granite LLC
(Natural Stone Institute Member Company)
Stone Fabricator

ISCS Independent
Stone Consulting Swiss SA
(Natural Stone Institute Member Company)
Stone Consultant

STONE
Statuario marble

JURORS’ COMMENTS
“A beautifully consistent design using an exquisite marble, successfully implemented through careful planning and skilled workmanship.”
“The installation system was a perfect match for the challenging design requirements.”

Guoco Tower Singapore

Guoco Tower is the tallest structure in Singapore today. Its main lobby is lavishly clad with one of the most exquisite marbles in the world – Statuario. Being one of the most precious varieties found in Italy, its distinctive white with grey veins often results in dramatic, predominate patterns. This magnificent lobby graced by soaring ceilings has all its faces decorated with the stone.

The client preferred a more subtle grey vein pattern, which is rare, and so the task to attain sufficient quantity to complete the project with the short timeline was practically impossible. However, an unconventional method of fabrication and installation was designed to fabricate more than 17,000 square feet and bring the client’s vision to life.

A complex modern production process including the bonding of aluminium honeycomb backing using special glue permitted thin slicing of the Statuario marble slabs that reduced the overall quantity of select slabs needed to procure the specific veining appearance. This project is claimed to be the first one in Singapore done in composite stone panels in such magnitude.

Masonry sourced and meticulously selected blocks from the Italian quarry with the careful attention of the architect and one of the foremost stone inspectors in the industry. The unique vein characteristics required careful fabrication and dry lay sessions in Dubai to ensure that the desired expectations intended were achieved.

A precise method of installation of the vertically inclined composite panels was the greatest challenge. Advanced planning, careful calculations of shop drawings and pre-drilled aluminium brackets specifically designed to affix the panels were all skilfully administered by Masonry and completed in just four months from procurement of stone to final installation.
The Russian Orthodox Spiritual and Cultural Center of Paris
Paris, France

The Russian Orthodox Spiritual and Cultural Center is composed of an Orthodox Cathedral, Parish Center, Elementary School and Cultural Center. Designers chose Massangis limestone for its color, durability and luminosity; and Rocherons marble in a flamed finish for its hardness and mechanical properties, which were perfect for landscaping. Both stones are from the Burgundy region of France.

This innovative contemporary design is the first use of stone in linear bands on a curtain wall in France. The stone is presented in an unprecedented way with facets in a linear form as well as many other forms: slabs, milled, open, half-open, curved, convex or concave, sculpted, grooved, and steps. Both flamed and honed finishes also made it possible to achieve different effects. Nearly 100 templates were drawn and produced.

With each unique piece, it was necessary to create reaming on the side of the profiles to accommodate a stainless-steel insert at the factory. The thirty-five different profiles are composed of 5,555 linear strips of stone, and hang on the metal structure like a coat rack. The structure supports a curtain wall consisting of an alternation of stone and glass.

A versatile profiling machine along with a system to identify, number, and barcode each piece manufactured by number and barcode were created specifically for this project in order to facilitate the fabrication and scheduling of the installation for the handset stone on the project.

The molded profiles were drilled, glued, dowelled, and then attached to two metal plates fixed to the curtain wall. All elements were installed gradually according to their numbers and layouts by means of lateral fixings.

Adapting to the constraints of installation was the biggest challenge including working within the heart of Paris with a lack of space and limited storage areas.
Award of Excellence | Commercial Exterior

**Coldspring** Cold Spring, Minnesota
Stone Supplier | Stone Fabricator | Stone Quarrier

**STONE**
Mesabi Black granite

**JURORS’ COMMENTS**
“Great example of what can happen when new technology and art are applied to natural stone. The images come alive on a canvas of black granite. The entire project is well thought out, engaging and brings a sense of community to the area. Great workmanship, execution and fun!”

“Beautifully crafted and matched across an extensive canvas of stone panels, this team was able to take black granite and make it surprisingly welcoming and playful through the use of a highly detailed and organic design.”

**Boston Children’s Hospital**
Boston, Massachusetts

A “hide and seek” style stone wall greets visitors to Boston Children’s Hospital that provides the backdrop for an intricate design of animals and foliage, which the project’s architect and designer calls “Playful Nature in the City.”

The grain structure and stark grey-black color of the Mesabi Black granite chosen for the 1,200 square foot structure provided a suitable canvas with desired durability and necessary contrast for the project’s engraved art. Mesabi Black granite also reacts well to a variety of finishes, resulting in contrast in color without the need to use different stones.

Coldspring manufactured the intricate dot matrix stenciling and sandblasting process that was used to apply the graphics onto the face of the polished stone. The light portions of the image are recessed slightly by sandblasting and white paint is applied to the stone to give the images dimension.

The art files were converted to a mask that was then applied to the stone and sandblasted. With over 200 pieces of granite, and unique high resolution images on each piece, craftsman had to layout and line up each adjacent piece to check for consistency in scale and halftone patterns on each section and insure that the final graphic image flowed across the entire block.

While other stones were discussed during the design process, the choice to use Mesabi Black granite was never in doubt. Long-term maintenance of the ANSI/NSC373 certified stone is minimal and the art is expected to stand the test of time and delight visitors for many years to come.
Perry World House  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Perry World House is the newest and oldest building at the University of Pennsylvania. The academic building—the new hub for international affairs and global initiatives—merges a historic 19th-century structure with a modern, newly constructed research center with open and flexible spaces. The 17,400-square-foot academic center combines a historic house built in 1851 with a new Renaissance Beige limestone-clad structure. A portion of the original house was salvaged and reconstructed, per historic documentation, and its faux limestone stucco is referenced in the new addition, which is clad inside and out in real limestone.

In addition to the project’s adaptive reuse, the Perry World House is on track to achieve LEED Silver certification with its many sustainable design features, such as the maximization of daylighting, storm water management with a 90 percent capture rate of the average annual rainfall, and use of recycled materials.

Renaissance Beige limestone was ultimately selected because of its flexural strength permitting the use of thinner panels. 1,850 cubic feet was used per its natural formation. Vein-Cut Honed was selected for the façade and roofline, while Cross-Cut Honed was selected for the interior walls and floors. The natural linear grain of this limestone provided unique visual interest that was incorporated into the final design.

The complex form of the structure, combined with the necessary exactitude involved in dealing with large panels of limestone, required an innovative approach to stone engineering. Typical exterior panels were 2” thick and 34” wide but varied in length from 36” to 108”. Several trips to Germany to hand-pick the material ensured consistency of selection. To avoid any potential on-site problems, a multi-team use of several 3D software programs thoroughly managed and verified the early engineering phases, mitigated any error in installation tolerances that could cause scheduling delay and cost.
**Riverside Roundabout**

**Los Angeles, California**

The Riverside Roundabout is the first modern roundabout in Los Angeles and will help control smog and exhaust impacts on surrounding residents. The centerpiece of the roundabout provides an artistic experience through nine egg-shaped stone sculptures constructed of Academy Black granite from California. Measuring 8 to 12 feet tall, the sculptures feature the faces of randomly chosen individuals from the community.

A significant amount of coordination between the architect and granite supplier and fabricator ensured the artistic vision came to life. The granite fabricator and supplier used the designer's electronic files to create the cutting information needed to fabricate the sculptural pieces. The architect's detailed drawings provided piece numbered, assembled egg sculptures. Each piece was laid out into slab form per the design. The granite supplier selected and cut the slabs with CNC cutting equipment to provide full utilization of the slab. Sculpture pieces were then epoxied together per the design drawings.

The roundabout serves as a storm water bio-retention landscape, with the capacity to capture and treat a 10-year rainfall event (500,000 gallons) off an adjacent bridge and roads. The system also includes a 25,000-gallon cistern supplying a water feature as well as a solar tracking photovoltaic system powering irrigation, lighting, and the artwork. A 100-percent-sustainable project, all parts of the granite slabs were used to create the eggs, with the remaining parts of the slab creating a stone border around the roundabout.
Award of Excellence | Residential

3D Stone, Inc  Bloomington, Indiana
Stone Fabricator

V House

V House is the fulfillment of the owner’s lifelong dream of building a Palladian villa that incorporates contemporary touches and seamlessly integrates current technologies and practices. Landscaping ties the house to the setting and provides a multi-level progression from the entry courtyard to the west lawn that features cascading terraced gardens; fountain, pool, sculptures, and stone walls and pyramids.

Limestone’s timelessness and versatility make it a natural fit for a home inspired by history. Its sculptural qualities enhance classical detailing, evident in V House’s entablature, pediments, columns, and mantels. The stone’s cut and color range differentiate the residence’s layers of sophistication; finishes grow more refined moving from the landscape walls to the building’s exteriors and then to the interiors.

The narrow color range of the natural cleft limestone utilized on the buildings is complemented by classical detailing executed in highly refined cut Indiana limestone. Inside, the use of stone extends to floors and the elliptical stair, and culminates with the highest level of detail in the cut marble mantel with a Greek key frieze in the library/dining room at the core of the house. Stone acts as a unifying design element at V House, creating a layered and harmonious transition between interior and exterior spaces. The visual appeal and texture of stone complement a palette of enduring materials, providing an elegant backdrop for antiques, sculptures, artwork, and books.

The entablature, columns, pediments, balustrades and window/door surrounds were all executed in Indiana limestone while paving materials of Pennsylvania bluestone, hand-molded brick, and sandstone cobbles were the perfect choice for the exterior material palette.

Sustainable material choices like slate roofing and 6” stone veneer, along with the construction methods employed, respond to the owners’ request that the house be built to last for three hundred years with minimal maintenance.
**Award of Excellence | Residential**

**Stones and Roses International Co., Ltd.**
Samutprakarn, Thailand

Stone Supplier | Stone Fabricator | Stone Installer

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**OTHER PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS**

Architects 49 House Design
Architect

Enjoy Stone
(Natural Stone Institute Member Company)
Stone Quarrier

Aire Marmores
(Natural Stone Institute Member Company)
Stone Quarrier

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**STONES**

- Ash grey basalt
- Cream limestone

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**JURORS’ COMMENTS**

“Simple lines and forms in the stone work brings tranquility to exterior public spaces. A modern design that the stone work blends with seamlessly. Excellent use of the stone.”

“This striking and minimalist residential design presents a powerful juxtaposition of cut stone and concrete with a clear understanding of how light and mass can be used to highlight these material choices to dramatic effect.”

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**Baan Phetkasem** Thailand

Owned by a young entrepreneur, this residence is all about space: simple shapes and extra high ceilings. The external façade features a Cream limestone in large panels which contrasts with the exposed concrete main façade. The interior features a large staircase clad with Ash grey basalt. This is the main feature of the house: a staircase to heaven. The staircase leads to a mezzanine floor which allows the ceiling height to extend further up to the second floor. The handrail is detailed to include an LED lighting strip which illuminates the staircase, letting it stand out in this large space. A long skylight opening brings in natural light to the staircase side wall.

The color of the basalt reacts to the light in an array of shades from black to light grey, and the outline of the staircase cuts the light creating shadows and highlights in dramatic graphic shapes. Basalt provides an obvious sense of nature and minimalist serenity. At the top of the staircase, basalt walls connect with roughly textured wood wall panels and wood flooring. These two natural materials magically blend to produce a sense of perfection despite their organic existence, making this staircase and stairwell a true piece of art. Basalt is one of the most difficult stone materials to work with and for this project, required factory dry laying to obtain a harmonious color transition and smooth surface.
Recreation Pier Baltimore
Baltimore, Maryland

Sagamore Pendry Baltimore is a luxury 128 room, adaptive-reuse and over-water hotel in the heart of the Fells Point neighborhood in Baltimore. The head house formally known as the Recreation Pier is an iconic landmark brick Beaux Arts building.

The Recreation Pier was originally built in 1914 as a commercial pier. It also had recreation facilities, including a ballroom that served for decades as a meeting place for young people from the Point’s many ethnic groups until it finally closed down in 1937.

The plans for the hotel proposed building a first-floor pool on the edge of the pier, adding a restaurant and whiskey bar, and providing a boat docking facility. The interior was restored under the designer’s watchful eye and vision. The vision would be to “celebrate the architecture of the building and preserve as much of it as possible and to glamorize its industrial past, as well as balance a lot of the old with new elements.”

Based on its history and original design, natural stone was a perquisite to celebrating the building’s longevity and promising a sound future. The 12” high marble baseboards along with the full book matched walls offer a stunning background for the elegant bathtubs, full slab marble showers and high ceilings with views from every window. Other furniture pieces were adorned with stone to integrate them into the architecture and history of the building and surrounding area.

The public spaces relied heavily on natural stone creating hallways, lobbies and flooring in bars and restaurants. Again, the designer relied on stone because of its grandeur and appropriateness for the historical building as well as its reliability, performance over time and sense of permanence.
**Award of Excellence | Renovation/Restoration**

**H. E. Satterwhite** Richmond, Virginia  
Stone Fabricator

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**OTHER PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS**

VMDO Architects  
Architect

Waterstreet Studio  
Landscape Architect

Buckingham Slate Company  
Stone Supplier

M3 Marshall Contracting & Masonry  
Stone Installer

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**STONES**  
Buckingham slate

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**JURORS’ COMMENTS**

“The slate material has been employed and tailored in a thoughtful, caring and attentive way. The slate has been imaginatively utilized, and expertly crafted and installed to meet a variety of uses such as benches, shingle walls, paving, and even crushed as a landscape material.”

“The stone work... is the thread that ties the entire campus together.”

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**Buckingham County Primary & Elementary Schools at the Carter G. Woodson Education Complex**  
Dillwyn, Virginia

The Buckingham slate selected for Buckingham County’s newly renovated and restored primary and elementary school campus serves to tell children the story of Buckingham County’s cultural history, geological past, and sustainable future.

The project recognizes the positive social, ecological, and economic benefits of reusing local sites and structures and the durable, hand-crafted stone reinforced this mission to specify materials that would support a community setting for decades to come. This commitment to reinvestment also supported an increase in space utilization through consolidation and an aim to promote healthy living to its students.

Select demolition, renovation, and new construction on two former school sites led to the creation of a “one school” complex with the center of the campus as shared, communal learning spaces around an outdoor piazza featuring Buckingham slate and stone.

Indoors, the stone appears prominently in large gathering spaces – such as in the Community Commons and monumental stair – reaffirming the community’s connection to its natural context. Outdoors, a rain screen cladding system with custom slate shingles emphasizes the sculptural qualities of the architecture. Another unique use of the slate is found in the slate-lined storm water conveyance channel cutting through the entry plaza. The channel visibly measures the size of storms, allowing students to understand the occurrence and volume of water, associated with each storm event and apply real-world skills to natural contexts.

The design team worked with key stakeholders, scientists, and a pediatrician to set goals for health and well-being that would integrate healthy eating, food stewardship, and physical activity to seamlessly become part of the school day. Buckingham slate plays an important role in enlivening the children’s everyday landscape serving the architecture and learning curriculum equally well through large expressions like benches, shingles, counters, and honed tiles, as well as smaller instances of stacked stone.
2017
INDIVIDUAL AWARD
RECIPIENTS

NATURAL STONE SCHOLARSHIP
WOMEN IN STONE EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP
NATURAL STONE CRAFTSMAN OF THE YEAR
PERSON OF THE YEAR
WOMEN IN STONE PIONEER AWARD
MIGLIORE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
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TEXAS STONE QUARRIES
Lucja Lawniczak first experienced the natural stone industry while working as a video producer for a local stone fabricator seeking to create a promotional video. With a strong appreciation for arts and aesthetics she was immediately taken by the beauty of stone and left that day in awe of its fabrication process. In her words: “For the first time that day I got to see slabs of pure beauty being lifted and placed gently on a table, to allow for smooth cuts through Earth’s most durable materials. To me, the jingle of the saw sounded sweet, and the finished product, polished to perfection, seemed like the most tangible of all rewards.” She immediately began looking for a position in the field and joined Illinois Granite & Marble in 2016.

Applying her ambitious demeanor with an eagerness to learn, Lucja has been assisting clients from initial design ideas through material selection, and all the way through to the end of their finished projects. She strives to learn the qualities of the different stone materials by watching the skilled technicians around her. With the help of her employer, she has surrounded herself with a network of people who have the knowledge she craves and are generous to share it with her.

In a letter supporting her application, Tom Waclawski, President of IGM, said this: “Lucja is eager to learn and able to apply new skills and knowledge in terms of efficiency and creativity. We are honored to have her on our team and I believe that the natural stone industry will continue to bloom in the hands of such people.”

Lucja believes the industry holds great potential and looks forward to introducing herself to “co-industrials” at TISE.

Amy Petersen grew up near a granite quarry but never considered a career in stone. She pursued an education in Architectural Design/Drafting and Design and Visualization that led her to various creative positions revolving around interior design, but none felt right. Now, as Director of Marketing, Sales and Design for a stone and tile retailer, she enjoys the opportunities to see raw materials, stone slabs, and tiles enhance the design of a home’s interior structure with a new world of colors, textures and natural materials that were a far cry from the single quarry resource she knew from her childhood. She has only worked in the natural stone industry for three years, but after just one year at Stoneville USA she is already making impressions with her professionalism and commitment to this industry. One of her main roles is training and educating designers and architects about the company’s various surface materials. Her short range goal is to become a Natural Stone Institute certified CEU speaker so she can host continuing education classes at the various Stoneville locations.

In a letter supporting her application, Stoneville USA President Ravi Raj said: “Amy is the ideal winner of this scholarship – a born leader who is innovative, creative, and inspiring. I have confidence Amy will represent the Natural Stone Institute with the same professionalism and experience that she brings to Stoneville.”

Petersen reflected on how winning the Women in Stone Empowerment Scholarship will give her the chance to expand her technical and practical knowledge of stone to deepen her commitment in the industry, writing: “I believe education is the key to empowerment and I want to give that gift of knowledge back to other women and aspiring professionals.”
NATURAL STONE 
CRAFTSMAN OF THE YEAR 
DAVID UNGER
While the innate beauty and durability of natural stone is what attracts customers to our products, there is nothing more important than dedicated craftsmanship to get the most out of nature’s oldest building material. The Craftsman of the Year award was established to annually recognize a single individual whose body of work in the natural stone industry stands out above all else.

The 2017 Craftsman of the Year is David Unger, a 19-year veteran of Dee Brown, Inc.

Unger’s first experience with stone occurred over 50 years ago, when he helped his father face a fireplace. His first thought at seeing the roughed in fireplace was that it wasn’t too attractive. At the time he was 13 or 14 and he remembers rocks that looked gray. “They didn’t look like much, but then he started splitting them, and we saw the colors come out of the rocks,” Unger recalls. “He put together kind of a masterpiece, for the time, and that’s what got my interest. The rocks aren’t what we foresee them.”

Growing up, Unger learned to shape limestone with a hammer and chisel and knew first-hand what rock mining was like. His father was after all a bricklayer and mason, so after exploring various provinces in Canada working jobs in other trades, he longed for some stability and decided masonry was the fall back he could rely on. A successful apprenticeship as a bricklayer led to restoration work and fireplaces made from ready available fieldstones. He worked for a time with his father in Southern Alberta where they established a good portfolio of work, had good regular customers and skilled help, and Unger felt it was time to move on.

In 1999, Unger joined Dallas-based Dee Brown, Inc. as a foreman. He quickly was recruited for the fabrication plant where odd job requests for custom stone fabrication, and back-up support project problem-solving became common work. In those early days, Unger was at times the only one in the plant and as they grew, he was the one who trained new hires – a couple who have been with him for a long time now.

“I’ve learned too, from other tradesmen,” Unger admits. “They said you’re not a journeyman if you don’t share it. And too, in sharing, there’s some times you get feedback. That way, too, you’ll find that you’re never done learning either, because you’ll learn from others, always.”

In his position Unger is used to being in the background. He and his crew often produce a job that goes out, gets installed, but they never see it finished. They have produced stone for some of the finest residences in Dallas, and provided backup support for such notable projects as Cowboy Stadium and the American Airlines Arena. Unger attributes his own success to the good crew in the plant. He expects from them that the work will be a bit better than what a client would expect. That’s his goal. If there are any surprises, it’s that it’s even better than the crew expected.

Unger takes great pride in the fact that Dee Brown has earned Accreditation. Reflecting on this award, he commented: “I hope to pass on as much as possible what I have learned through my career. It’s the responsibility of a tradesman/craftsman to train successors. I enjoy and take pride in my work and feel blessed with the direction my life and career have taken. This isn’t my whole story—I’m not finished yet.”
PERSON OF THE YEAR
DAVID CASTELLUCCI
Natural Stone Institute Person of the Year
David Castellucci
Kenneth Castellucci & Associates, Inc.

The Person of the Year award is presented annually to the one person who provided extensive support to the association's executive staff during the year. The sixth generation in a stone business family, with over 40 years of his own experience, including steady involvement in both the BSI and MIA, David Castellucci is a natural choice to be selected as MIA+BSI's 2017 Person of the Year.

If you explore the definition of a “super volunteer”, there is no doubt that the name David Castellucci will be featured. Executive Vice President Jane Bennett highlighted David's involvement during the 2-year MIA+BSI joint venture, “David is a dedicated leader for the association and the industry. No one devoted more hours to key committees and initiatives.”

David, and BSI 2016 President Aaron Hicken, assumed inaugural roles as dual association president coordinating integration of the organizations during the first year of the joint venture. This required countless calls, numerous meetings and dozens of emails that were above and beyond the normal presidential call of duty. There were of course many other volunteers who stood by his side during this challenging time, but David showed exceptional commitment to leadership and conviction to make the merger a reality.

Following MIA tradition, David served as chair of the 2017 Pinnacle Awards jury, a role that Bennett fully admired. “David did an AMAZING job leading the jury”, she reported. “I was so impressed by the way he had obviously studied each project and thoughtfully summarized each to the jury. This was exemplary and invaluable as it kept us informed and on task. I had never seen any juror take such responsibility to understand each project so thoroughly. David seemed to thrive on this.”

Additionally, in the past two years, he served in the following capacities:
• Chair of the Board Nomination Committee
• Chair of the Branding Committee
• Trade show delegate to the Xiamen Stone Fair, Middle East Stone Show, Marmomac, Vitoria Stone Fair, and Carrara Stone Fair
• Speaker at Coverings and StonExpo
• Advisor to the New England Chapter
• 2017 TISE, Annual Convention and Study Tour supporter
• Legislative delegate to Washington DC to assist with industry promotional efforts

BSI 2017 President Daniel Wood, Lurvey Supply, worked alongside David and commented, “At every turn David was there leading and contributing. He was tireless in his encouragement of what we could become by joining forces.” MIA President Jon Lancto, Big Fish Consulting, shared this in his praise for David, “every time we needed help on a key initiative, David volunteered to assist and lead.”

Coldspring’s Dan Rea referred to David as a “road warrior” referencing David’s willingness to represent the association at key industry events and trade shows. He commented, “David loves the member engagement and has been instrumental in advancing several industry initiatives during his travels.” When a family emergency impacted the travel of one key staff member, David assumed a temporary staff role to lead a delegation to the Middle East Stone Fair. Yet the embodiment of this award is the manner in which the volunteer contributed to the association’s executive staff team. CEO Jim Hieb summed it up when he said, “David provided Jane and me with constant advice, encouragement, and feedback. He was a tremendous mentor constantly challenging us.” Jane Bennett agreed, “David made a difference and is a role model for how a key volunteer can support the association staff.”

In fitting form, David isn’t done contributing. He will join several other industry volunteers on a trade delegation to the IZMIR Stone Fair (Turkey) in 2018. This is the first association visit to this fair in several years.
WOMEN IN STONE PIONEER AWARD
KATHY SPANIER
Women in Stone Pioneer Award

Kathy Spanier
Coldspring

Kathy Spanier was recently honored with the 2016 Person of the Year award that, among other achievements, highlighted her dedication to the development of Natural Stone Council’s sustainability standard for natural dimension stone - NSC373. As the 2018 recipient of Women in Stone’s Pioneer Award, Kathy continues to be outstanding in her field.

For more than a decade, Kathy, director of marketing for Coldspring, has made a powerful impact on the natural stone industry with her tireless efforts to position natural stone as a sustainable product within the building industry, and for her vision and leadership in creating a mentorship program to elevate women in the stone industry. Getting involved is not a new concept to Spanier. Over the course of her 35-year marketing career she has continually assumed leadership roles in a number of industry associations.

Kathy reflects on her own role in the Women in Stone program as a way to share her leadership experience with other women that helps foster and mentor their success in the industry. “It’s a beautiful industry,” she said. “There’s so much collaboration and networking, and having somebody help them and mentor them, again, it’s a great network of people. I’ve met many more people after getting involved in the Women in Stone program.”

Brenda Edwards of TexaStone Quarries and recipient of the first Women in Stone Pioneer Award shares this about Kathy’s most recent accomplishments: “She has chaired the Sustainability Committee for the NSC373 standard, and gone far beyond the call of duty for that. She has also chaired the mentorship program for Women in Stone, and she’s absolutely wonderful.”

2017 BSI President Daniel Wood, Lurvey Supply, who has been active as a Sustainability Standard educator to the design community said, “Kathy has been quite a champion with sustainability efforts with stone and getting it positioned within all the green rating programs and our NSC373 standard, we truly could not be where we are without Kathy and her efforts.”

Jane Bennett, Executive Vice President of the Natural Stone Institute, agrees: “She just took charge, and she made that happen for us. That in itself is being a pioneer for the industry. Her leadership efforts were critical in advancing the standard.”

The natural stone industry is blessed with many talented women business owners and managers, but there is no doubt Kathy Spanier is one of the best of the best.

Dan Rea, Senior Vice President of Sales at Coldspring, concluded: “It’s hard for me to think of anyone more deserving than Kathy for this prestigious award. I’ve known Kathy for quite a few years and am blessed to be able to work with her and her dedication, her devotion, and her tireless energy for the industry and the people around here. It’s just been amazing. So congratulations Kathy.”
MIGLIORE AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

JIM HOGAN
Praise comes easily from the peers of Jim Hogan, who is the 2017 recipient of the Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement.

By the time Hogan started his career in the stone industry in 1985, he had already honed his leadership skills as a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. During an 11-year career as an airborne ranger in Special Forces for the U. S. Army, he rose to the impressive rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Hogan applied his engineering degree to his job at Carrara Marble Company of America in southern California and worked his way up the ranks there. His management helped grow the business into a powerhouse of the stone industry, now primarily involved in large scale commercial projects. Today, he is senior vice president, co-owner and a member of the board of directors of the company whose works are showcases for excellence in natural stone work wherever they are located.

Hogan began his service on the board of directors of the Marble Institute of America in 2002 and served as its president in 2008. He made his work within MIA a priority and took on his responsibilities as President with the same enthusiasm and thoughtful management as his business affairs at Carrara Marble Company of America. As president, Hogan was greeted by perhaps the greatest crisis in the history of the modern natural stone industry - the radon controversy. He rose to the occasion, working nearly full time with MIA staff to lead efforts to fight back against false claims regarding radon emissions in natural stone.

A 2008 article in Stone World magazine highlighted Hogan’s understanding of the gravity of this attack:

“The misinformation campaign is driven through front groups that purport to be consumer advocates, but are merely trying to create consumer fears about natural stone. We must aggressively fight the unfounded fear mongering to reassure the public. It is important that we have all the legal, technical, public relations and marketing/advertising tools we need to protect the good name of granite and reassure consumers that granite is as safe as it is beautiful, durable and practical...”

Hogan’s contributions to the natural stone industry have been immeasurable. His insights and understanding of the global stone industry, along with his contacts and prestige within the domestic commercial arena, have helped advance the work of the association within the architectural and residential construction disciplines. He has pushed forward ideas to develop standards that would position natural stone as a consistent product to architects, developers, owners, and general contractors. His goal is to ensure there is a conformance to established standards and a dialogue that people in the stone industry are working together. Despite the competition among stone companies, Hogan believes in the importance of working together for the good of the industry.

Long after the radon crisis, Hogan continues to contribute to the industry in countless ways, including reviewing technical papers and traveling to Washington DC for legislative visits on Capitol Hill. Jim Hogan has been a true leader in the natural stone industry from the beginning of his career, and is an ideal individual to receive the 2017 Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement.