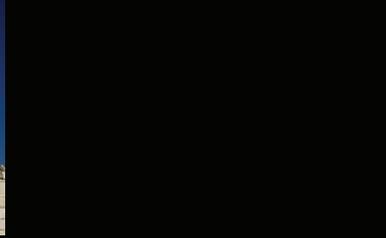




2023 Pinnacle Awards of Excellence





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Natural Stone Institute
would like to
congratulate our winners.*



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Michael & Linda Twiss

NATURAL STONE
— FOUNDATION —



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Recognizing Excellence in the Natural Stone Industry

AWARD	PAGE
Grande Pinnacle Award	4-5
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 in Verona, Italy for the architect or designer of record for the project.	
Pinnacle Awards of Excellence	6-23
Natural Stone Institute's prestigious Pinnacle Award honors stone companies around the world for projects that stand out above the rest.	
The 2023 Pinnacle Jury Included:	
David Castellucci, Natural Stone Consulting Group in Melbourne, Florida	
Charles "Chuck" Muehlbauer, Technical Director at the Natural Stone Institute	
Guido Gliori, Director of Field Operations at Grazzini Brothers & Company in St. Paul, Minnesota	
Rossana Gutierrez de Lubetsky, Principal with PEI Architects in New York, New York	
Michael Ford, Senior Associate at Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates in Northbrook, Illinois	
Natural Stone Scholarship	25
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.	
Women in Stone Empowerment Scholarship	25
The Women in Stone Empowerment Scholarship recognizes Natural Stone Institute members 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	26
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.	
Women in Stone Pioneer Award	28
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.	
Person of the Year	30
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.	
Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement	32
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.	
Excellence in Leadership Awards	34
The Excellence in Leadership Award recognizes an individual who provided exemplary leadership for a key committee or initiative.	
David Fell Spirit of Service Award	35
The David Fell Spirit of Service Award is presented to a company and/or individual who participated in the Gary Sinise Foundation R.I.S.E. program to recognize their efforts for demonstrating the qualities and characteristics of leadership within their company, the community, and beyond.	



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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

Permanent Mission of the UAE
to the United Nations
New York, New York





Commercial Interior

Natural Stone Institute Member Company

Polycor  

Quebec City, QC Canada

Stone Supplier/Fabricator

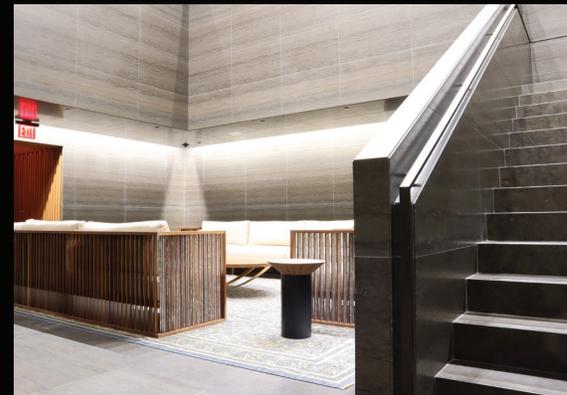
Project Team Members

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
Architect

Urban Construction 
Stone Installer

Stone

Saint Pierre Linear™ limestone



In 2014, having outgrown their two-story office space, the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations opted to design their new home around the essence of Middle Eastern culture: hospitality and the convening of friends and strangers. Each floor is inspired by traditional courtyards; the key component is a central reception area and gathering space.

Upon entering the building, visitors first experience the main courtyard. Forty feet high and entirely clad in floor to ceiling darkly veined limestone, its primary focal point is a monumental zigzag staircase that rises out of the back of the double-height entry hall.

The pronounced nature of the stone's veining required the alignment of the panels to be carried out with surgical precision. To achieve this level of meticulousness, the entire fabrication process, from the extraction of the stone, the selection of blocks, slabbing, cut-to-size, packing, shipping, to installation, required the highest degree of coordination. Every piece needed to be cut from the same exact location in successive slabs to ensure that the veins matched perfectly and that the subtle variations of shades remained consistent throughout the lobby.

The nature of the quarry deposit, with its perfectly flat beds, made it possible to carry out this razor-thin level of precision. Before packing and shipping, the project was entirely dry laid so each piece could be numbered, and crates sequenced in order of installation. By assisting the architects early in the design process with samples, product data, successful bidding, and being awarded the project, Polycor could not be prouder of their contribution to this masterpiece of architectural diplomacy.



95 State at City Creek

Salt Lake City, Utah



Photos courtesy of Oland Construction/Scott Zimmerman Photography

Commercial Exterior

**Natural Stone Institute
Member Company**

IMS Masonry, Inc 
Lindon, Utah
Stone Installer

Project Team Members

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
Design Firm

Alabama Stone 
Vetter Stone Company 
Stone Suppliers/Fabricators

S. M. Haw Associates
Stone Consultant

Stone

Sterling Veine limestone

This uncommon meetinghouse/mixed use building in downtown Salt Lake City follows a pattern used for meetinghouses in New York City, London, Brussels, and Hong Kong. The four-story building stands at the base of a 515,746 sq ft, 25 story building, including a steeple placed next to the meetinghouse.

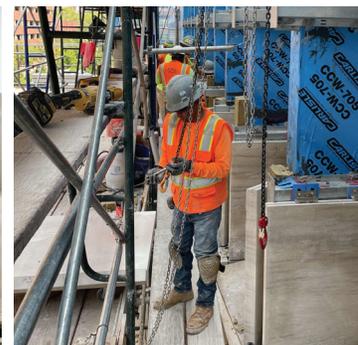
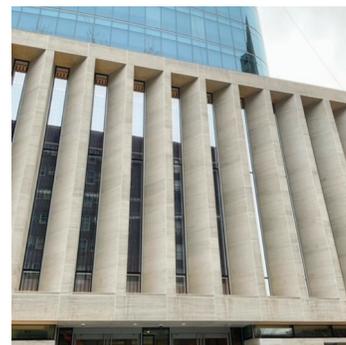
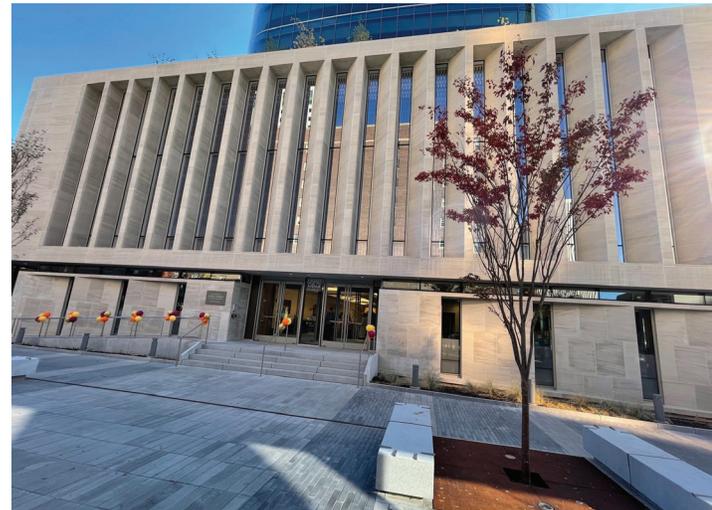
The limestone portion of the tower and the scale of the stone anchors the building and makes a striking and bold statement. The natural beauty of the limestone conveys an image of strength and security and takes advantage of the material's strength to accomplish an iconic design.

The extremely small footprint of the project made planning and sequencing critical to bring materials from an off-site storage area to the project as needed. Stone was sorted and stacked in a sequence to allow crews to be able to set each stone as it was pulled from the crate.

Building conditions required the use of multiple scaffold systems for access to the walls and soffits. Scaffolds were fitted with monorails and hoists to move the stone down the wall. The large pieces under the soffit were set with scissor hoists moved along the deck of conventional scaffold.

High seismic and wind load restrictions, narrow windows, structural framing at the fins, and the offset framing to the back of the stone required different connections throughout the wall to keep the stone in true alignment. This was accomplished by using multiple sizes of hat channel and hot dipped galvanized brackets and stainless-steel anchors to create the back-up framing.

Limestone as a base for the tall glass tower illustrates integrity, creativity, and balance of materials and helps reinforce the urban scale as it relates to the city street scape.





Taylorsville Temple

Taylorsville, Utah



Photos courtesy of Raigo Stone.

Commercial Exterior

Natural Stone Institute Member Companies

KEPCO+ 

Salt Lake City, Utah
Stone Installer

Ghirardi Stone Contractors 

Carpenedolo, Italy
Stone Supplier/Fabricator

D.L. Engineering 

Richmond Hill, ON Canada

PICCO Group 

Concord, ON Canada
Stone Engineers

Project Team Member

FFKR Architects

Architect

Stone

Botticino Classico limestone

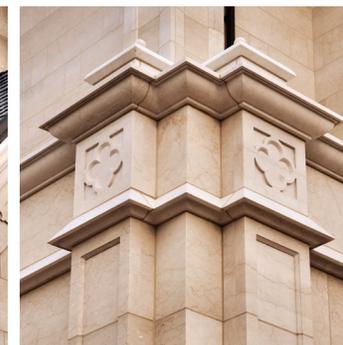
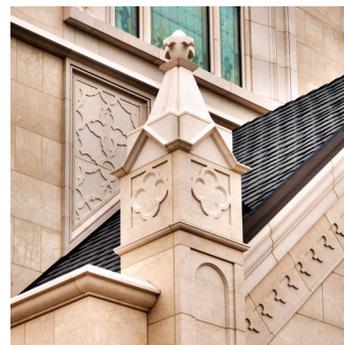
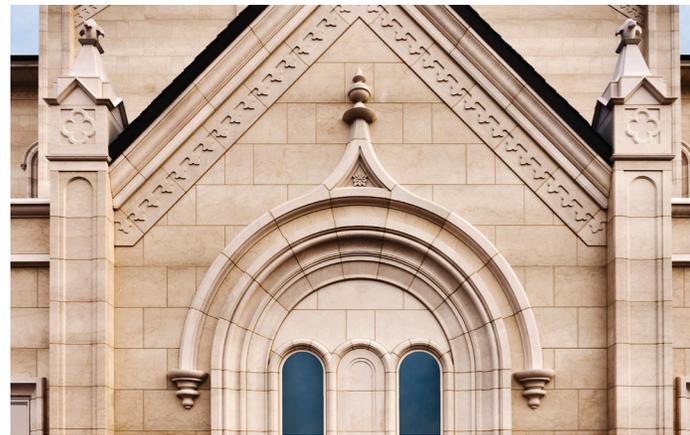
Designed to reflect the architecture of European cathedrals and the craftsmanship of early Utah pioneers, the Taylorsville Temple inspires awe with its picturesque arched windows, carved finials, and ornate frieze detailing. The project exterior incorporates 52,000 SF of Botticino limestone, a material that has embodied the architectural beauty of natural stone for more than 1500 years.

Typical stone modules ranged in size from 1'-7" x 2'-2" to 5'-9" x 2'-2". To meet the seismic requirements of the area, each module was 4cm thick, resulting in individual weights ranging from 77 to 278 pounds. The selected limestone exhibits diverse veining and color patterns, but the aesthetic specifications for the project required consistent coloring with only slight variations.

To accommodate this, the design team worked closely with the stone supplier/fabricator to select blocks from a deeper than usual layer depth, resulting in more even coloring. This allowed the veneer and cubic stone pieces to be cut two high from each block, reducing waste and the overall cost of the stone for the project. The design also incorporated two different stone color tones, with the veneer being slightly darker than the lighter cubic accent pieces.

The fabricator was able to achieve the desired aesthetic from the specified limestone by creating two unique custom finishes. The temple incorporates more than 20 unique stone elements, including 6 pilaster designs, 4 types of finials, 5 different window arch sizes, 4 types of grand windows, as well as cornices, entablatures, and rails.

The intricacy and diversity of the design required painstaking precision from the installation teams. Over 10,000 exterior pieces were installed in just over 20 months, creating a striking stone monument for the Taylorsville community.





2100 Penn Washington, DC



Photos © Jeff Goldberg/Esto courtesy of Lorton Stone, LLC.

Commercial Interior

**Natural Stone Institute
Member Company**

Lorton Stone, LLC 

Springfield, Virginia

Stone Installer

Project Team Members

Pelli Clarke & Partners

Design Architect

WDG Architecture

Architect of Record

AKDO Intertrade 

Stone Supplier

Stone

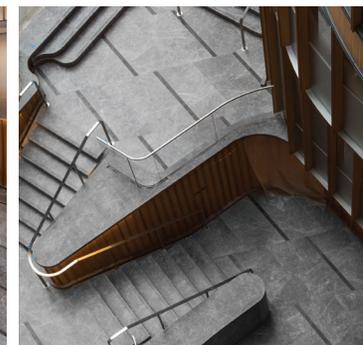
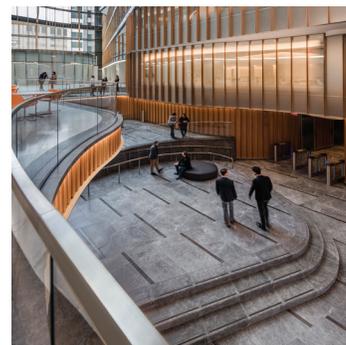
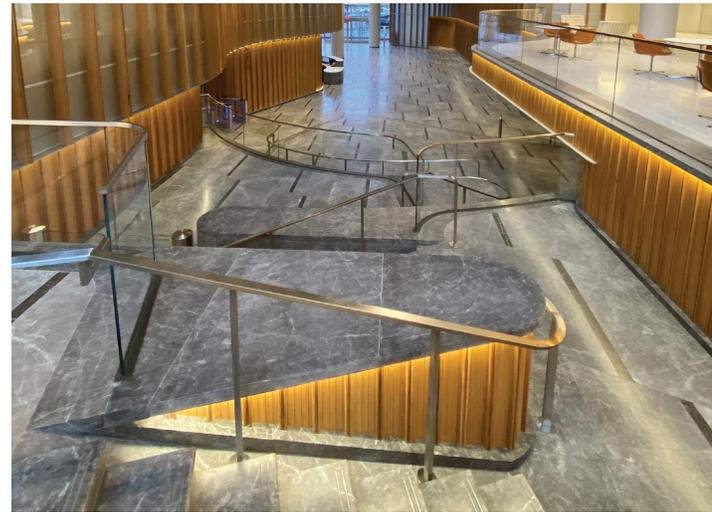
Dark Olive marble

Marble melds nature, architecture, and sculpture together at 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, a LEED Gold, mixed-use development on the northeast corner of the George Washington University campus.

Stone procurement for 2100 Penn Ave started during concept design. The team explored an array of medium to dark-colored stones to address both durability and natural beauty. For the exterior storefronts and entry paving, the team selected flamed Zimbabwe Black granite. This was also selected for all restroom vanity tops. For the greatest scope of stone, located in the interior entry lobby, grand stair, and atrium, the team selected Turkish Dark Olive marble. The design architect visited the Dark Olive quarry in Sivas, Turkey, and conveyed the rich array of possible finishes, particularly a leathered surface (sand blast with brush and seal) combined with a high-honed accent.

The stone fabrication achieved unprecedented levels of quality through a thorough, 100% dry-lay review process, including all dimension stones and curving slabs of the grand stair. The architects refined the design multiple times to better suit the review and blending process. The paving design included four different sized pieces that resulted in the highest yield per slab. By incorporating a regular high-honed accent, the stone paving had regular breaks that afforded better blending tolerances for the entire project. Special wood scaffolding was employed to facilitate the complete dry-lay of all wall, stair, ramp, and paving stone together.

The most challenging parts of the installation were the ramp and walls at the grand stairs. The 100 percent dry-lay reviews helped assure a smoother process, but there were still issues of unavoidable cupping. In select areas, the installer had to grind and refinish the leather surface to match throughout. This proceeded after a careful review of additional mockups and input from the installers, architects, and owners.





Texas Tower

Houston, Texas



Photos by Hester • Hardaway Photographers.

Commercial Interior

Natural Stone Institute
Member Company

Camarata
Masonry Systems  
Houston, Texas
Stone Installer

Project Team Members

Henraux 
Stone Supplier/Fabricator

ISCS SA
Stone Inspector

Pelli Clarke & Partners
Kendall/Heaton Associates
Architects

Stone

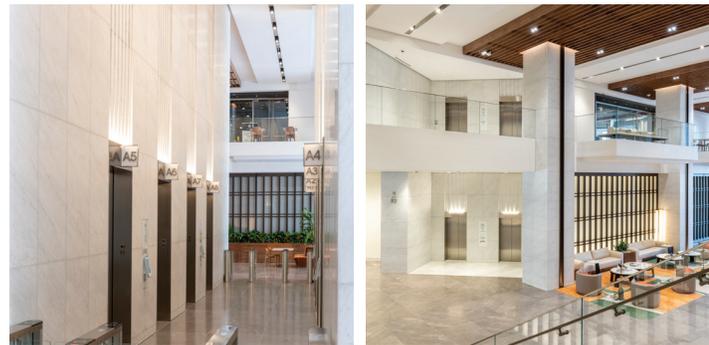
Bianco Macchietta honed marble
Silver Mink honed marble

Texas Tower, the new global headquarters for Hines Development, is the latest addition to the downtown Houston skyline. The architect designed the 47-story, 1.2 million square foot structure from the inside out to create the next generation of office space.

The interior lobby is nothing short of specular. Upon entering the lobby through an elliptical glass entry, your eyes are immediately drawn to the 30' tall x 35' long curved, scalloped, and edge lit white marble wall. The “V” shaped stone pattern flooring in Silver Mink marble from Turkey seemingly leads you to it. The unique design required every piece of the floor and every vertical course of wall stone to have different piece sizes. Bianco Macchietta marble from Italy is used throughout the lobby which includes the scalloped feature wall, eight 30' tall columns, a grand staircase, and three 30' tall main elevator lobbies. Above each of the 24 elevator doors, the Macchietta marble is 2" thick to allow for 1" deep by 3 ¼" wide flutes to be carved into the stones.

The base of the wall is loaded onto a 3/16" angle with a ½" x ¼" stainless steel bar welded to the edge of the angle. The stainless-steel bar protruded ¼" from the face of stone giving it a unique detail. The piece sizes vary, but the typical paver size at the interior flooring is 3' x 5' x 3 cm thick. The average interior stone wall size is 2'6" x 4' x 3 cm thick, with a few larger fluted walls at 5' x 4' x 2" thick.

The pandemic heightened manpower and supply chain challenges caused the flow of work became inconsistent throughout the project. While these issues put a strain on the construction schedule, they never extended the final completion date.





Boyce Master Bath

Huntsville, Alabama



Photos by Ben Stark Film.

Kitchen/Bath

Natural Stone Institute
Member Company

Ceramic Harmony 

Huntsville, Alabama

Stone Installer/Consultant

Project Team Members

Matheny Goldman
Architecture

Designer

Antolini 

Cosa Marble 

Galeria Marble Mosaics

Stone Suppliers

Stone

Calacatta Wow marble

Asian Statuary marble

Bardiglio marble

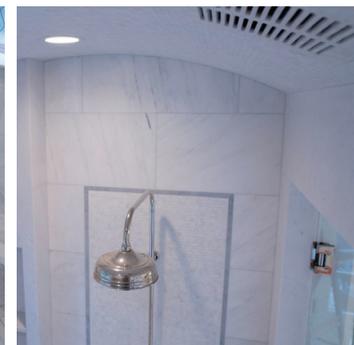
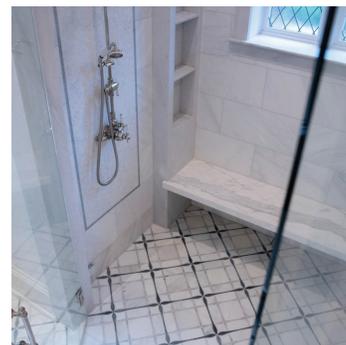
Bianco Carrara marble

The goal for this project was to feature the unique characteristics of natural stone. As a high-end chef and restaurateur, the clients value quality and the beauty that this planet provides. In this case, it was Calacatta Wow 2cm marble imported from Italy, Asian Statuary 2cm marble slabs, Asian Statuary 12x24" tiles, a custom waterjet floor patterned from Asian Statuary, Bardiglio, and Bianco Carrara marbles, and custom staggered joint Asian Statuary mosaic.

It was also important to the clients to create a high-end timeless design with handcrafted features. The scope of the work involved the main floor, shower, and vanities. The main floor pattern was a custom-designed waterjet pattern by Ceramic Harmony, fabricated and installed over a radiant floor heating system that included the shower floor.

The curb-less shower floor features a custom fabricated invisible drain along the wall underneath the shower seat. The shower also features a custom shelving system with integrated shower seat fabricated entirely of mitered 2cm marble. The entire window-surround is fabricated out of 2cm marble.

The mosaic shower ceiling is arched, including a custom designed and fabricated magnetized vent cover. The marble vanities feature scalloped backsplashes with a relief detailed edge profile.





Super White Dolomite Kitchen

Dover, Massachusetts



Photos courtesy of Cassandra Brandao.

Kitchen/Bath

Natural Stone Institute
Member Company

Pedrakut 

Natick, Massachusetts

Stone Fabricator/Installer

Project Team Members

Pazigram –

Pazini Granite & Marble

Stone Supplier

Kassandra Brandao

Stone Consultant

Stone

Super White dolomitic marble

In the heart of Dover, Massachusetts, a remarkable kitchen boasts a dolomitic marble renowned for its elegance and durability. Quarried by Pazigram in Brazil, the Super White slab captivates with its composition of calcium magnesium carbonate. Parallel layers of mineral crystals create mesmerizing patterns and intricate veining, enhanced by the interplay of fissures and dry veins. This distinctive composition makes dolomitic marble a sought-after choice, infusing spaces with timeless beauty and sophistication.

Super White dolomitic marble, a material of complexity, poses unique challenges for fabricators. The stone's inherent hardness and intricate composition demand meticulous handling during fabrication, cutting, and polishing. Prior to cutting, meticulous planning and organization were crucial in this project to keep the slabs' integrity. The specification and orientation of the design ensured mesmerizing patterns were showcased, especially in the full-height backsplash and pantry. The pantry, a testament to seamless integration, was crafted from a single slab, showcasing the team's precision, requiring a dedicated team of five experts, resulting in a flawless installation radiating elegance and sophistication.

To enhance the allure of the Super White, the client opted for sleek white cabinets adorned with gold hardware and Dorn Bracht fixtures. This thoughtfully curated combination created a harmonious symphony, allowing the stone's natural beauty to take center stage. The pristine white surfaces provided the perfect backdrop, while the gold accents added a touch of opulence, capturing the essence of refined luxury.

The countertops and backsplash epitomize the harmonious union of artistry, craftsmanship, and the timeless beauty of Super White. From the meticulous selection of the slabs to the precise handling of the material during installation, every step showcases the mastery of this woman-owned company dedicated to pushing boundaries in the natural stone industry. This project represents the pinnacle of achievement, inspiring future innovations in natural stone design.





Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance

Washington, DC



Photos courtesy of Lorton Stone, LLC

**Public Landscapes/
Parks/Memorials**

**Natural Stone Institute
Member Company**

Lorton Stone, LLC  
Springfield, Virginia
Stone Installer

Project Team Members

Hartman-Cox Architects
Architect

Coldspring  
Stone Supplier/Fabricator

Stone

Academy Black® granite

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act was passed in 2016, authorizing the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation to construct a Wall of Remembrance at the existing memorial to honor the 36,634 members of the U.S. Armed Forces who died in the war and the 7,174 Koreans who died supporting the U.S forces.

The design of the Wall of Remembrance focused on minimizing the visual impact to the existing memorial by adding a circular, low angled granite wall around the perimeter of the original memorial. The wall is made up of one hundred individual granite blocks weighing between 4.5 and 8.5 tons, engraved with the names of the fallen. The large, wedge-shaped blocks with their sloped, conical surfaces and relatively tight 1/4” joints required precision in both layout and installation to maintain the proper wall geometry and alignments with other memorial elements.

Along with the addition of the Wall of Remembrance, the project included refurbishing some of the existing memorial elements: an expansion of the original memorial plaza to provide a circulation area for viewing the Wall of Remembrance, the salvage and re-installation of the plaza cobblestone paving, new sealant joints at the existing Field of Service granite paving, new granite benches and tree grates at the expanded plaza, modifications to existing granite paving to accommodate a new lighting design at the Mural Wall, and a new granite United Nations curb with stainless steel inlays. The sandblasted engravings at the granite Casualty Curb were also replaced with new inlays of stainless-steel lettering.

The new Wall of Remembrance successfully honors the 43,808 soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the Korean War and serves as a reminder to all that Freedom Is Not Free.





Our Lady of the Lakes World Peace Plaza

Notre Dame, Indiana



Photos courtesy of Murphy Marble Company.

**Public Landscapes/
Parks/Memorials**

**Natural Stone Institute
Member Company**

Murphy Marble Company 
Chicago, Illinois
Stone Installer

Project Team Members

**Hoerr Schaudt
Landscape Architects**
Landscape Architect

A. LaCroix Granit 
Stone Supplier/Fabricator

Stone

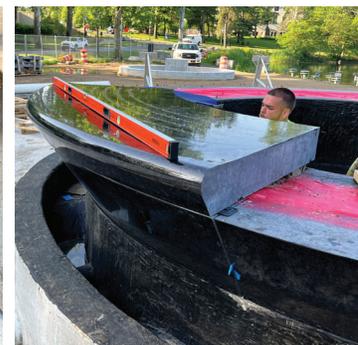
Crystal Black granite

Our Lady of the Lakes World Peace Plaza project involved furnishing and installing polished black granite for an infinity edge fountain on the University of Notre Dame Campus. The design called for an 18'0" diameter by 2'0" high fountain with an inverted conical shaped fountain base supporting large granite caps. The base and caps were fabricated in six large cubic pieces. Each cap measured 9'5" long by 3'5" deep and 6.5" high, with the base at 8'8" long by 1'4" deep and 1'5" high. The six granite caps each have the same prayer engraved on their surface, translated in six different languages.

The granite cap has a weir edge that lines up with 25 radial pavers. The outer 12 pavers are sloped 4" to allow water to build up on the interior of fountain before flowing over the bullnosed edge. The fountain cap had to be installed within 1/16" of an inch in all directions to allow the bubbler to trickle water over the side.

Once Murphy Marble located a suitable monolithic black granite, they worked with the design team on the desired number of joints and piece sizes. The granite base installation was simplified by increasing the size of the pieces and transferring the weight load since there was such a large overhang on the conical shaped base from the cap to fountain base.

Lettering of the six granite caps involved a meticulous layout of each prayer with proper spacing. Full size templates of the lettering in each of the six languages were fabricated. The lettering and words are radial as they had to follow the same radius as the granite cap. With these pieces weighing around 1.5 tons each there was no room for errors.





Pillars of the Valley

Saint Louis, Missouri

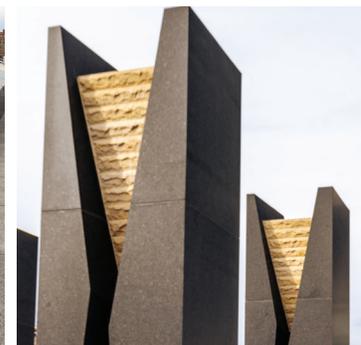


Photos by Benjamin Scherlis Photography

The Pillars of the Valley is a public art installation in St. Louis, paying tribute to the historic Mill Creek Valley neighborhood. The neighborhood was a thriving 20th century African American community, but it was destroyed in 1959 due to redlining and segregation practices. The Pillars of the Valley monument consists of eight identical hourglass-shaped granite pedestals, each holding a textured V-shaped limestone piece representing hourglass sand. There is also a 42-foot-long horizontal granite plinth that displays a list of resident names, a map, and a dimensional topographical depiction of the neighborhood. The monument is part of the larger Brickline Greenway revitalization project, which aims to connect several neighborhoods and attractions throughout the city with 20 miles of pedestrian-friendly pathways and green spaces.

Mesabi Black® granite was chosen for the monument due to its stately appearance, symbol of permanence, and ability to withstand harsh Midwestern elements. Coldspring was chosen for their ability to manage complex fabrication requirements, such as the gradual sloping needed on each pedestal piece and the intricate CNC tooling needed to build each level of the contoured plinth. Coldspring also custom-engineered stainless steel dowel pieces to affix each V-shaped limestone piece to the pedestals. Transporting the large, heavy sections of granite 775 miles posed a challenge, but mobile cranes with reinforced nylon straps were used to set each piece in place at the installation site.

In total, over 1,000 square feet of Mesabi Black® granite was utilized across the eight hourglass pedestals, and an additional 420 square feet was used for the plinth. The Pillars of the Valley monument helps ensure that the stories, contributions, and cultural legacy of the Mill Creek Valley neighborhood remain part of the public conversation.



Public Landscapes/ Parks/Memorials

**Natural Stone Institute
Member Company**

Coldspring 

Cold Spring, Minnesota

Stone Supplier/Fabricator

Project Team Members

Lamar Johnson Collaborative
Landscape Designer

Damon Davis
Artist

Earthworks 
Stone Supplier/Fabricator

Leonard Masonry
Stone Installer

Larson Engineering, Inc
Stone Engineer

Stone

Mesabi Black® granite
Silverdale limestone



Turn to the River

Terre Haute, Indiana



Photos courtesy of Brad J. Goldberg

Public Landscapes/
Parks/Memorials

Natural Stone Institute
Member Company

Coldspring 
Cold Spring, Minnesota
Stone Supplier/Fabricator

Project Team Members

Brad J. Goldberg
Artist
Progressive Construction Services 
Stone Installer

Stone

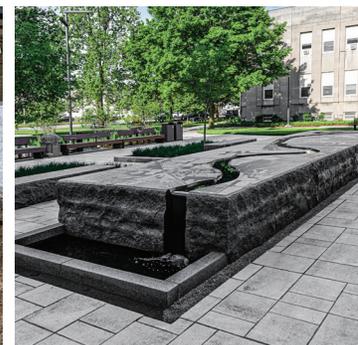
Mesabi Black® granite

The community in Terre Haute, Indiana had a vision to reconnect their downtown with the river that runs through it. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of local leaders, a nonprofit arts organization, one artist, and Coldspring, that vision became reality. The ambitious idea would connect downtown with the Wabash Riverfront area through public art, new pathways, and rethinking the use of spaces.

The project features a remodeled plaza and a black granite sculpture. Quiet in nature, the sculpture creates the gentle sound of moving water and, together with the accompanying landscape elements, provides a sense of calm in a place whose purpose might otherwise be stressful. The sculpture includes a carved abstraction of the Wabash River Valley and pools in which the water falls at both ends of the artwork. The sculpture and its integral plaza, designed with paver blocks, are the first phase of the project and function as a catalyst for a future promenade. Future phases will include the development of the promenade with an event space and an elevated overlook that will provide beautiful views of a picturesque portion of the Wabash River.

Mesabi Black® granite was chosen for the sculpture for several reasons, including its ability to withstand Terre Haute's hard water conditions. Dark-colored stones make a striking visual when used in conjunction with water by enriching the qualities of both the water and the stone. In addition, the benefit of working with a black stone is that when you apply sandblasting and other finished textures to the stone, a beautiful contrast in light and dark tones is created.

Elegance and a sense of impeccable artisanship come together to form a place that is born from the City of Terre Haute and its river.





Christ the King Chapel - Christendom College

Front Royal, Virginia



Photos courtesy of Rugo Stone.

Renovation/Restoration

Natural Stone Institute
Member Company

Rugo Stone  
Lorton, Virginia

Stone Consultant/Supplier/
Fabricator/Installer

Project Team Members

Christendom College
Client

O'Brien & Keane
Architect

J. Stann
Structural Engineer, PLLC
Structural Engineer

Coldspring  
3D Stone 

Architectural Stone Sales 
Stone Fabricators

Stone

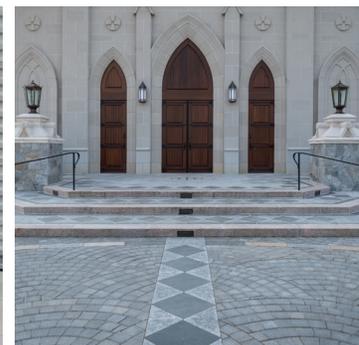
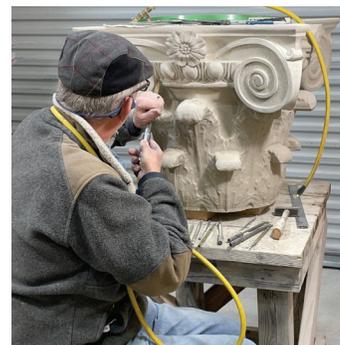
Various marble, onyx and granite
Indiana limestone
Bluestone

In early 2021 Rugo Stone was contacted to assess the potential for restoring, modifying, and repairing a salvaged Gothic rear altar originally constructed in a parish Church in North Hampton, MA and installed in the late 1880s. The altar was dismantled, crated, and delivered to Rugo's shop. Realizing that there were no drawings for the altar, Rugo began a factory dry-set and reconstruction of the altar, so accurate as-built dimensions could be recreated, and later used to resize and install the altar in the available space. For over two years, Rugo carefully cleaned, repaired, re-polished, carved new missing elements both in 3D and planer pieces, replaced special onyx inlay colors and missing pure statuary marble elements, and re-polished all the columns.

Once the rear altar was complete, the team moved on to the other items, including the altar of sacrifice, the altar communion rail, a custom designed Celtic cross, the holy water font, and four devotional chapels.

Rugo Stone's mosaic studio created a new altar of sacrifice center panel mosaic, and a 24-carat gold mosaic in the holy water basin. Rugo's team also fabricated three 3'-6" diameter waterjet cut medallions comprised of Red Jasper, Giallo Siena, and Fior Di Pesco marbles to symbolize the Wounds of Christ. These medallions were constructed with 1/32" seams and hand-selected bright Giallo Siena marble to symbolize Christ's crown of thorns.

The front entry piazza features Gothic inspired post caps, bench seats, light pole bases, entry paving and cubic steps. Rugo also provided two shades of custom cut bluestone to create elegant paving patterns. The center piece of the piazza is a 12'-6" tall solid granite column made by Coldspring. On top of the column is a composite column capital, hand carved in Rugo's studio.





Missouri State Capitol Building Restoration

Jefferson City, Missouri



Photos by Ross Creative Works.

Originally constructed in 1913, the historic Missouri State Capitol dominates Jefferson City's skyline from all directions. The classical revival building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 and remains a treasure to the State of Missouri. Resting on a limestone bluff on the south bank of the Missouri River, it totals 500,000 sq. ft. and sits on three acres of land.

The exterior stone is Missouri limestone coming from The Carthage Crushed Limestone Company, founded in 1888. It was once the largest gray marble quarry in the world and its marble can be found on many federal buildings throughout the country. The Capitol building features a symmetrical design, front columned portico with Corinthian style columns of full height, a front facing gable roof on the portico and a cornice.

In need of urgent repairs after 100 years of weathering, an extensive exterior restoration of the Carthage marble clad Capitol was completed. The scope of work focused on restoring the deteriorating stonework facades.

The team removed, fabricated, and installed over 4.5 million pounds of stone, including 8,000 custom fabricated pieces, and removed over 500 carved units. The team also re-pointed 147,000 linear feet of mortar joints with a historically compatible mortar. Approximately two million pounds of scaffolding equipment was used to complete the project.

The restoration also included the Capitol's top tenant. After 94 years, Ceres, the iconic statue on top of the dome, was removed and conserved. The 10'-4" sculpture of the Roman Goddess of Agriculture was dismantled using a 550-ton crane, allowing skilled tradespeople to access and remove the statue while hundreds watched to see the historic figure up close.

The careful and meticulous restoration of the Capitol brought back its original grandeur as the building entered its second century.



Renovation/Restoration

Natural Stone Institute Member Companies

Bulley & Andrews 
Masonry Restoration

Chicago, Illinois

**Stone Installer/Consultant/
Restoration Contractor**

Phenix Marble Company 

Springfield, Missouri

Stone Quarry

Gary Galassi Stone & Steel 

Romeoville, Illinois

Stone Supplier

**Wiss, Janney, Elstner
Associates** 

Northbrook, Illinois

Stone Engineer

Project Team Member

**Trivers
Design Firm**

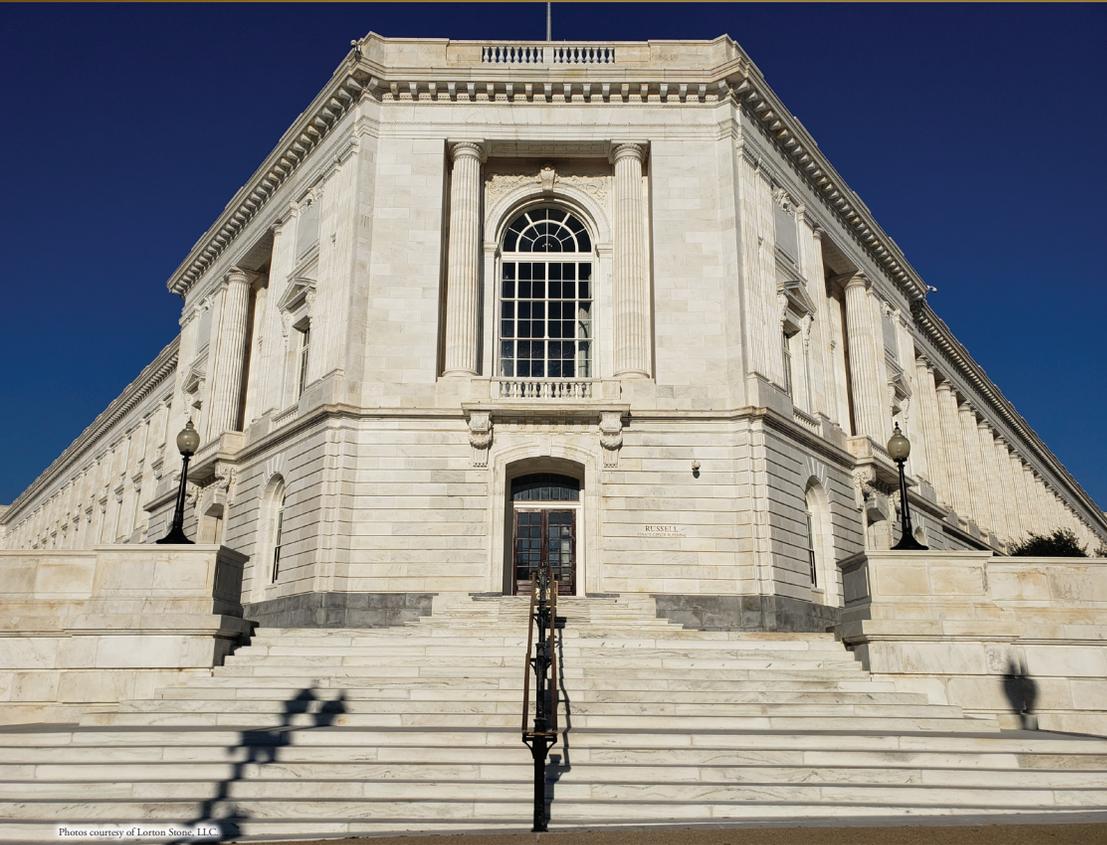
Stone

Phenix marble



Russell Senate Office Building Exterior Envelope Repair & Restoration

Washington, DC



Photos courtesy of Lorton Stone, LLC

Renovation/Restoration

**Natural Stone Institute
Member Company**

Lorton Stone, LLC

Springfield, Virginia

**Stone Supplier/Restoration/
Fabricator/Installer**

Project Team Members

A. LaCroix Granit

Stone Fabricator

Architect of the Capitol

Design Firm

Stone

Imperial Danby marble

Indiana limestone

Mount Airy granite

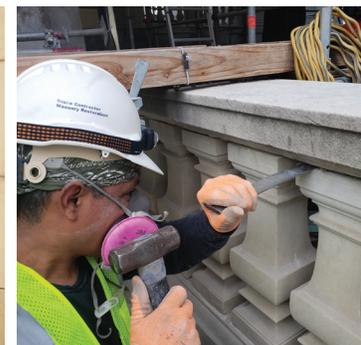
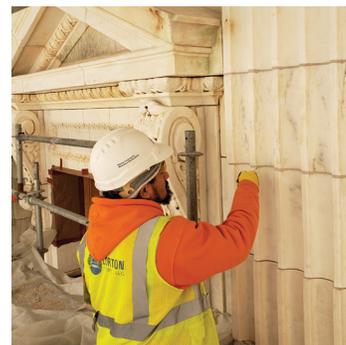
Mount Waldo granite

Built between 1906 and 1908 in the Beaux-Arts architectural style, the Russell Senate Office Building is the oldest of the United States Senate office buildings. The restoration of the exterior envelope of the building began in 2017 and was completed in the fall of 2022. The building materials consisted of Vermont Danby marble, Indiana limestone, Mount Airy granite, and Mount Waldo granite.

The scope of the project included general and specialty cleaning of marble, limestone, and granite to remove heavy soiling, bio-growth, rust, and copper stains; 100% joint preparation, repointing, and sealant installation; crack repairs, pinning repairs, mortar patches, reattachment of spalled stone; installation of lead Ts; Dutchman repairs including the installation of new carved elements; seismic retrofit of balustrade assemblies; resetting stone assemblies; and building ADA ramps.

Prior to the start of work numerous mock-ups were performed to determine the right cleaning detergents, and the approved products varied with the type of stone that was being cleaned. Mortar analysis was performed on mortar from different sections of the building to ensure that the repointing and repair mortars matched the composition and color of the original mortar that existed in the building. It was also ensured that replacement stone and finishes used for repairs matched the existing stone on the building.

Security and access restrictions, noise restrictions, night work, tough working conditions, coordination with numerous other trades, and a tight schedule were some of the major challenges. It is the incessant dedication for the past 5 years of Lorton Stone's extremely skilled craftsmen that has resulted in a successful project and brought the building back to its original glory.





Saint Dominic Parish

Brick Township, New Jersey



Photos courtesy of Rugo Stone

Renovation/Restoration

Natural Stone Institute
Member Company

Rugo Stone  

Lorton, Virginia

**Stone Consultant/
Supplier Fabricator/Installer**

Project Team Member

O'Brien & Keane
Architect

Stone

**Bianco Carrara C marble
Red Jasper marble
Statuario marble**

In March 2021, Rugo Stone was called to inspect the 142-year-old Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Asbury Park, NJ, which was once a thriving Irish Catholic parish started in 1880. It later declined and eventually closed.

This historic church had a massive and elegant white marble sanctuary, which the client wanted to dismantle, modify, and move to Saint Dominic Parish in Brick Township, NJ.

In August 2022, Rugo mobilized at Holy Spirit and created a detailed as-built set of drawings for the entire sanctuary. Their skilled crews then meticulously dismantled the marble rear altar, altar of sacrifice, side chapels, statues, and the monumental altar rail and gates.

Rugo created an onsite cleaning and cataloging facility, and as the stone elements were dismantled, they carefully cleaned, patched, and restored the marble. Once all the stones were catalogued, crated, and placed in storage. This dismantling and cleaning process took 9 weeks working 12-hour days, 6 days a week. Not a single piece was broken in the process.

The reinstallation process in Brick Township, NJ began January 26, 2023, and was completed April 27.

Rugo's team installed all the CMU and red brick masonry support, along with the vast amounts of heavy and fragile marble. Their fabrication studio worked tirelessly to produce a new sanctuary floor made from Bianco Carrara and Red Jasper marbles. The various side shrines, wainscot, and altar rail pieces were dry set in the shop to make selective and precise cuts needed to re-fit the elements to Saint Dominic's available space.

The restoration of the bas relief of the Last Supper involved carving of some delicate missing or damaged elements such as fingers, facial features, and a 2" tall statue head.





United States Capitol South Exterior Stone Restoration

Washington, DC



Photos courtesy of Lorton Stone, LLC.

Renovation/Restoration

**Natural Stone Institute
Member Company**

Lorton Stone, LLC 

Springfield, Virginia

Stone Restoration/Fabricator/Installer

Project Team Member

**Architect of the Capitol
Historic Preservation**

Architect

Stone

Lee marble
Cockeysville marble
Vermont marble
Georgia marble

Completed in the fall of 2020, the exterior stone restoration of the US Capitol South saw quality craftsmanship at the highest level. While the general cleaning, specialty cleaning, and restoration activities performed on the building were noteworthy, the replacement of the deteriorated carved elements were exemplary.

Hundreds of intricately carved scrolls, large and small acanthus leaves on the column capitals, flutes on the column shaft, as well as rosettes, pendants and brackets on the cornice that were deteriorating and failing were replaced using matching materials. Finish work was performed by hand by highly specialized teams of carvers from Europe and the US, who persevered for seemingly endless hours in extreme conditions. Repair and replacement work at the extremely fragile pediment sculptures, though challenging, was completed with precision.

Replacement stone used for repairs matched the existing stone, which included Vermont marble, Cockeysville marble, Lee marble, Georgia marble, and a few different granites. Existing mortars on the building were analyzed to formulate repair mortars that matched the original in composition and color, and seamlessly blended with the rest of the stone on the building. Numerous mockups were performed before products were approved for use on the building.

Despite multiple challenges like nighttime working hours, noise, operational controls, planning and logistical constraints, and a very constricted schedule, the perseverance and dedication of everyone on the team ensured that the façade of the building was restored to its original appearance using materials, finishes, techniques, and seamless repairs, resulting in a successful restoration project.





Colorado Residence

Aspen, Colorado



Photos by Todd Winslow Pierce LLC

Residential - Single Family

**Natural Stone Institute
Member Company**

Gallegos Corporation  

Vail, Colorado
Stone Installer

Project Team Members

Jeffrey Berkus Architects
Architect

R.E.D. Graniti SpA 

Oakville Stone

Granites of America 

Stone Suppliers

Maiden Stone 

Stone Consultant

Stone

Jet Mist granite

Highbury granite

Midnight Black granite

Colorado Residence is a private residence in Aspen, Colorado. Gallegos was originally contracted to assist with design and procurement of stone cladding and paving systems. A pre-construction contract was awarded during the winter of 2017 followed by a construction contract in the winter of 2018.

The importance of the stone cladding to the Aspen residence was such a driving factor to the owner and architect that the granite blocks were purchased in March 2017 for a scheduled installation start of February 2020. The selected material was Jet Mist granite, quarried in Virginia.

Gallegos produced shop drawings and piece tickets, breaking the residence into 61 elevations and 650 unique piece sizes. As each elevation was completed, the factory would dry-lay and photograph each mock-up. The photographs were sent to the architect for review. The general contractor coordinated the review and feedback. The factory then modified and revised pieces as needed before crating each elevation.

The residence had 5,900 square feet of outdoor patios. The designer required a flat walking surface, utilizing large format 2'x4' Highbury granite pavers. The areas were to include radiant heat technology for melting snow. Gallegos implemented a pedestal paver snowmelt system. The manufacturer produced the shop drawings, breaking each patio into zones made up of rows of heat trays. Packaged in an "accordion" manner and shipped to the jobsite, each row was unfolded and installed on the pedestals. As Gallegos' crews installed the trays, the project mechanical subcontractor connected the supply and return lines to the manifold for each row.

The driveway added 4,900sf of Midnight Black mud-set granite paving laid in a herringbone pattern with sawn edges and a bush hammered finish. The challenge was maintaining the herringbone pattern over the long sloped to-drain runs with consistent jointing and no lippage.





The Sequoia

Lakeville, Minnesota



Photos by Landmark Photography & Design

Residential – Single Family

Natural Stone Institute Member Company

Stonwerk Inc. 

Watertown, Minnesota

Stone Installer

Project Team Members

David Charlez Designs
Architect

Glacier Stone Supply 

Orijin Stone 

Twin City Brick & Tile
Stone Suppliers

Stone

Canyon Creek/Rustic Ridge
argillite blend

Nestled amongst the rolling acres of suburban Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, you will find a stone oasis clad with full thickness stone and immaculate architectural detail. The exterior façade shows the magnificent presence of a custom Montana stone blend – Canyon Creek/Rustic Ridge argillite, characterized by its earthy tones and rugged texture. As you step inside, the interior echoes the same charm and warmth as the exterior. Montana stone continues to make its presence known in select accent walls throughout the house, creating a seamless transition from the outside. The stone’s rough texture is contrasted with the smooth surfaces of the wooden beams, floors, and ceilings, striking a delicate balance between rustic and refined.

Greeting each visitor in the main level great room is the custom, Montana ledgestone fireplace hearth. Weighing just over 6,000 lbs., this mammoth hearth had to be craned into place before the roof could be installed.

The project required over 35,000 individual stone pieces, with the majority being full thickness. An elite team of stonemasons spent over 2 years building full masonry chimneys and multiple large barrel arches, and hand-shaping each stone into its spot, inside and out. The effort created a masterpiece that far exceeded the owner’s expectations.

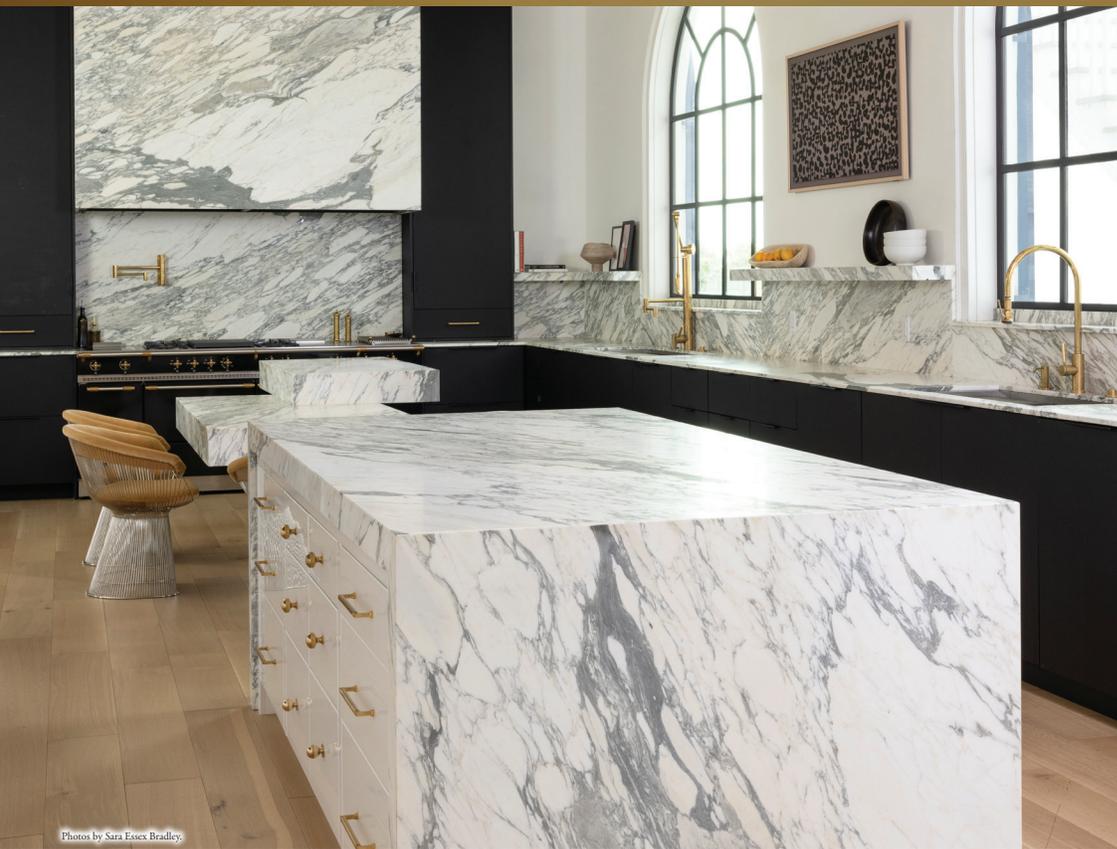
The homeowner commented: “We wanted stone that created both a ‘wow’ and a welcoming effect with seamless transitions between the interior and exterior spaces. We also wanted it to be generational and timeless. Stonwerk did a fabulous job of accomplishing our goals.”





South Louisiana Estate

Thibodaux, Louisiana



Photos by Sara Essex Bradley.

Residential – Single Family

Natural Stone Institute
Member Company

Triton Stone Group
of New Orleans

Harahan, Louisiana
Stone Consultant

Project Team Members

Ken Tate Architect
Architect

Daher Design
Stone Fabricator

Antolini
Sagevan Marmi
Crescent Tile
Stone Suppliers

Stone

Arabescato Calacatta marble
Calacatta Oro marble
Calacatta Viola marble
Nero Marquina marble
Ocean Grey marble
Statuary White marble
White Carrara marble

What happens when time-honored design, a contemporary leaning “down south” mode and a client with exquisite, yet decisive taste come together? Nothing but pure spectacle. This South Louisiana estate is a triumph of finish and material selection thoughtfully and masterfully executed in an impressive display of some of nature’s finest handiwork.

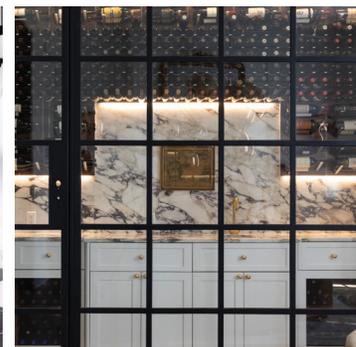
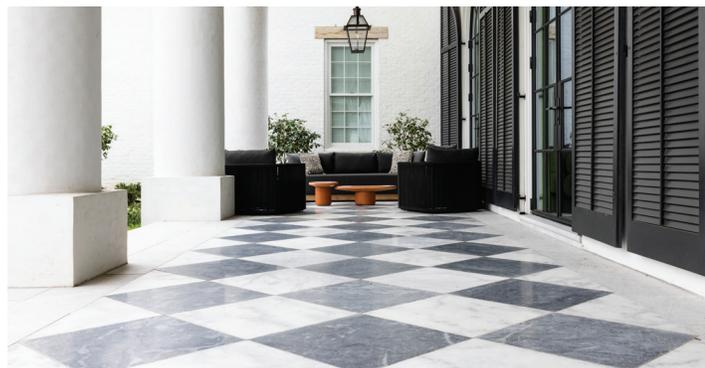
Step over the threshold and enter a study of the classic black and white palette in the well-appointed foyer, where refined elegance sets the tone for the journey throughout the home. Honed Nero Marquina and Statuary White marble tiles laid in a checkerboard pattern underline the chic space.

Entering the kitchen, you are confronted with the realization of a seemingly impossible dream brought to life through countless hours of design and working with multiple teams of extraordinary craftsmen to deliver the most spectacular application of honed Arabescato Calacatta on the cantilevered island. The rich tones of the charcoal veining are carried through to the second island, the perimeter counters, and backsplashes, winding up the hood wrap, and echoed in the dramatic black painted cabinetry.

In the wine bar, the color tones found in the honed Calacatta Viola are a playful reminder of the purpose of the space; burgundy, blanc, champagne...words not only describing the vintages, but the hues found in the stone.

Retreating to the sanctuary of the primary bath, polished Calacatta Oro marble adorns each surface, establishing a fresh repose from the rest of the home.

Stepping out onto the veranda, the checkerboard pattern is revived in a well-worn installation of tumbled Ocean Grey and Carrara marbles—a poised finale to the dynamic tour de force of what can only be described as a masterpiece of modern design in stone.





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Leadership Society membership begins at \$1,000. List current as of November 30, 2023.

WOMEN IN STONE EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIP

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Joanne Bish
Dubois Granite
& Quartz

Joanne Bish's previous business card read, "Chef & Culinary Nutritionist" and she was known for creating mouthwatering food with approachable appeal. As the world shifted in 2020, so did her workplace. A role that began as website developer and IT support evolved into accepting the position of Director of Marketing with Dubois Granite & Quartz. The transition to the stone industry may sound unexpected but was a natural progression. Understanding the difference in how customers use products is one of her greatest strengths. Joanne's marketing initiatives have proven to get products noticed, recognize needs, and understand the importance of brand building through establishing and maintaining relationships.

Being involved in the stone industry has been rewarding and interest grabbing. The craftsmanship, beauty, and ability to bring a product from around the world to her community encourages her to continuously learn more about products and processes. The global connection of natural stone and the impressive industry leaders have shown the potential for professional advancement and business achievement. Being connected to organizations like the Natural Stone Institute, Joanne has found peers working toward similar goals and facing similar challenges. Her commitment is to being part of a thriving business and sustaining an industry she has found passion for, while giving back to the community in which she was raised and has chosen to raise her family.

The Natural Stone Institute and especially the Women in Stone group have been vital to Joanne's successful onboarding experience with Dubois Granite & Quartz. She has utilized the webinars, training resources, and success stories from both organizations to further her education and motivations toward future company and committee leadership roles.

Congratulations to Joanne Bish, the 2023 recipient of the Women in Stone Empowerment Scholarship.

"Joanne has shown self-initiative to learn about the industry and the products while growing her role at Dubois Granite. We are looking forward to Joanne taking on more of a leadership role in our company and seeing her career progress in the industry."
Daniel B. Kohlhepp, President - Dubois Granite & Quartz



Natural Stone
Scholarship

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Francee Alderson
American Stone

Francee Alderson has been General Manager for the Vancouver, Washington location of American Stone for two years, and credits her company colleagues and the experienced local quarriers for teaching her the "ins and outs" of the stone they offer to contractors and retail clients.

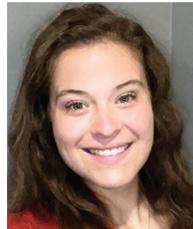
Before American Stone, Francee was both a bathroom & kitchen designer and a store manager for a large box store, which provided her a rich understanding of a variety of stone materials and applications, as well as enriched her talents as a people leader. The origin of her passion for stone came from growing up in the Pacific Northwest. She studied at the University of Oregon, focusing on Anthropology, Biology, and Geology, and the geologic area with its depth of natural stone resources.

It is crucial for Francee to believe in and be invested in the work she is doing. She is incredibly fortunate to be a part of this industry, especially for the knowledge the American Stone leadership team imparts to her and her team on the store level. Her commitment to her role with American Stone is steadfast, as this company not only empowers its staff to learn and grow with the company but also promotes every opportunity to develop knowledge in all aspects of the business, from the stone they sell to the leadership they provide. Francee intends to continuously drive sales, open new locations, and raise knowledgeable team members to be dynamic salespeople and leaders in the industry.

Congratulations to Francee Alderson.

"Francee is no ordinary person. She's creative and is continually coming up with new ways to attract top talent and market to customers. She is an incredible salesperson who understands building relationships and has a service attitude. Francee lives and breathes American Stone, is a 100 percent dedicated team member, and continually strives to improve. We're extremely happy to have her as part of our team."

Cynthia VanBibber, HR Manager - American Stone



Tiffany Biagi
Advanced
Granite Solutions

From a young age, a common phrase uttered from Tiffany Biagi's mouth was "look at this cool rock I found!" Many of her favorite and most vivid memories come from family camping trips to visit the incredible cavern formations of Virginia. Growing up with a family that enjoyed nature allowed her to find her niche early on.

During her first semester of college, she worked in a jewelry store as a certified diamondologist. Once offered employment with Advanced Granite Solutions (AGS), she began her introduction to the world of stone slabs. At AGS, Tiffany found that the more she learned about stone, the more fascinated she became with the Earth. She started with AGS as a sales representative and transitioned to a CAD templator about a year later. Around 2020, she was offered a promotion to office manager, which is her currently held position with AGS. Because of her position fluidity, she has been afforded an ability to see all aspects of their fabrication and gained extensive knowledge of industry processes.

Currently studying towards a bachelor's degree in environmental management with a minor in natural sciences, Tiffany has gained knowledge of how humans impact their environment, and vice versa. She hopes to continue using the resources offered through her employment and through the Natural Stone Institute to further incite her passion and solidify her educational and career direction.

Congratulations to Tiffany Biagi.

"Tiffany demonstrates proficient interpersonal skills and a natural talent for building relationships with clients. Her product knowledge, combined with her ability to understand customer needs, enables her to effectively communicate the value and benefits of our stone products. Her efforts have resulted in increased sales, customer satisfaction, and a growing client base."

Zekeriya Sener, President - Advanced Granite Solutions



Robert McCoy
Dwyer Marble & Stone

Following his service in the United States Army, Robert McCoy thought he had a plan for what he wanted to do with his life. But after multiple jobs in different industries and moving from North Carolina to Michigan, he finally found a career that he loved. He came into the natural stone world by chance when a childhood friend told him about Dwyer Marble & Stone and offered to give them his resume. The rest is history. He started working in the warehouse knowing nothing about natural stone.

With only a middle school knowledge of geology, Robert started his work with stone moving slabs. He was amazed at how each stone was a natural work of art. He constantly asked questions about the slabs and asked the warehouse manager questions, slowly learning more.

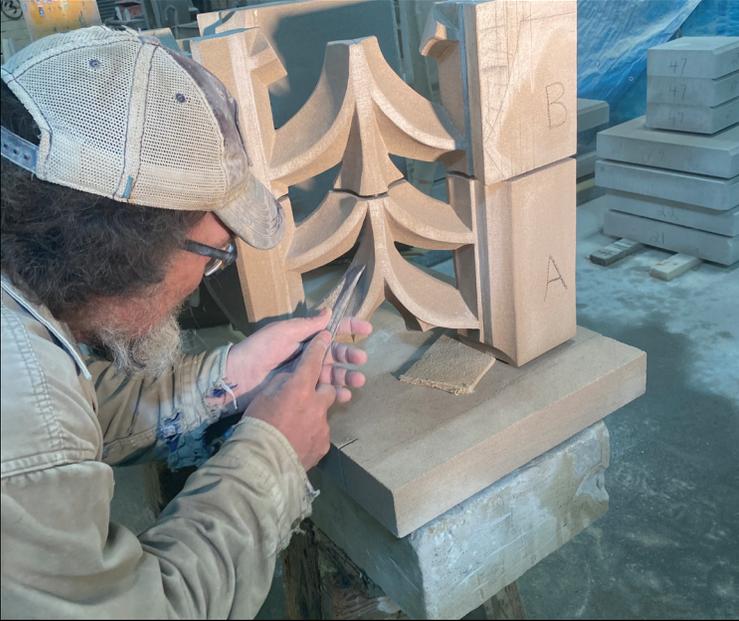
Robert took every opportunity to learn about the company's different departments. He cut stone samples, worked in advertising, made deliveries to fabricators, and worked in the showroom. He was quickly promoted to inside sales, where he works today, with a goal to continue to move up in the company.

In receiving the Natural Stone Scholarship, Robert gratefully realizes this opportunity to network and make new contacts in the industry. Expanding his resources will serve him well when local fabricators reach out to him for solutions to their problems.

Congratulations to Robert McCoy.

"During Robert's 6-month tenure with our company, he has shown great passion for the industry. Coming into a new position, many of the other employees did not want extra responsibility with the pressures of a new job, but Rob is willing to step up and take on the challenge. His work ethic, professionalism, and passion for the natural stone industry is unmatched."

Jeremy M. Smith, Director of Operations -
Dwyer Marble & Stone





Richard Stahl
Galloy & Van Etten

Richard Stahl stood by his father's side at the tender age of 6, gradually learning the intricacies and skills of the stone business. He eventually began his own career at the age of 16 as a laborer in his father's cut-stone company. Richard quickly acquired the necessary skills to become a bridge saw operator, and within a year, was promoted to planer operator, a job at which he excelled, but he and his father both knew his true passion was for stone carving.

Carrying on in the family stone tradition, Richard completed his journeyman apprenticeship in 1980 under the wings of a master carver who was also a great mentor and cherished friend.

In 1983 Richard opened his own stone carving studio in an old chicken coop, working tirelessly in the evenings and on weekends to create original designs, models, and stone carvings, as he continued to work full-time at the stone shop.

Richard carved in his own studio full-time for ten years, collaborating with architects, contractors, and various local stone fabricators. He joined Galloy & Van Etten in 1993, where he immediately shared

his passion for the stone business while demonstrating his versatility carving in a large variety of stone types.

As a third-generation stone carver with nearly 30 years as an essential part of Galloy & Van Etten, Richard is a master carver that takes great pride in teaching his co-workers the craft. He has mentored countless planer operators, cutters, and carvers over the years, sharing his expertise, love, and passion for working with natural stone.

Richard believes in continuing the tradition of his trade and in giving back to his community. He is a founding member of The Stone Carvers Guild. He has conducted educational programs for local boy and girl scouts, schools, and church groups, some of which have been recipients of his various stone carvings and sculptures.

On earning this career recognition, Richard commented: "Past mentors, hard work, and continuous learning have allowed me to keep the art of stone carving alive. I know my late father would be so proud."

Congratulations to Richard Stahl, the 2023 Craftsman of the Year.

"We've been blessed at our company to have many great employees over the years, and Dick's one of the finest."

Bernie Van Etten, Owner - Galloy & Van Etten/Murphy Marble Company

"We all know how talented Richard is when it comes to carving stone, but I think what sets him apart is the passion he brings to his job. The energy. The heart he puts into everything that he does."

Tom Van Etten, Owner - Galloy & Van Etten/Murphy Marble Company

"One of the things that I think is unique about Richard is the joy and delight that he approaches his work with. He seems to me to be a boy with his first slingshot with his chisel. He's just absolutely full of joy in carving every day."

R. Michael Graham, Principal - Liederbach & Graham Architects

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WOMEN IN STONE
PIONEER
AWARD



Denise Daniels

MB Stone Care and Supply

Denise Daniels is a stone expert with many talents. She possesses an unparalleled way of explaining the process of caring for a stone's surface that ensures a clear understanding of the entire process, earning a reputation in the stone industry worthy of the 2024 Women in Stone Pioneer Award.

Denise began her industry journey with minimal stone knowledge, yet now stands as a reliable source of guidance and knowledge for stone restoration professionals. Her steadfast dedication and involvement within the industry have enabled her to develop cutting-edge resources that allow others to benefit from her expertise.

Through her passionate work at MB Stone Care and Supply, Denise equips each of her customers with the best tools available to guarantee they can fulfill their job to the highest standard. She ensures that each customer she interacts with is granted an incomparable customer experience of respect and exceptional value.

Denise has gone the extra mile to offer her knowledge by training stone restoration professionals across the globe. With an awareness that numerous individuals have come to depend on MB Stone's "Intro to Stone Restoration" course, Denise has taken initiatives to advance that learning experience by introducing additional courses that refine one's skills.

Essential to MB Stone's ongoing success, Denise not only aided in the introduction of new and intriguing courses but has also played an integral role in the design and testing of the company's product line over the years. Her fervent passion for the preservation of luxurious stone has been shared with the rest of her team, shaping their confidence in the products and services they deliver.

It's the Stone ID Kit, designed in collaboration with geologist Karin Kirk, that is one of Denise's proudest accomplishments, and something that has become a hot commodity in the stone industry. It won the 2023 Best of Innovation award at The International Surfaces Event and was part of a featured hands-on demonstration at KBIS in 2023. Denise has also teamed up with the Natural Stone Institute to host "What Stone Is This?: An Interactive Experience," a CEU course that teaches others how to identify natural stone.

Denise has achieved great success in the stone industry, becoming a figure of admiration for countless women. With a growing team of women at MB Stone championing the same cause, Denise has become a respected mentor, developing an unrivaled community of like-minded industry professionals, and cultivating a family culture. Appreciated and celebrated, Denise continues to shine as an impressive luminary in the stone industry.

Congratulations to Denise Daniels, the 2024 Women in Stone Pioneer.

"Deliberately seeking out other women to connect with in the industry has been her goal, succeeding on many levels. Her hard work and networking skills have brought our company several significant clients that would not have otherwise been presented to us."

Cameron DeMille, Pro Tech Support - MB Stone Care & Supply

"Denise is one of only a handful of women that have expertise in the stone restoration field. She is encouraging other women and strengthening their capabilities. She trains and mentors these women and gives them careers, not just jobs. She has utilized her knowledge and expertise acquired within the stone industry, bestowing her team and ours with new abilities."

Mark DeFusco, President - DeFusco Industrial Supply

"My collaboration with Denise is rewarding because we are both women in a male-dominated field. Since our work on the Stone ID kit, we've worked together on some articles that tackle aspects of natural stone that are not well understood. She appreciates the value of science in helping us all understand natural stone a bit better."

Karin Kirk, Geologist and Science Writer

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Person of the Year



Sam Arcot
Rugo Stone



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, Sam Arcot of Rugo Stone is recognized as the 2023 Person of the Year.

With over twenty years of natural stone experience, fourteen of which have been with Rugo Stone, Sam's involvement and dedicated service to the natural stone industry has grown steadily over the past decade. Today he serves on the Natural Stone Institute board of directors and is a Natural Stone Foundation donor.

CEO Jim Hieb explains why Sam was this year's choice. "Sam's involvement the past two years has been incredible, serving as a champion for sustainability, extending the association's relationships with other countries, and being a model advocate for NSI membership."

More specifically, Sam has served as a key advocate in the development of the NSI statement on human rights, which states NSI's position against any form of forced labor, including child labor. He invested countless hours researching published material on this subject while also conducting in-field research to help guide the NSI statement. Sam's advocacy in the human rights space

greatly complements the sustainable work practices that exist through NSI's third-party verified Natural Stone Sustainability Standard (ANSI/NSI 373) and the NSI Accreditation program.

Sam has previously shared: "There is a huge demand for responsibly sourced products, so it was important that NSI and the natural stone industry clearly communicate a strong position on this issue. I am proud to have played a role in helping NSI establish a statement and provide resources that the design community can turn to."

In the past year, Sam has also led an effort to strengthen the association's relationship with key trade associations and trade shows in his native country of India. Sam identified opportunities for NSI to develop relationships in India as strong as those which exist with other key stone producing nations.

At industry trade shows, Sam's ability to articulate the value of NSI membership has become a model for any volunteer leader. He has shared, "if you have a passion for the natural stone industry, you have to become a member. There is no better way to learn what is going on in the industry, receive key updates, and obtain valuable resources. The level of networking with industry peers is unrivalled."

Congratulations to Sam Arcot, the 2023 Person of the Year.

"When you watch Sam 'in action' at an industry event, it is truly inspiring to witness first-hand his passion for natural stone, the industry, and the NSI."

Jim Hieb, CEO - Natural Stone Institute

"Sam's passion for sustainability and human rights is impressive. His research was extremely valuable to the work of the Institute."

Darrell Petit, Managing Partner - Stony Creek Quarry

"Sam has graciously accepted every task NSI has put in front of him, thoroughly delving into each as if it is his job. It's a privilege to watch him go from Natural Stone Scholarship recipient to one of our strongest advocates and leaders in just ten years. Well done, Sam!"

Buddy Ontra, Owner - Ontra Stone Concepts





Migliore
AWARD FOR
Lifetime Achievement

At the close of his letter nominating Manu Shah for the Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement, Tony Malisani simply said, “it is time.”

Manu and Rika Shah started MS International (MSI) in 1975, in the basement of their home in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The original idea behind the business was for Mrs. Shah to work at home during her pregnancy and still generate additional income for the family. Manu had originally come to the U.S. to get his Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University, which he accomplished in 1968.

From 1974-1981, while getting MSI off the ground, Manu continued to work full-time as a mechanical engineer at International Harvester, a manufacturer of trucks and farming equipment. During these years, while the natural stone industry was in its infancy, he also worked as a broker selling blocks of granite to U.S. manufacturers, primarily in the monuments industry.

In 1981, while still operating MSI out of their basement, the Shahs secured the contract to supply black granite for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. With their entire savings invested in this project, they spent endless nights making sure that the project was executed perfectly. And it was.

Building on this success, the Shahs decided to develop and grow MSI full-time, and moved the company to Southern California. Until 1987, the business primarily served as a distributor of granite for monuments and tombstones. But the Shahs soon realized that natural stone for residential and commercial usage had even higher market potential and redirected their efforts toward developing this sector of the industry. By 2008 MSI was among the top importers of natural stone in the world, with materials from virtually every major stone sourcing country across the globe, including India, Brazil, China, Turkey, Italy, Spain, and Mexico.

MSI became a member of the then known MIA in 2004 and since then, has always been a reliable and generous partner to the association.



Manu Shah
MS International

What is striking about Shah’s contributions to NSI is that he has never officially served on a committee or the board of directors. Yet, he and his company have played key roles in supporting five major initiatives undertaken by the association and has been a consistent donor or motivator to several of the other NSI programs and events, and other industry groups.

Manu was the first to contribute financially and to donate stone for testing during the industry response to the radon crisis. He provided constant input and counsel during the 2-year effort to defend and protect the natural stone industry.

The vast NSI safety training resources enjoyed by stone industry professionals today, including the focus on material handling and silica safety, are in large part due to Manu sharing his early vision for our current training library.

He provided visionary direction for the 2013 *History of Man and Stone* documentary, as well as funded nearly 80 percent of the project, which topped \$125,000. No one has done more to support the Natural Stone Institute and the industry while never serving on the board of directors.

With leadership shared by sons Raj and Rup, MSI was recently projected to reach sales of more than \$3 billion and employ over 3,500 people worldwide. MSI is proud to indirectly support the employment of over 150,000 people, translating to impacting the lives of over 500,000 people worldwide. Beyond the industry service, their MSI Charitable Trust supports causes such as early childhood education, healthcare and wellbeing, and employment generation. The Trust is also a Diamond level member of the Natural Stone Foundation Leadership Society.

Congratulations to Manu Shah, the 2023 recipient of the Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement.

“My friend, my friend I have news that I must share with you.’ These words started one of the most memorable conversations of my life. In that conversation, Manu Shah shared with me that his company MSI had achieved sales of 1 billion dollars. He went on to say that ‘nowhere else in the world would this have been possible. America is the land of opportunity. I love this country.’ I can think of no person who is a better example of success through hard work and ingenuity. It is time.”

Tony Malisani, President – Malisani Inc.

“MSI stands as testimony to the brilliant success of Manu’s almost half a century of work dedicated to the stone industry. I congratulate him on this most richly deserved Migliore Award and offer him my gratitude and admiration for his generosity and the many contributions to our industry and the community at large. Well done, Manu.”

Jim Hogan, Sr. VP – Carrara, Inc.



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2023 Excellence in Leadership



Nate Kolenski
Block Tops



Nate Kolenski's contributions to the fabricator segment were unparalleled in 2023. With heightened scrutiny in California on fabrication operations who cut countertop materials containing silica, Kolenski became the lead fabricator voice with governmental officials advocating for wet cutting processes. He spent countless hours helping both local and state regulatory officials understand that silicosis is preventable with proper engineering controls, ongoing air monitoring, and a company culture of safety. Kolenski was an ardent proponent of more governmental enforcement to address companies using dry cutting, grinding, and polishing methods with little concern for employee safety.

Kolenski also played a key role with the Natural Stone Institute (NSI) staff leadership team, offering advice and counsel about the importance of NSI's Silica & Slab Safety Certificate, accreditation program, and the need for NSI to continue its leadership role with employee safety and training. CEO Jim Hieb commented: "The contributions Nate made to the industry, coupled with his untiring commitment to employee safety, is truly deserving of this recognition."

Congratulations to Nate Kolenski, recipient of a 2023 Excellence in Leadership award.



Reid Kubesh
Coldspring



Reid Kubesh provided significant leadership as the Natural Stone Institute (NSI) launched its North American Quarry Advocacy Group, which has become a leading voice for quarriers. Kubesh also helped the NSI board of directors finalize a key merger with the National Building Granite Quarry Association (NBGQA). He helped guide an expanded presence of natural stone suppliers at StonExpo, launch a Natural Stone Pavilion at the Hardscape NA trade show, and introduce the Natural Stone Catalogue – a new digital tool that showcases NSI quarrier members' natural stone offerings to help the design community find stone for their projects.

Kubesh also recruited many quarriers to become involved and utilize the growing availability of member resources. NSI board member Darrell Petit commented: "Reid truly became a strong advocate of the association, its quarrier members, and the entire membership. The natural stone industry benefited from his leadership, and he is worthy of this award."

Congratulations to Reid Kubesh, recipient of a 2023 Excellence in Leadership award.



Greg Osterhout, Northern Stone Supply

Greg Osterhout of Northern Stone Supply has believed in the Gary Sinise Foundation's R.I.S.E. program since the beginning of NSI's involvement with the program. Under his leadership, Northern Stone Supply eagerly stepped up to support the R.I.S.E. program by willingly donating natural stone to eleven home projects.

Karla Forest, Marketing Director at Northern Stone Supply summarizes Greg's involvement best: "Greg is honestly one of the most selfless, generous men I know and he chose the Gary Sinise Foundation's R.I.S.E. program as our company's charity of choice. Greg doesn't skimp or cut corners on these projects. They get the very best we have to offer. Greg often expresses his gratitude for the sacrifice of our military, and he shows it in his actions."

One of the projects Northern Stone Supply donated to required Greg and his staff to work tirelessly through evenings and weekends to ensure the chosen stone was available for the home. Greg himself went above and beyond to find trucking solutions so the stone could be transported to the job site on schedule.

In 2020, Greg served as the chair of the Natural Stone Institute's R.I.S.E. Committee. His vision was the catalyst for growing the association's involvement with the program. It is because of his tireless efforts as a leader for his company and our industry that this program has become so widely adopted and supported by NSI members.



Greg and Kari Osterhout welcome the Cottle family into their new forever home.



Greg and Kari Osterhout with the Linfoot family.



Patsy Fell-Barker & David Fell

The David Fell Spirit of Service Award is presented in memory of David Fell, President of BG Hoadley Quarries. David passed away in 2021 and his memory now lives on through this prestigious award. Presented to recognize a company or individual involved with the Gary Sinise Foundation R.I.S.E. program, the award recipient demonstrates the qualities and characteristics of leadership within their organization, the community, and beyond.

"We are so incredibly proud of this award named for David because it conveys his belief that it's a wonderful world when we give back by helping and serving others with our natural resources. Our nation's heroes put their lives on the line to serve and save us!"

David's Mother, Patsy Fell-Barker, BG Hoadley Quarries

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380 E. Lorain Street • Oberlin, OH 44074
440-250-9222 • naturalstoneinstitute.org