



MARBLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA 2010 AWARDS



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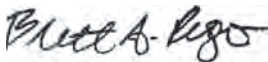


One of the annual highlights of the Marble Institute of America is its Awards Luncheon held at StonExpo. It is here that the past blends with the future as we present an array of awards that range from the Pinnacle Awards competition to the Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement, which honors an individual for a lifetime of work on behalf of the association and the industry.

We also present the “National Stone Craftsman of the Year Award,” introduced in 2009 to honor an individual who has demonstrated a life-long passion for creativity and quality in producing excellent stone projects. In addition, the Natural Stone Scholarship award is presented to a young member who demonstrates a passion for learning and seeks to expand his or her career in the natural stone industry.

I am pleased that each year, our signature Pinnacle Awards competition grows in stature around the world, especially with the addition of the Grande Pinnacle Award, which is presented to the top overall project. Not only has the competition grown in stature, but in the toughness of the competition. Those who enter now know the amount of recognition received from winning an award. In this brochure, you’ll find all the winners of the various competitions. It may also serve as a stimulus for you to enter the competition next year.

Join me in congratulating all of our winners and to thank our three sponsors, Marmomacc for the Grande Pinnacle Award, MAPEI for the MIA Pinnacle Awards program, and Campolonghi Italia for its sponsorship of the MIA Natural Stone Craftsmanship of the Year Award.



Brett S. Rugo
2010 MIA President
Rugo Stone LLC, Natural Stone & Mosaic Contractors

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Thank you to our sponsors



Pinnacle Award

The Marble Institute of America's prestigious Pinnacle Awards honor stone companies around the world for projects that clearly stand out above the rest. The Pinnacle Awards competition drew a record number of entries in 2010 and at the same time presented the largest number of awards in its many-year history.



Judging the numerous entries was a challenging task. The four-judge panel had many spirited discussions as they reviewed entries and determined the winners of the various categories – residential, commercial and renovation. The final selection was for the top overall project to receive the coveted Grande Pinnacle Award, sponsored by Marmomacc, the world's most important stone show, held in Verona, Italy.

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

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

This year the MIA sought to identify and award a project, in one of the categories, that demonstrates environmental responsiveness and successful resolution of sustainability goals.

Thanks to our Pinnacle Awards sponsors:



2010 Pinnacle Awards Judges:

Mr. Christian R. Pongratz

Pongratz Perbellini Architects
VRooMSTUDIO
Via d.a. tridentina 9
37057 s.g.l. Verona, Italy

Mr. John Cook, FAIA

Vice President
HGA Architects and Engineers
701 Washington Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Edward Farr

Edward Farr Architects Inc.
7710 Golden Triangle Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Guido Gliori

Immediate MIA Past President
Grazzini Brothers & Company
1175 Eagan Industrial Road
Eagan, MN 55121



Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement



The Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement was established in 2003 to recognize an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the natural stone industry and the Marble Institute of America. The award is named for MIA's long-time Technical Director, the late Vincent R. Migliore, who was the first recipient. The 2010 award winner was chosen by the MIA Board of Directors from nominations submitted by the MIA membership.

Natural Stone Craftsman of the Year



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

The 2010 award winner was chosen by a panel of 6 past presidents of the MIA.

Thanks to our sponsor:



Natural Stone Scholarship Award



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

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

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



Grande Pinnacle Award

SPONSORED BY
MARMOMACC



Fortaleza Hall and Commons Building Racine, WI

Located on the SC Johnson Global headquarters in Racine, Wisconsin, the project creates companion buildings: Fortaleza Hall, which provides a permanent home for the replica Carnauba and conveys the story of H.F. Johnson, Jr.'s flight; and the Commons, which gives the campus a new social heart. Fortaleza Hall and the Commons were built by the SC Johnson Family as a tribute to the late SC Johnson leader Sam Johnson and his father, H.F. Johnson, Jr.

Mankato Kasota Stone's goal was to achieve the design and aesthetic intent of the architects using dolomitic limestone. Color was a critical piece in the decision making process, along with creating the radius design of the project. Both played an integral part in achieving some resemblance to the Frank Lloyd Wright building on the SC Johnson Campus. Mankato Kasota Stone used the same quarry for this project as Frank Lloyd Wright did for the copings on his Administration Building. The architectural team wanted to honor and incorporate Wright's design principles, such as bull-nosed curves on the end of the building, while still maintaining a modern design.

The Commons, a solid looking building, has a stone mass that curves around to envelope the east side of the glass pavilion. In contrast to Fortaleza Hall's open design, the Commons is constructed with solid Kasota stone walls and forms a visual separateness to the steel and glass structure of the hall.

MIA Member Company:

Mankato Kasota Stone, Inc.

Mankato, MN

Stone Supplier

Stone Fabricator

Other Project Team Members:

SC Johnson

Client

Foster + Partners

Architect

A. Epstein & Sons

Architect of Record

Gilbane Building Company

General Contractor

Arteaga Construction

Stone Installer

Stone:

Dolomitic Limestone

Kasota Rose Blend







MIA Member Company:

TexaStone Quarries

Garden City, TX

Stone Supplier

Other Project Team Members:

Patrinely Group, LLC

Owner

Gensler

Design Firm

Clark Condon Associates

Landscape Architect

Pape Dawson Engineers, Inc.

Civil Engineer

D.E. Harvey Builders

General Contractor

American Stone Company

of Texas, LP

Stone Installer

Stone:

Texas Pearl Limestone

Texas Hadrian Limestone

Permian Sea Coral Limestone

Breche Oriental Marble

Tesoro Headquarters

San Antonio, TX

Tesoro's new corporate campus headquarters is located on a 40-acre wooded site in the hills north of downtown San Antonio, TX. The facility includes 600,000 square feet of office space divided between two buildings; a 14-story mid-rise and a 6 story low-rise.

The design team focused on creating a new, iconic presence for Tesoro, while remaining respectful of the landscape. To this end, the team chose to use local Texas materials to both reinforce the regional flavor and target a sustainable design goal of LEED Silver certification.

Native Texas Pearl limestone highlights major architectural features on both the exterior and interior of the project. A limestone structure forms the main "Stonehenge" entrance and leads into the grand double-height lobby that connects the two buildings. Also accented in limestone are the employee entrance from the outdoor courtyard and a dramatic "architectural slot" that extends 14 stories high along the building's side and is visible from the highway. A stunning three-level monumental stair is one of the campus' most spectacular design features, with an elliptical shape to mimic the curves of the building, Ribbon Sapele wood panels, Permian Sea Coral limestone floors, glass and stainless steel handrails, and custom glass treads that are lit from within.



MIA Member Company:

**Stones and Roses
International Co. Ltd.**

Bangpla Bangplee,
Samutprakam, Thailand
*Stone Supplier
Stone Fabricator
Stone Installer*

Other Project Team Members:

**Mr. Gabriel Cardona
Mr. Paitoon Arunrat**
Client

Mr. Martin Palleros-Tierra Design
Architect

S. Charoenthongkiat Ltd. Part.
General Contractor

Stone:

Black Slate
Volcanic Grey Basalt
Limestone



Villa Mayavee Phuket, Thailand

Interpreting the traditional typology of Thai residences; with separate pavilions but having a unity as a whole, the 4-level building forms a Z shape with a guest wing and master wing connected by the elevated living room.

The exterior stonework contributes to creating a sense of unity: the forecourt and drop-off paved with black slate leading to a large reflection pond that is paved and clad with the same stone. The reflection pond shadowed by the living space forms a threshold between the forecourt and the expanse of the ocean. Large slabs of black slate pave the walkways. Volcanic grey basalt clad walls with their expressive horizontal pointing (worked by alternating 2 different textures of the same material) pay homage to the clarity of the horizon. The main feature wall is 35m long and is capped by the basalt clad water feature of the 4th floor Jacuzzi.

The interior stonework also plays an important role in creating this sense of unity: the warm limestone flooring runs across the building and connects all areas through a set of terraces, corridors and staircases. At the centre is the elevated living room a 35 x 11m large rectangular area paved with large slabs (900 x 900mm) of warm honed limestone. The limestone paving connects to terraces paved with the same limestone in a rougher texture and then continues through the staircases and corridors into the guest wing and the master wing.



MIA Member Companies:

KEPCO+

Salt Lake City, UT
Stone Installer

Valders Stone & Marble, Inc.

Valders, WI
Stone Supplier, Stone Fabricator

Vytek Laser System

Fitchburg, MA
Stone Etching

Decoro Art Stone

West Jordan, UT
Stone Etching

Other Project Team Members:

O.C. Tanner Company

Client

MJSA Architects

Architect

Big-D Construction

General Contractor

Caffall Tile, Child Enterprises

Millcreek Tile and Stone
Stone Installer

Stone:

Valders Buff Dolomitic Limestone
Valders Dovewhite Dolomitic Limestone
Heber Red Sandstone

O.C. Tanner Flagship Jewelry Store Salt Lake City, UT

In 2008, the O.C. Tanner Company purchased a vacant Salt Lake City landmark and committed to restoring it to its original grandeur. The 18-month renovation of the historic gem culminated with the grand opening of the O.C. Tanner Flagship Jewelry Store. Originally built as a book depository in 1905, the building was later converted into the city's planetarium. The reconstruction included the removal of a brick addition, cleaning and restoration of the historic limestone cladding, and installation of an innovative new limestone façade. Mammoth slabs of Valders Dolomitic limestone were laser engraved to literally reflect the building's history. The three-story masterpiece includes a scene from the city library at the bottom, a starry galaxy to represent the building's days as a planetarium at the top, and a portrait of O.C. Tanner symbolically unites the images in the center. The resulting entrance worked to achieve a tasteful, yet subtle, merging of past and present. Teamwork and the coordinated efforts of several MIA Members helped to complete this breathtaking exterior, which is currently the largest stone engraving project of its kind in the world. Limestone flooring, patterned inlays, and a flowing spiral stone staircase compliment the elegant finishes of the store's interior.



MIA Member Company:

Las Vegas Rock Inc.

Jean, NV

Stone Supplier

Stone Fabricator

Other Project Team Members:

**Carrara Marble Company
of America, Inc.**

(MIA Member)

Client, Stone Installer

Peli Clark Peli

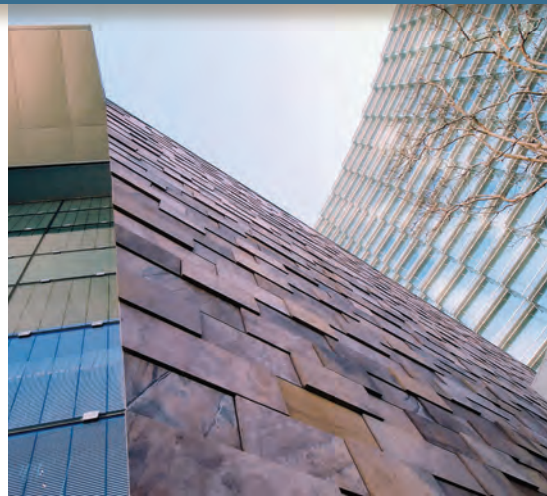
Architect/Designer

Perini Building Company

General Contractor

Stone:

Meta-Quartzite



MGM City Center Aria Las Vegas, NV

The City Center Project was awarded LEED Gold Certification by the USBGC, the highest level of LEED achievement given to any hotel in Las Vegas. The material supplied by Las Vegas Rock helped obtain this certification with its Cradle Silver Certified status as a sustainable manufacturer of stone. The Aria Resort & Casino, a venue in the City Center project, is where the prominent use of Las Vegas Rock's meta-quartzite stone is on showcase.

Approximately 70,000 square feet of stone was used on this building. Pieces of the project range from 9"x 12" to 96"x 60", and were processed over a 20-month timeframe. All cuts were made within a tolerance of 1mm. The spa tower features 2' x 5' modular panels of the meta-quartzite with a honed face and a custom split-face accent band. Approximately 5,000 square feet of randomly placed 3, 5, 7cm stone pieces make up the VIP entrance wall. This "mosaic" pattern which utilizes panels of varying thickness, gives the wall a three dimensional architectural relief that is extraordinary and welcomes the resorts most distinguished guests. The overall response to the stone at the Aria resort has been overwhelmingly positive.

MIA Member Company:

TexaStone Quarries

Garden City, TX

Stone Supplier

Other Project Team Members:

Holzman Moss Architecture

Design Architect

Hunt Construction

General Contractor

Wiginton Hooker Jeffrey Architects

Architect of Record

Newman Jackson Bieberstein

Landscape Architect

Stone:

TexaStone Pink Limestone

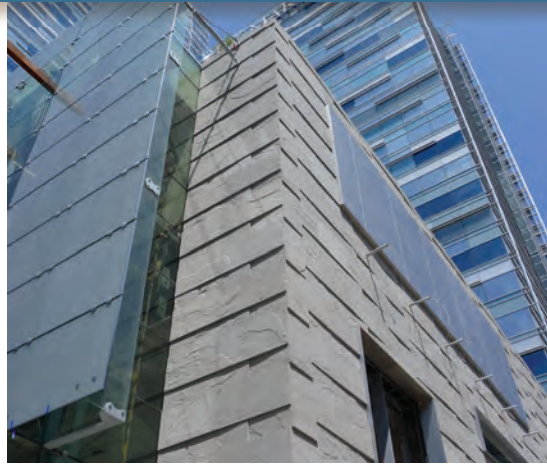


Cedar Hill Government Center Cedar Hill, TX

For the first time in Texas history, three community functions are housed under one roof. The Cedar Hill Government Center houses city hall, the police department and the administrative offices of the independent school district. This unique assembly of activities was generated for public convenience, economy of operations, and greater construction value. The effective use of public space motivated this unique assembly of activities.

TexaStone Pink, a rose colored limestone, wraps each of the three major structures facing Uptown Boulevard. One building contains the administrative spaces for the school district, one the City Hall, and the third the Police Department. The sense of permanence associated with older Texas civic structures is heightened by the use of 40,000 square feet of limestone applied in four patterns; six course sizes and three finishes. The erection of varied combinations provides articulated surfaces in the strong Texas sunlight. Smooth sawn blocks form a continuous stepped five-foot band along the top of the three structures, which rusticated blocks form the building's base. In between, ashlar patterned blocks form a field with random placement of larger blocks, belt courses and special windowsill units. Large vertical windows regularly punctuate the stone. Horizontal recycled metal screens shade south-facing windows; these are perforated train car siding panels turned sideways and held in place with tension rods and turn buckles.

Award of Merit | Commercial Exterior



MIA Member Company:

SMG Stone Company, Inc.

Sun Valley, CA
Stone Supplier
Stone Fabricator

Other Project Team Members:

Gensler

Architect

Webcor Builders

General Contractor

Southland Stone

Stone Supplier

Stone:

Indian Pearl Grey Sandstone
Black Absolute Granite
Black Basalt Granite
White Granite

LA Live Hotel and Residences Los Angeles, CA

LA Live Hotel and Residence is the latest addition to the downtown skyline. This expansive development includes the JW Marriot Hotel, Ritz Carlton Hotel and Ritz Carlton Residences.

The hotel base exterior wall features 30,000 square feet of mechanically attached Indian Pearl Grey Sandstone with a cleft finish which was inspected at the quarry. Each stone panel was independently supported by stainless steel clips that were used to hang the 12" x 42" x 1½" and 24" x 42" x 1½" pieces. The detailed installation of the wall was designed to create an open joint basket weave pattern. Each elevation was hand selected and blended in the field to provide a uniform color variation to match the architects design intent.

The entrance of the hotel is a blend of black absolute, black basalt and white granite pavers. The level 4 and 26 Pool Deck Outbuilding facades are composed of white crystallized glass.

SMG worked in partnership with the general contractor and owner through the construction process by helping achieve schedule milestones. This was accomplished by accurate CAD shop drawings, to thorough and comprehensive material releases, aggressively managed material lead times, to exact and expedient fabrication and delivery.

Award of Merit | Commercial Interior



MIA Member Company:

SMG Stone Company, Inc.

Sun Valley, CA
Stone Installer
Stone Fabricator

Other Project Team Members:

Gensler

Architect

Webcor Builders

General Contractor

Owner Supplied

Stone Supplier

Stone:

Crema Marfil Marble
Gris Pulpis Marble
Calacatta Gold Marble
White Wood Limestone
Villa Romana Marble
Stalatitti Gold Marble

LA Live Hotel and Residences Los Angeles, CA

LA Live Hotel and Residence includes the JW Marriot Hotel, Ritz Carlton Hotel and Ritz Carlton Residences. The total interior scope includes over 450,000 square feet of stone and tile with the contract totalling over \$15 million. A majority of the 35 materials used for the project were owner bought and fabricated at SMG's plant in Sun Valley. At one point the work force totalled over 180 craftsmen on the job installing from parking level 3 to the 49th floor.

The Marriott's main lobby showcases a sandstone wall, marble flooring, marble and granite countertops, stacked wall tile and porcelain tile flooring. Each of the 878 rooms at the JW Marriot include porcelain, ceramic and glass tile for the flooring and shower walls. The suites feature a custom marble mosaic floor, marble tub decks, vanities and a mosaic wall in the bathrooms.

The Ritz Carlton Hotel and Residence lobbies feature a combination of imported marbles in random sizes to make up the stone flooring. The Ritz Carlton condominium's 212 bathrooms showcase limestone for the vanities, flooring and tub deck. The kitchen countertops were composed of engineered stone and granite with a combination of granite, limestone and marble for the entry way.

A challenge SMG faced was to meet the aggressive TCO date, it required working multiple shifts to accelerate the completion of the project. The work was successfully completed on time with quality.

MIA Member Company:

**Stones and Roses
International Co. Ltd.**

Bangpla Bangplee,
Samutprakam, Thailand
*Stone Supplier
Stone Fabricator
Stone Installer*

Other Project Team Members:

Sotus International Co. Ltd.
Client

Architect BNA (Thailand)
Architect

B-Nine Construction Co. Ltd.
General Contractor

Stone:

Sandstone



Sotus International Head Office Bangkok, Thailand

The primary concept was inspired by the core business of Sotus International Co. Ltd., advanced technology fertilizer. The growth of plants relates to light and the architecture expresses the relation between light, life, nature and growth through the continual change of shadow and light. The textured sandstone walls enhance the change in light and shadow as the sun moves across the sky.

SRI's main input in this project was the design of the pattern of the central lift cage cladding. It was meant by the client as the main feature of the interior design and needed to be unique and combine textures and recesses. SRI proposed this pattern with random size textured beige sandstone slabs. The direction of the texture changes from one piece to the other to create changing contrast depending on the direction and intensity of the light. Sandstone blocks recessing from the main cladding and featuring the same material in a smooth texture create more depth and enhance the shadows and light contrast. This piece of work was a technical challenge as every piece needed to be cad drawn and prepared in the factory. The blocks were produced by assembly of 2cm thick slabs and the edges and corners were smoothed to conceal the joints. Anchoring points for the dry fixing were drawn in our cad facility and drilled in the factory for assembly on site.

MIA Member Company:

Rugo Stone

Lorton, VA
*Stone Supplier
Stone Fabricator
Stone Installer*

Other Project Team Members:

Dominican House of Study
Client

James McCrery Architects
Architect

Whalen Construction Company
General Contractor

Stone:

Bianco Perlino Marble
Olympian White Danby Marble
Rosso Nembro Marble



Dominican House - Saint Thomas Chapel Washington, DC

This small Catholic Chapel is actually a teaching Chapel for young seminarians being taught how to conduct a Catholic Mass ceremony. The chapel, originally constructed some 60 years ago, was in need of a fresh appearance and new sanctuary design.

Rugo Stone was selected to perform the careful dismantle of the existing rear altar which was fused to the rear wall of the Chapel. This highly ornate altar was taken to the shop's marble restoration factory and repolished and modified to become a free standing front altar. Rugo Stone was tasked with fabricating a new rear face of the altar to match the Bianco Perlino marble quarried 60 years ago; the match is seamless. Rugo Stone also removed the existing white marble platform, and furnished a new white marble platform of the same Olympian White Danby marble. A new fused rear altar was fabricated out of Bianco Perlino marble with Rosso Nembro as the accent color. The final phase of the project was the restoration of various round stone statues of Catholic saints. This involved repairing many chips, carving a new hand for the St. Dominic statue and fabricating various radial Bianco Perlino shelves and raised plinths for the sculptures. The project has been well received by the Dominican brothers and was completed ahead of schedule.



Krungthep Kreetha Residence Bangkok, Thailand

The architecture stands out by the use of non-orthogonal angles, broken lines and arch shape windows. The use of stone is innovative in several ways. The grey slate cladding the building is used in a rough grinded finish away from the standard natural cleft surface promoting the slate as an all application building stone. The project sets a new way to use natural stone for roofing. The large roofs which are set below the 2 parallel balconies are paved with 300 x 1200mm slabs installed on plastic stands using the same technique as elevated floors for terraces or technical floors. The architecture innovates the use of stone as a link to blend modern architecture with the landscape; the building appears to be suspended in air above ponds, planters and trees. The bluish gray slate blends perfectly with the grass, plants and trees and creates a feeling of nature, and fosters a smooth connection between the inside and outside.

MIA Member Company:

Stones and Roses International Co. Ltd.

Bangpla Bangplee,
Samutprakam, Thailand
*Stone Supplier
Stone Fabricator
Stone Installer*

Other Project Team Members:

World Trade and Accommodation Client

A49
Architect

World Trade and Accommodation
General Contractor

Stone:

Light Brown Sandstone
Blue Gray Slate

Special Pinnacle Award of Merit | Craftsmanship



Millard Sheets Mural Restoration Chase Bank Rolling Hills, CA

This is an historic job combining stone and Byzantine mosaics originally made in 1974 by a renowned artist specializing in scenic art works for Millard Sheets who, in the 1900's, made works of art for the exterior claddings of past Home Savings of America Banks (now the Chase Bank).

Rolling Hills, California depicts horses with riders and dogs following them with sea in the background. It is made from 36 panels of stone and mosaic totaling 12 x 37 feet. It required repairing the Emerald Pearl granite panels with travertine liners and removing and re-installing all the mosaics. The project took about six months.

A very intricate and detailed system was designed to protect the panels prior to removal, during transit and during restoration. This required photographs, a numbering system for each panel, taping panels to stop the continuing loss of mosaics, repairing the granite, cleaning, and basically starting the mosaic installation from scratch to re-install. Carnevale added expansion joints, new anchors and engineering for re-installation.

The work shows how stone and mosaics can come together to the artists design and last for many more years to come.

MIA Member Company:

Carnevale & Lohr, Inc.

Bell Gardens, CA
*Dimension Stone Contractor
Engineer
Mosaic Restoration*

Other Project Team Members:

JP Morgan Chase
Owner

David Carnevale
Project Manager

Jeffrey Matthews
Trade International, Inc.
(MIA Member)
Consultant

Jeanie Denholm of SCAPE
Art Consultant

Stone:

Emerald Pearl Granite
Travertine
Byzantine Mosaics

MIA Member Company:

Architectural Granite & Marble
Austin, TX
Stone Subcontractor

Other Project Team Members:

First National Bank of Omaha
Client

JVR and Associates
Landscape Designer

HDR Inc. and Brown Sardina Inc.
Landscape Architects

RDG Planning & Design
Leo A. Daly Architects
Architects

Boody Fine Arts
Art Consultant

Kent Ullberg, Blair Buswell and Ed Fraughton
Artists

Hawkins Construction Co.
Kiewit Construction Co.
Contractors

Stone:

Dolomite "Hayton White"



Pioneer Courage Park Omaha, NE

Pioneer Courage Park in Omaha anchors a five city block array of street sculpture, green space, and water features. The site, previously used for surface parking, has been revitalized as a civic resource for educational, recreational and aesthetic experiences. Limestone, a white stone from nearby Hayton, WI, was used to achieve many project objectives from unifying the project, to forming the contours required by the narrative, to the steps and paving that allow hands-on access to the sculpture. The flagstone pavers, park furniture, interpretive diorama, and creek and waterfall features complete the parks. The stone was also chosen to address sustainability goals including durability, low maintenance, and controlling storm water runoff as the walls, paving, and statue bases were installed over permeable base. This approach also allows flexibility for rearrangement of new pieces, or reuse if the program changes. The highly reflective stone allows "moonlit" lighting that saves energy and light pollution at night and, in combination with native plantings, minimizes the heat island effect during the day. Additionally, fabrication waste from each product was used for other parts of the project. Attention to the details of processing resulted in water and energy savings, and no waste.

Natural Stone Scholarship Award



Joe Durfee

Assistant Production Manager
Great Lakes Granite & Marble



The Natural Stone Scholarship award was established by the Marble Institute of America to provide educational opportunities for aspiring fabricators, installers or administrative employees and administrative apprentices interested in furthering their careers in the natural stone industry. This year's winner is Joe Durfee, assistant production manager at Great Lakes Granite and Marble in Redford, Michigan.

In a 500-word essay accompanying his entry, Durfee said, "I am usually the first one to work in the morning and among the last to leave each night. They say that time flies when you are having fun and I tend to believe that." He says the favorite part of his job is the variety and learning opportunities that are presented to him each day. "I have been with the company for just over three years and I love what I do. I have no reason to believe that I will not be a member of this company for many years to come."

Rich Booms, president of Great Lakes Marble and Granite said, "We allow Joe to solve problems on his own and that has taken a load off the rest of the management team, allowing us to focus on more strategic goals. We trust Joe to help make decisions that impact our company's future and we think Joe would excel as a leader in this great industry of ours."



Jimmy Ternent

Vice President of Construction
Rugo Stone



Sponsored by:



Few stone companies have received as much recognition for their craftsmanship as Rugo Stone, located in Lorton, Virginia.

Brett Rugo, president of Rugo Stone, will tell you that one of the primary reasons for the recognition received in recent years is the quality of work delivered by Jimmy Ternent. "Day in and day out Jimmy delivers outstanding workmanship," says Rugo. And that kind of praise and workmanship has earned Ternent the 2010 Marble Institute of America "Natural Stone Craftsman of the Year award."

Rugo, a 27-year industry veteran who started in the stone industry as a laborer and hand craftsman at the age of 15 says, "Without question, I have found Jimmy to be the most capable stone mason I've ever encountered."

That assessment is heartily echoed by Anthony Segreti, the architect for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC and a 50-year veteran in the architectural field. "He's probably the best craftsman that I've worked with," said Segreti, who has worked with the Rugo team and Ternent on many projects at the Basilica. "He strives for perfection. He's a good layout person, a good problem solver, and he has the respect of the people who work for him."

Ternent says the road to the top of his profession was not easy. "I started out as a laborer, worked hard and received an offer to go into the finisher's local, which is more of a craft, than labor. I went to the National Shrine and spent quite a bit of time as a finisher learning the trade."

Ternent went from laborer to finisher to mason to foreman in the span of three years. In 1992, he joined Rugo at Harmon Contract as a stone mason foreman, working in Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia. When Rugo started his own firm in 1996, Ternent came with him, becoming the fledgling company's first corporate officer. Today, he serves as vice president of construction.

Together, Rugo and Ternent have produced hundreds of magnificent projects. "His precision, layout skills, handling of stone, knowledge of rigging and scaffolding systems, attention to detail and safety, and ability to manage manpower up to 250 people on 20-25 active jobs has made it a pleasure to work with him for essentially the last 20 years," Rugo explained. "He's an excellent trainer and dozens of foremen have come through his tutelage," he said.

Ternent says one of the greatest things about the stone business is that he never gets bored. "It's always something new, something that changes, so there's always a challenge there." When he gets a chance to get away from a busy stone schedule, Ternent likes to watch football and go fishing.



Chester A. Smith

MIA President, 1956 & 1957
Chester A. Smith, Inc.



In 1944, during World War II a group of marble dealers, quarriers and other interested parties met to discuss the formation of an umbrella organization for the stone industry, which eventually became the Marble Institute of America.

The next year the group held its first convention in Columbus, Ohio. One of the organizers and host was Chester A. Smith who operated successful stone companies in Columbus, Ohio and Detroit, Michigan.

"The producers had their own group and were only interested in the quarrying, remembers Chester's son, Paul Smith. And back then the dealers were primarily interested in labor relations. MIA was started because an entity was needed that could push the product. We needed a public relations effort that could get the word out about stone."

Paul Smith, then a teenager, remembers many of the first convention attendees coming to the Smith house for a party in their basement. For the next dozen years, Chester Smith, who had many friends and associates in all facets of the stone business, was an integral part of the MIA, as well as running a successful business in two states.

Chester Smith began his lifetime's work in the stone industry in 1912 as a draftsman for the old Columbus Marble Works, having taken correspondence courses in architectural drafting and design. A short time later, when that company closed, Chester joined the Wege Marble & Tile Company, eventually to be one of his competitors. He was with Wege Marble for 16 years.

Chester started his own business in 1928 and it became one of the most successful stone companies in Central Ohio, with clients ranging from The Ohio State University to The Limited, the retail giant for which it did the stone work in stores across the country.

"He just loved his work. He'd work all day and would come home and make drawings at night. He often worked seven days a week," Paul Smith remembers.

In his nomination letter for Chester Smith, the late S. Kenan (Ken) Manson, 1961 MIA president, said, "The success of the MIA had a lot to do with Chester's enthusiasm, and the caliber of men helping to form the foundation of the MIA which has today grown into a nationally and internationally recognized and respected trade organization. Chester Smith's industry achievements were significant by themselves, but his greatest satisfaction seemed to rest in the continued success of MIA. He did everything he could to encourage the participation of the younger people, and to inspire the MIA officers to take pride in an MIA of honor, trust and responsibility. He thoroughly enjoyed the Annual Meetings as another successful step in the growth of the MIA. On the nights of the final banquet, he and his wife, Betty, were the last ones to leave the dance floor; he hated to say goodbye until the next year."



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