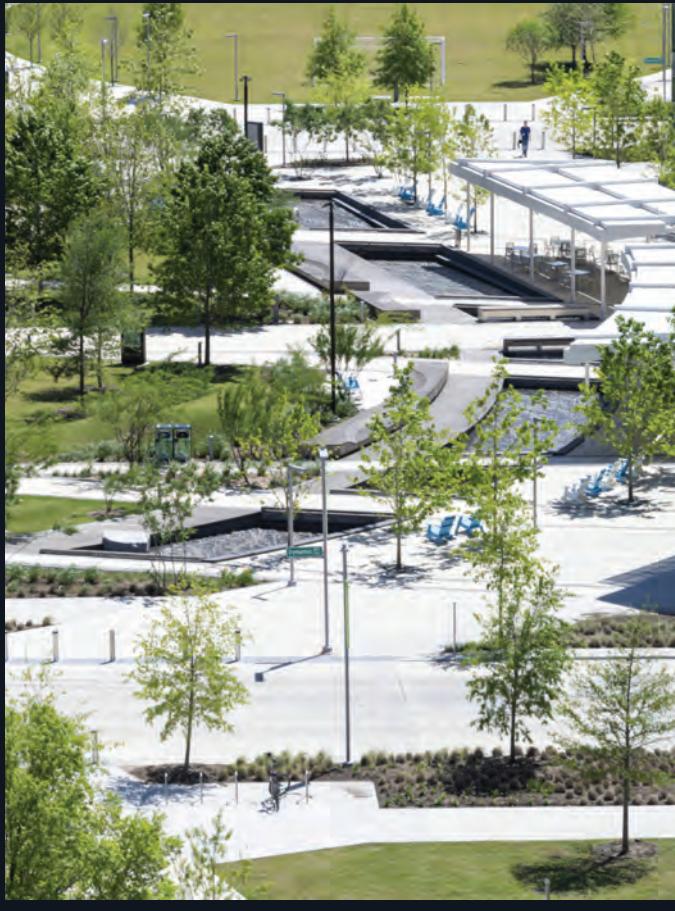


# 2025 Awards

## Celebrating Our Projects • Honoring Our People





The Natural Stone Institute  
would like to congratulate our winners.



Thank You to Our Gold Level Sponsors



# Recognizing Excellence in the Natural Stone Industry

AWARD	PAGE
<b>Grande Pinnacle Award .....</b>	<b>4-5</b>
An exclusive Grande Pinnacle award, sponsored by Marmomac, is given to the best project across all categories. This award is bestowed upon the Natural Stone Institute member company and the architect or designer of record for the project.	
<b>The 2025 Awards Jury Included:</b>	
Lee Becker, Hartman Cox Architects, (ret.)	
David Castellucci, President, at Natural Stone Consulting Group (ret.)	
Jake Fox, Waterstreet Studio	
Charles "Chuck" Muehlbauer, Technical Director at the Natural Stone Institute	
Buddy Ontra, BoStone	
<b>Pinnacle Awards of Excellence .....</b>	<b>6-16</b>
Natural Stone Institute's prestigious Pinnacle Awards are given to projects whose beauty, creativity, ingenuity, and craftsmanship exemplify professional mastery in the use of natural stone in commercial and residential applications.	
<b>Tucker Design Awards .....</b>	<b>17-21</b>
Tucker Design Awards honor those in the architect and design community who have achieved excellence in design through the incorporation and use of natural stone in building or landscape projects.	
<b>Pinnacle and Tucker Design Awards .....</b>	<b>22-25</b>
New in 2025! The jury chose to honor a few Pinnacle Award entries with the added distinction of design excellence for which the project earned BOTH a Pinnacle and Tucker Design award.	
<b>Excellence in Leadership Awards .....</b>	<b>26</b>
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<b>Natural Stone Scholarship .....</b>	<b>27</b>
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<b>Women in Stone Empowerment Scholarship .....</b>	<b>27</b>
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.	
<b>Natural Stone Craftsman of the Year.....</b>	<b>28-29</b>
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<b>Person of the Year .....</b>	<b>30-31</b>
The Person of the Year Award is an important annual recognition chosen by the association leadership team. Following the tradition of the award, this year's Person of the Year has given exceptional contribution and leadership to Natural Stone Institute, as well as mentoring and guidance to its executive team.	
<b>Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement .....</b>	<b>32-33</b>
The Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement was established in 2003 to recognize an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the natural stone industry and Natural Stone Institute. The award is named for Marble Institute of America's long-time technical director, the late Vincent R. Migliore, who was the first recipient..	
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The Thor Lundh Quarrier Award, established in 2024, honors professionals who have made extraordinary contributions to natural stone quarrying. Named for Thor Lundh, founder of Lundhs AS in Norway, the award celebrates visionaries who dared to take risks, modernize practices, and inspire others.	
<b>David Fell Spirit of Service Award.....</b>	<b>35</b>
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.	

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*

## Texas Medical Center Helix Park Houston, Texas





Helix Park is the centerpiece of the Texas Medical Center's new 37-acre medical research campus. The park has nine stone clad water features within the unique double helix configuration that extends throughout the length of the campus.

The water features are comprised of Charcoal Black and Iridian granite, textured with Diamond 100 finish; along with Saint Sebastien split-face granite. Water Feature 1 is 250' long in the double helix shape and is divided into 5 sections. Each section of the water feature has a water source forming behind a granite weir. The unique bottom creates a ripple effect as the water begins flowing over the weir. The perimeter of the water feature sections is captured by wood bench seating on one side and cubic granite step / bench seating along the opposite edge.

Water Feature 2 is scallop shaped with a small water scrim at the upper area for the water source. The water gradually falls to a hidden stone clad trench under a wood walkway. Immediately adjacent, water cascades down the 40" change in elevation in Water Feature 4.

The 14' diameter Water Feature 6 with its 56-lighted vertical waterspouts overflows into a 75' long runnel feature that meanders through a 4' change in elevation. Water Feature 7 serves as the basin for the runnel, with the water entering through a stainless-steel support within the center of a 10' long cubic granite bridge. The lower basin is accented with three cubic granite stepping-stones. Beyond the water features, there is a granite-bordered double helix sidewalk that extends through the entire park, along with granite clad amphitheater seating, planters and stairs which contribute to the aesthetically pleasing and functional design of Helix Park.

**Natural Stone Institute Member Company**

**Camarata Masonry Systems**  
Houston, Texas  
Stone Installer

**Landscape Architect**  
**Mikyoung Kim Design**  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Other Project Team Members**

**Elkus Manfredi Architects**  
Architect

**Coldspring** NSI  
**Polycor** NSI

**Stone Source** NSI  
Stone Suppliers/Fabricators

**Stone**

Charcoal Black granite  
Grolla Beige limestone  
Iridian granite  
Rockville Beige granite  
Saint Sebastien granite



# Architectural Carving, Lettering & Sculpture



Photos courtesy of Rugo Stone, LLC.

## Cathedral of Saint Thomas More Arlington, Virginia

The Cathedral of Saint Thomas More underwent a renovation in 2023. Architect O'Brien and Keane and the Diocese of Arlington brought Rugo Stone on board to perform the stonework in this massive renovation project. Rugo Stone's scope included the following items - marble altars, ambo, altar rail, sanctuary platform, steps, risers, paving, the cathedra (Bishop's Chair), deacon's benches, tabernacle and a marble baptismal font. The scope also included the sanctuary's granite cladding on screen wall and a limestone pedestal base for an existing statue. The stonework in this project involved massive and complex production and field coordination for installation.

The "cathedra", or bishop's chair, signifies his governance and pastoral ministry over the local church, which was a very important element in this project. It features a coat of arms of intricate marble inlay made with tiny, delicate waterjet-cut pieces in various colors, and sandblasted engravings of text. The sanctuary floor is completely decorated with stone.

Rugo Stone surveyed field conditions and recorded as-built elevations for the sanctuary reredos wall cladding. Stone was cut in Rugo's shop, and every piece was dry laid on the shop floor to ensure dimensional accuracy, alignment, and to confirm opening dimensions matched field conditions.

The statue base is made of cubic Indiana limestone supplied by 3D Stone, to which Rugo applied traceroy carving.

The architect and owner made several trips to the factories and to the Rugo shop to review the progress and approve various items. Each piece of stone produced for the project was dry laid to ensure accuracy and alignment of profiles. The project involved extensive engineering, requiring the Rugo team to work closely with the engineers to develop the anchorage design.

The project was a huge success; the Diocese and the architect were extremely pleased with Rugo Stone's performance on this massive project.



### Natural Stone Institute Member Company

**Rugo Stone, LLC**

Lorton, Virginia

Stone Consultant/Supplier/  
Fabricator/Installer

### Other Project Team Members

O'Brien & Keane  
Architect

3D Stone

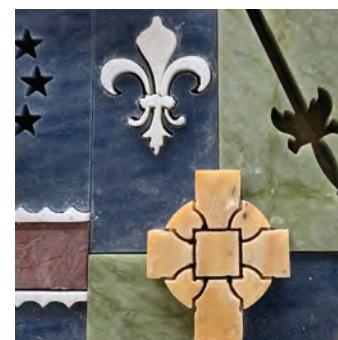
Polycor (Swenson Granite Works)

Pedrini Mario & Co  
Stone Fabricators

PICCO Engineering  
Stone Engineer

### Stone

Azul Macaubus quartzite  
Bianco Carrara Campanili marble  
Bianco Carrara Gioia marble  
Jasper  
Giallo Sienna marble  
Grigio Trambisera marble  
Verde Giada marble



# Architectural Carving, Lettering & Sculpture



Photos Courtesy of Mario & Son.

## Saint Patrick's Church

Walla Walla, Washington

Saint Patrick's Parish Church, situated in historic downtown Walla Walla, Washington, is a Gothic-style building that was founded in 1859. This 166-year-old institution is renowned for its exquisite Italian marble, particularly its stunning high altar. However, like many places of worship, it underwent significant alterations due to the design trends of the 1970s, which stripped away much of its original character.

Although the high altar remained intact, it had become soiled and etched from years of neglect and improper maintenance. The communion rail, added after the church's initial construction, had been dismantled and repurposed into a makeshift baptismal font surrounding an inexpensive plastic tub.

In 2023, driven by a deep appreciation for tradition, church leaders embarked on transformative renovations to restore the church's historical significance and rekindle its former glory.

The renovation project involved gutting the sanctuary down to its core, focusing on restoring the high altar, creating a new baptismal font and communion rail.

Deciding to forgo the initial proposed design, the church leaders desired to redesign the communion rail to better complement the high altar and enhance the overall aesthetic of the space. Drone technology was utilized to photograph and scan the intricate details of the nearly 20-foot-high altar, facilitating a cohesive design for a new communion rail that aligns with the Gothic style of the altar. The restoration of the high altar included thorough cleaning and refinishing of its surfaces, with special care taken to address deep-seated stains.

The new baptismal font features finely sculpted images of Irish saints Patrick and Brigid, and is crafted from Bianco Carrara marble, further enhancing the church's historical significance and marking a renewed commitment to its rich heritage.



### Natural Stone Institute Member Company

**Mario & Son**   
Liberty Lake, Washington  
Stone Designer/Consultant  
Fabricator/Installer

### Other Project Team Members

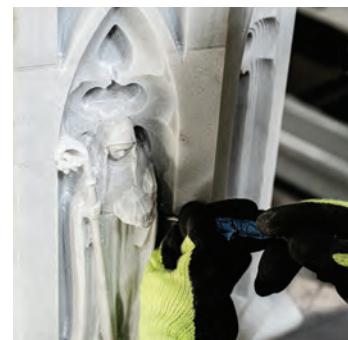
**Design West Architects, P.A.**  
Architect

**Bonotti Stone Trading International**  
Stone Supplier

**Caruso's Floors**  
Stone Tile Installer

### Stone

Bianco Carrara marble



# Commercial Exterior



Photos courtesy of The Gallegos Corporation.

## Montage Big Sky Big Sky, Montana

The magnitude of Montage Big Sky hotel situated in Big Sky, Montana is what you will notice first. It is the largest building in Montana, boasting more than 518,000 square feet of luxury. Located less than an hour from Yellowstone National Park, the resort is surrounded by wilderness. Gallegos' team of craftspeople carefully and strategically hand-placed over 54,000 square feet of moss rock sandstone veneer on this project. They were able to bring the beautiful aesthetic of nature to this property, which is seated in the Spanish Peaks community.

Each stone was hand-picked from farms in Oklahoma and Arkansas, palletized and then sent to Montana. Gallegos had to meet stringent requirements for the color, size, and percentage of moss on the stones for this project. With these strict requirements, and with the vast quantity of stone required for such a massive project, collecting stone had to begin very early in the construction process to keep up with the building's construction schedule. Many of the stones near the base of this project were so large they required two masons or a forklift to place them. Installation activities were coordinated with teams each morning to make sure the correct size, color, and moss-covered stones were placed in the correct locations throughout the day.

The result is a lodge with a mass and permanence that helps define the region. It provides the same awe-inspiring reaction from visitors as the large lodges found in Yellowstone National Park. The stone and installation methods pay homage to the historical installations of the area and add to the significance of the structure. This project will stand as a testament to the hard work of the individuals that brought the owner's and architect's vision to life.



**Natural Stone Institute  
Member Company**

**The Gallegos Corporation**   
Wolcott, Colorado  
Stone Fabricator/Installer

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### Other Project Team Members

**Hart-Howerton**  
Architect

**Quarry Works Incorporated**   
Stone Supplier

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### Stone

Prairie Fieldstone Moss Rock sandstone



# Commercial Exterior



Photo ©Alan Karchmer/OTTO.

## Johns Hopkins University Adaptive Reuse Exterior Façade Renovation Washington, DC

Repurposing a former museum into an urban “stacked quad” for Johns Hopkins University demanded extraordinary creativity—and over one million pounds of marble. The stone became the defining element of the new identity, expressing monumentality, balance, and permanence along Pennsylvania Avenue while establishing a clear JHU presence in Washington, D.C.

From the project’s first inquiry—an unnamed, privately funded landmark in the nation’s capital—the choice of stone was central. Extensive study of color tones, angles, and finishes guided the selection process. Dozens of 12x12 samples and ten full slabs were reviewed to establish a controlled range that captured the marble’s natural beauty while ensuring consistency and cost efficiency. The low-hone finish, described by the architect as “velvety,” was ultimately chosen for its ability to reveal full color with minimal reflectivity.

The final scope included 10,951 square feet of Light Rose marble in two-, three-, and four-inch panels, plus 125 solid corners. Each of the 1,100 pieces was individually inspected during seven quarry and factory visits, where dry-lay reviews ensured precise blending and alignment. Only two stones fell outside the approved range. Chevroned panels on the southern façade became a hallmark of the design, their angled surfaces transforming throughout the day as sunlight shifts—creating a dynamic play of shadow and texture that celebrates the living quality of natural stone.

This meticulous process, from quarry selection to installation, spanned from 2020 to 2022 and unfolded even amid the pandemic. As a final tribute to the building’s history, the original 50-ton marble “tablet” engraved with the First Amendment was salvaged and relocated to the Constitution Center in Philadelphia—a lasting reminder of the endurance and expressive power of stone in architecture.



### Natural Stone Institute Member Company

Tennessee Marble Company   
Friendsville, Tennessee  
Stone Supplier/Fabricator

### Other Project Team Members

Ennead Architects  
Architect

R. Bratti Associates   
Stone Installer

### Stone

Light Rose marble

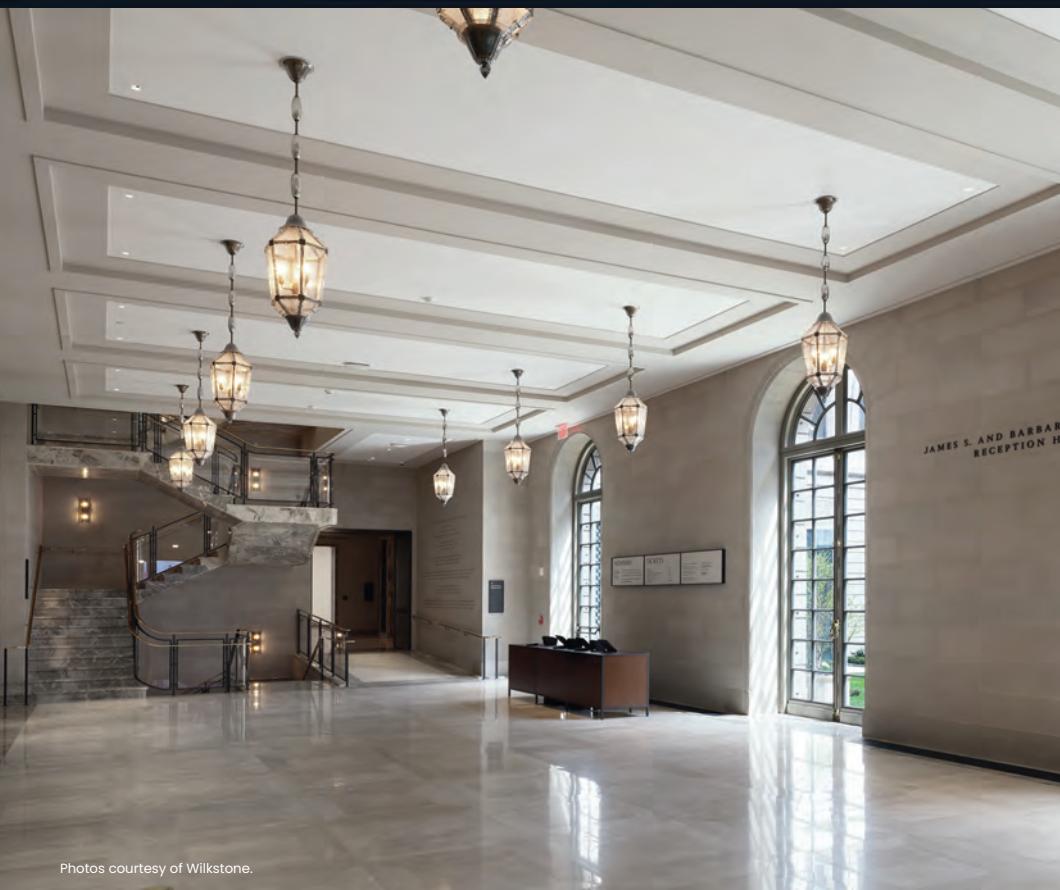


Photo courtesy of Tennessee Marble Company.



Photo ©Alan Karchmer/OTTO.

# Commercial Interior



Photos courtesy of Wilkstone.

## The Frick Collection New York, New York

Making major renovations to a 1914 historic mansion in New York City provided monumental challenges. The original stones were historic materials whose production had stopped or is minimal. Wilkstone's work included the installation of marbles from subcellar levels through to the reception hall and up to the second floor.

The reception hall was the focal point of the renovation and included 1,700 square feet of Botticino Classico surrounded by Breccia Aurora Blue border stone and 2,500 square feet of Indiana limestone walls.

To connect the mansion with the reception hall, two round arches of Indiana limestone were extended. Design incorporated keystones and wedge-shaped stones used to complete and support the arches, intricately carved to add a unique focal point.

One of the most stunning additions to the museum is a dramatic, cantilevered stairway in Breccia Aurora Blue veined marble which appears to float from the reception hall to the second floor. Since many quarries had ceased production of this marble, it had to be sourced from dozens of stone yards. The veining for the steps had to be matched so that each tread, riser, and stringer looked like one solid continuous piece.

The portals were built using Breccia Aurora Blue and Nembro Rosato marbles, crafted with special profiles to keep the architectural intent. The spaces on the floor are more intimate, so the marbles were laid in a small herringbone pattern to suit the scale of the rooms. The walls of the café are clad with Pietra di Prun Bianca. Lastly, a checkerboard pattern of Chiampo and Tea Rose marble tiles, surrounded by a Breccia Aurora border, were installed on the vestibule floor connecting the mansion to the new museum shop.

Wilkstone's dedicated team spent four years on this magnificent project and are very proud of its historic legacy.



**Natural Stone Institute  
Member Company**

**Wilkstone**  
Paterson, New Jersey  
Stone Fabricator/Installer

### Other Project Team Members

**Selldorf Architects**

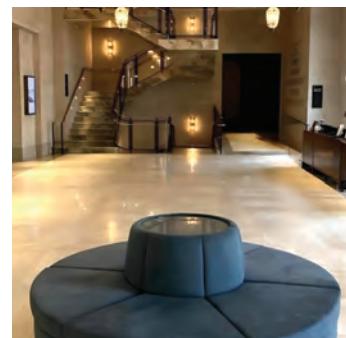
**Beyer Blinder Belle,  
Architects & Planners  
Architects**

**T.I.A. Marble**  
Stone Supplier/Fabricator

**TexaCon Cut Stone**   
Stone Fabricator

### Stone

Botticino Classico marble  
Breccia Aurora Blue marble  
Rouge Griotte marble  
New Macchia Vecchia marble  
Nembro Rosato marble  
Pietra di Prun Bianca limestone  
Indiana Standard Buff limestone  
Chiampo marble  
Tea Rose marble  
Grolla Beige marble  
Absolute Black granite



# Kitchen & Bath



Photos © Ben Stark Film.

## Custom Marble Kitchen

Huntsville, Alabama

The client approached Ceramic Harmony with a specific vision for her kitchen, inspired by a picture she found. She was unable to find a fabricator locally who could bring her vision to life until the firm was recommended to her. After several meetings and sketches, a final detailed design was created, and Calacatta Macchia Vecchia 2cm was selected as the material.

The scope of work included a range area with built-in recessed shelving on both sides and a full slab hood front, a window area clad in marble with an inside/outside pass-through bar, and a triple waterfall island in the center of the room. The project involved the challenge of wrapping the slabs on all three legs of the island to ensure the material flowed around to the inside as they would be visible. In addition to the mitered waterfall edges, all top edges were also mitered and finished, for a monolithic appearance.

The full hood slab and window slabs required meticulous preparation, including comprehensive window frame wraps. The pass-through bar needed precise fitting to ensure a perfectly level surface custom-designed to fit the window frame. The client actively engaged in creating the digital 3D layout to ensure that the material and patterns were consistent with her vision. The Ceramic Harmony design team and master craftsmen adeptly realized her vision with exceptional craftsmanship.



**Natural Stone Institute Member Company**

**Ceramic Harmony**

Huntsville, Alabama

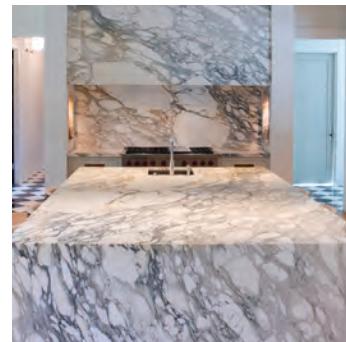
Design/Stone Consultant/  
Fabricator/Installer

### Other Project Team Members

**Antolini Luigi & C. S.p.A.**   
Stone Supplier

**Stone**

Calacatta Macchia Vecchia  
Super Extra marble



# Renovation & Restoration



Photos courtesy of Rugo Stone LLC.

## Saint Patrick's Catholic Church Washington, DC

Saint Patrick Catholic Church, the oldest Catholic parish in Washington, DC, underwent a significant sanctuary renovation in September 2024. Rugo Stone was entrusted with this complex and delicate restoration, bringing its deep expertise in ecclesiastical stonework and historic preservation to one of the nation's oldest active parishes.

The scope of work performed was extensive and required a careful balance of craftsmanship, technical precision, and respect for the architectural and liturgical heritage of the church. A new sanctuary platform, or Predella, was installed to elevate the altar, requiring selective demolition of the existing structure, construction of a new three-level CMU foundation, and an extension of the paving and steps to the new rear wood altar, the reredos. For the new sanctuary elevation, Rugo Stone selected and installed Bianco Carrara marble. To achieve a perfect aesthetic match, they worked closely with quarries in Italy to source the right block, which was slabbed and shipped to the U.S., then fabricated and dry-laid at our studio to ensure consistency in veining and color across each piece.

Rugo's scope also included restoration and reinstallation of two carved marble Bas reliefs on either side of the reredos. These sacred artworks, including the prominent Last Supper carving in the altar, were gently removed, crated, and transported to Rugo's studio for conservation. The Last Supper Bas relief underwent detailed cleaning, repairs, and a 3D scan to produce accurate digital measurements.

The altar and the tabernacle were both restored and relocated as part of the sanctuary redesign. A new marble statue of Saint Monica was supplied and installed by Rugo Stone. This project required extensive rigging techniques to safely move heavy stone and statuary. Detailed as-built measurements and elevations were taken of each of the hundreds of stone elements before being individually cataloged prior to removal from their originally installed locations. The renovation was a resounding success, blending historic preservation with thoughtful liturgical enhancements.



**Natural Stone Institute  
Member Company**

**Rugo Stone LLC**

Lorton, Virginia

Stone Consultant/Fabricator/Installer

**Other Project Team Members**

**Franck & Lohsen Architects**  
Architect

**Pedrini Mario**  
Stone Supplier

**Stone**

Bianco Carrara Michelangelo marble



# Renovation & Restoration



Photos courtesy of Rugo Stone LLC.

## Saint James Catholic Church Arlington, Virginia

The Saint James Catholic Church underwent a significant renovation. The architect and the owner entrusted Rugo Stone with the complex task of dismantling, modifying, and reinstalling marble elements throughout the sanctuary, as well as furnishing and installing several new marble assemblies.

Rugo Stone's scope included dismantling and relocating the existing main altar forward to allow for a new rear altar, relocating existing statues, tabernacle, and a marble baptismal font, modifying the existing marble altar rail to widen the gate opening in the middle, furnishing a new marble ambo and a marble Madonna statue.

The process began with a meticulous catalog of every marble piece. Rugo's team developed a comprehensive photographic and labeling system, recording each stone's location and condition. As-built measurements were taken on site to ensure precise re-installation of the marble assemblies. Two new CMU platforms were built by Rugo team to support the relocated main altar and the new rear altar.

The marble altar rail was carefully cataloged and dismantled. Dutchman repairs were made, which involved replacing damaged sections of stone with carefully crafted pieces of matching stone and profiles.

The new rear altar and ambo were produced in Botticino Classico marble to match the existing marble in the church. Premium marble blocks were selected, then CNC-machined and hand-carved by Rugo artisans. Both the ambo and the rear altar feature highly ornate carvings and complex profiles. They also feature highly intricate waterjet cut marble inlays. Every piece of marble was dry laid in the studio to ensure accuracy and alignment of pieces and profiles. Rugo Stone team performed 3D scanning on site to capture profiles of the existing altar, the scans were then sent to the factory team in Italy team to accurately reproduce profiles that precisely match the existing. Lastly, a new Madonna statue, carved from first-choice Bianco Carrara marble, was installed.



### Natural Stone Institute Member Company

**Rugo Stone, LLC**

Lorton, Virginia

Stone Consultant/Supplier/  
Fabricator/Installer

### Other Project Team Members

**O'Brien and Keane**  
Architect

**Pedrini Mario**  
Stone Fabricator

**Stone**

Botticino Classico marble  
Bianco Carrara marble  
Breccia Aurora marble  
Rosso Levanto marble  
Verde Issoire marble  
Jasper



# Residential – Single Family



Photos ©Julie Florio Photography.

## Post-Tensioned Stair Long Island, New York

A one-of-a-kind monolithic stair, this post-tensioned stone structure merges ancient material with modern engineering, transforming 50 large-format treads into a sculptural, gravity-defying ribbon of marble. Designed for a private residence in historic Sag Harbor, Long Island, the three-flight staircase anchors the home's coastal elegance with a centerpiece of timeless craftsmanship and technical precision.

Clad entirely in Danby Fantastico, a domestically quarried New England marble, the stair expresses refined minimalism through bold veining and luminous tone. Structural analysis confirmed that veining orientation was critical—each block had to be hand-selected and marked with quarry masters to ensure both strength and visual cohesion. The honed and sealed treads, each 4'-9" wide and weighing 770 pounds, were digitally modeled to integrate four post-tensioning ducts, concealed wiring channels, and recessed LED lighting within their marble cores.

Flights One and Two are reinforced with 12.9 mm post-tensioning cables, while Flight Three employs 15.7 mm cables for added strength. Custom steel anchorages at the top and bottom treads tie the stair into the building's framing, allowing hydraulic jacks to apply calibrated tension that unites the structure into a single, self-supporting system.

Fabricated using 5-axis CNC and 7-axis robotic machining, each tread was hand-finished to architectural-grade precision. On-site installation demanded millimetric accuracy, sequencing each placement, tensioning, and grouting in a carefully choreographed process.

The result—the first post-tensioned stone staircase in the United States built entirely from domestically quarried marble—stands as a testament to sustainable sourcing, technical precision and creative collaboration. Seamlessly integrating light, geometry, and natural stone, it exemplifies craftsmanship, material expertise, and what is possible when architectural ambition meets exceptional fabrication.



### Natural Stone Institute Member Company

**PICCO Engineering**  
Concord, ON Canada  
Stone Consultant/Engineering

**Precision Stone Inc.**  
Westbury, New York  
Stone Fabricator/Installer

### Other Project Team Members

**Thomas Juul-Hansen, LLC**  
Architect

**S. Donadic Inc.**  
General Contractor

**The Stone Masonry Company, Ltd**  
Stone Consultant

**Webb & Yates Engineers**  
Stone Engineering

**Vermont Quarries**   
Stone Supplier

### Stone

Danby Fantastico marble



# Residential – Single Family



Photos @ Anice Hoachlander Photography LLC.

## Private Residence Washington, DC

The “Slayton House” is the second of three residential projects ever designed by the world-renowned architect I.M. Pei, celebrated for his works at the pyramids, at the Louvre in Paris, and the East Building of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. The Slayton House, a designated landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, was extensively renovated and expanded by Robert Gurney Associates in 2020 and built by Peterson & Collins.

Rugo Stone was brought on board very early to guide the homeowners through the stone selection process and to provide design-assist. After meticulous review, the homeowners selected vein-cut Navona travertine, which aligned with the home's strong linear geometry, and brought a classic, Roman touch to the home's interiors and exterior hardscapes.

The project involved extensive use of travertine for the interior and exterior floors, pool paving, pool coping, steps and pavers on pedestals. Achieving consistency between the interior and exterior stone finishes was a major challenge due to large, vaulted ceilings and glass walls at the front as well as the rear. The visual flow of pavers between interior and exterior spaces had to blend perfectly.

The interior stone received a custom honed finish, while the exterior stone was given a textured, slip-resistant finish that maintained color consistency throughout the spaces.

Rugo's project manager and the homeowner made two trips to Italy to select the blocks and to approve the dry laid mock-ups of the stone at the factory. Each floor area was laid out, reviewed and pieces swapped positions to blend the color and veining.

The result was a refined, elegant space that seamlessly unites past and present. This was a visually striking and technically demanding project that has since received multiple awards and broad recognition within the architect and designer communities.



### Natural Stone Institute Member Company

**Rugo Stone, LLC**  
Lorton, Virginia  
Stone Consultant/Installer

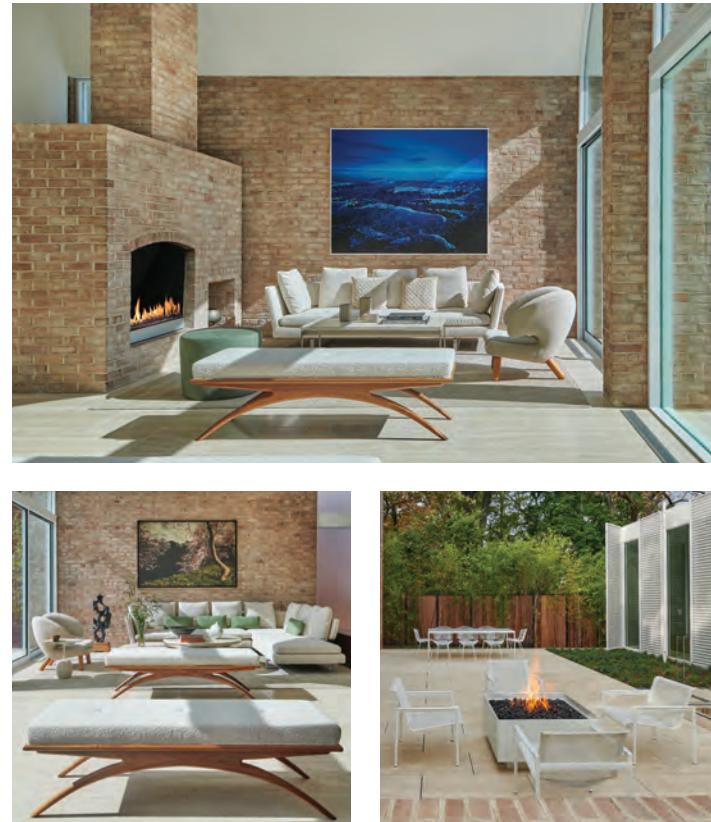
### Other Project Team Members

**Robert Gurney Architects**  
Architect

**Pacifci SpA**   
Stone Supplier

**Stone**

Navona travertine



# Residential – Single Family



Photos courtesy of TexaStone Quarries.



## Natural Stone Institute Member Company

**TexaStone Quarries**   
Garden City, Texas  
Stone Supplier/Fabricator

## Other Project Team Members

**Robert Town and Associates**  
Architect

**Wilks Masonry**  
**Metro Masonry**  
Stone Installers

### Stone

Hadrian limestone  
Permian Sea Coral limestone

## Lake View Residence Cisco, Texas

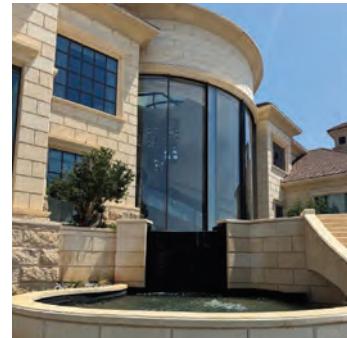
Introducing the Lake View Residence, a spectacular architectural gem nestled in the beautiful landscapes of Texas. This impressive project spans a whopping 60,000 square feet of luxurious indoor space, complemented by over 10,000 square feet of thoughtfully designed outdoor areas. Commissioned by a client who truly values privacy, this residence embodies a perfect blend of elegance and innovation.

What makes this project truly stand out is the stunning radial rotunda, composed of hundreds of intricately milled rounded pieces. Each element underwent a detailed design and approval process, ensuring that everything fits together flawlessly. The complexity of these pieces pushed the manufacturing team to unleash their creativity and fully utilize their stone mill capabilities, resulting in breathtaking craftsmanship.

Inside, you will find beautifully crafted radial arches, jambs, and soffits that add to the home's unique character. The challenge of installing large format headers with profiled returns was met with expertise and ingenuity of the masonry team, showcasing their skill in handling such substantial elements.

Given the client's high profile, the team implemented strict security measures on-site, which made logistics and material deliveries quite an adventure. Every team member was required to keep project details under wraps, ensuring that privacy remained a top priority.

In short, the Lake View Residence is not just a home; it's an exciting project that highlights what's possible when innovative design meets high-quality craftsmanship. This residence captures the essence of luxury living and inspires everyone who steps inside.



# Commercial Exterior



Photos © Jeff Goldberg/Esto.

## New Canaan Library New Canaan, Connecticut

The New Canaan Library integrates native stone in several ways that connect the building to its surroundings and the mid-century Modern architectural heritage of New Canaan, Connecticut.

The building is clad in dry-laid native stone, punched with glass elements adorned with vertical metal caps of varying heights that mimic New England's upland forests. This dry-laid stone technique creates a textural, organic appearance that avoids the formal appearance of mortared joints. The stone design responds to the landscape. It drifts this way and that, melding into the landscape with the glass playfully stepping over and touching down. This creates a dynamic relationship between the building and its site, making the structure feel integrated with the natural topography rather than imposed upon it.

Stone extends indoors, anchoring a vapor fireplace at the center of the library's "living room." Native stone also reflects the broader design philosophy of the library, which reflects local mid-century design and nearby natural stone, trees, and rolling hills. This connects the contemporary building to New Canaan's famous mid-century modern architecture by the Harvard Five, typified by Philip Johnson's Glass House and Eliot Noyes's iconic New Canaan House, and the farmer-laid stone walls found throughout the Connecticut landscape. The stone also references the library's original building, which was preserved and relocated to face a new community green created behind the new building.

The stone cladding works in harmony with other materials, particularly the glass elements that are strategically placed to create visual breaks in the stone surface. The vertical, metal caps of varying heights that crown the glass elements create a forest-like rhythm that complements the organic quality of the stone base. The combination of thin and full veneer allowed for the varied textures and depths that create an organic, landscape-integrated appearance.



### Architect

**Centerbrook Architects**  
Centerbrook, Connecticut

### Other Project Team Members

**STIMSON**  
Landscape Architect

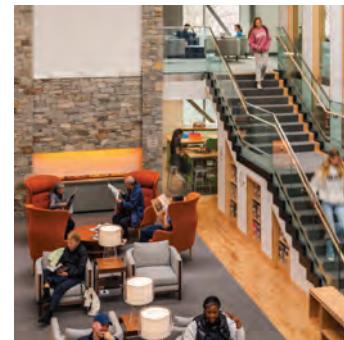
**Turner Construction**  
General Contractor

**Delgado Stone Distributors** NSI  
Stone Supplier/Fabricator

**East Coast Wall Systems**  
Stone Installer

### Stone

**CT Blend**  
Old New England Wall



# Commercial Exterior



Photos by Martin van Hemert Photography, Inc.

## Taylorsville Temple

Taylorsville, Utah

The Taylorsville Utah Temple design was inspired by historic Utah ecclesiastical architecture and the architect's distinctive vision and interpretation. It was essential to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that the detailing reflect the skills of traditional craftsmen, including stone masons, carpenters, and other local artisans. The project exterior incorporates 52,000 SF of Botticino limestone, a material that has embodied the architectural beauty of natural stone for more than 1,500 years. The two exterior color tones featured in the Temple's design were accomplished by applying different finishes to the limestone - a coarse grit "Graffiato" finish was applied to the veneer pieces and a subtle, seta polish finish was used on the cubic accent pieces.

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. Extensive time was spent working together during the design-assist phase to fine tune the details and establish stone attachment methods before a single stone was even fabricated.

A key to the project's success was the production of highly detailed shop drawings and cut tickets. Shop drawings were completed to an accuracy of 1/32" and detailed over 100 different types of stone anchorage conditions across the entire building. Because the cladding design incorporated so many unique stone elements, the building did not replicate itself, meaning each piece had a specific location. Additionally, because of the color variations in the stone veining, the designers wanted to ensure consistency across levels, flowing from light to dark. This required that all stones were dry laid to confirm their location before installation. Over 10,000 exterior pieces were installed in just over 20 months, creating a striking stone monument for the Taylorsville community.



### Architect

FFKR Architects  
Salt Lake City, Utah

### Other Project Team Members

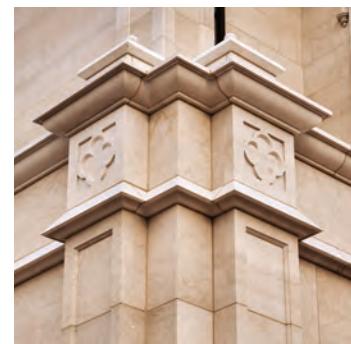
DL Engineering Inc.   
PICCO Engineering   
Stone Engineering

Marmi Ghirardi   
Stone Supplier/Fabricator

KEPCO+   
Stone Installer

### Stone

Botticino Classico limestone



# Renovation & Restoration



Photos © Trent Bell Photography.



## Architect

**Elliott Architects**  
Blue Hill, Maine

## Other Project Team Members

**Richardson & Associates**  
Landscape Architect

**Freshwater Stone & Brickwork** NSI  
Stone Supplier/Fabricator/Installer  
(Interior)

**Atlantic Landscape Construction**

**Dennis J. King Masonry**  
Stone Installers (Exterior)

**Thornton Tomasetti**  
Stone Engineering

## Stone

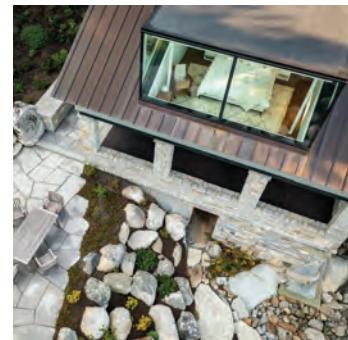
Englishman's Bay granite  
Taunton Bay granite  
Existing and "found" stone on site  
Zimbabwe Black granite

## Old Yacht Club East Blue Hill, Maine

An abandoned Yacht Club, poised at the edge of the bay, sat derelict for years, all while bearing witness to the relentless coastal climate of Maine. Built in 1919, it endured a series of interventions after the Club relocated to its current home in 1946. This resulted in the removal of much of the interior fabric and all that remained intact was the original Club Room.

Built partially on ledge and partially on clay, the foundation was deteriorating as evidenced by severe settling of the structure above. Furthermore, it was never designed to comply with present floodplain regulations. The stone walls would require underpinning and buttressing to endure the obstinate conditions their site presents. So, the superstructure was removed, and the club room and chimney were deconstructed piece by piece, each labeled and numbered. Work on the foundation began with considerable efforts made to stabilize existing work so that it could be reinforced and supported sufficiently.

After the foundation was reinforced and repointed, a new wood and steel superstructure was erected above in the profile of the original Yacht Club. Inside this shell, the Club Room was rebuilt, replete with its accompanying chimney. Two large moves helped transform it into a residence while paying homage to its past. In both instances, old and new are clearly distinct. The replacement of a corner of the Club Room with large sliding glass panels coupled with the addition of two glass dormers transformed the otherwise lightless building into a two-way receptacle for light. While admitting sunlight deep into the house throughout the day, at night it is a luminous beacon on the coast.



# Residential – Single Family



Photos © D. A. Horchner.

## Charlie Mountain Ranch Old Snowmass, Colorado

At the end of a glacial valley in western Colorado, Charlie Mountain Ranch is a restored 73-acre property that reimagines a historic ranch compound through the expressive use of natural stone. After years of neglect, the land was carefully revived as a multigenerational estate, guided by a design ethos rooted in ecology, heritage, and craft.

Stone is the defining element of the design—regionally sourced Montana and Oklahoma moss rock form a richly textured, weathered palette that grounds the built elements in their high-desert setting. Working hand-in-hand with local masons, the landscape architect developed a suite of handcrafted details: dry-stacked walls with subtle battering, monolithic stone stair landings, and site-built transitions that respect the irregularity of each stone.

Innovative in its humility, the project forgoes engineered substructures for low-impact, site-sensitive detailing. A reclaimed granite auto court accommodates plowing and drainage while settling naturally into the earth. Paths and terraces are built to age, settle, and shift with the seasons—an intentional reflection of the site's evolution. In a secluded corner, a soaking tub carved into the terrain and framed by sandstone beams evokes the feeling of a natural spring. Each element is scaled, placed, and finished to blur the line between built and natural.

Charlie Mountain Ranch demonstrates how natural stone, when used with skill and restraint, can create landscapes that are not only resilient and beautiful—but timeless. It is a place where the material becomes memory, and design disappears into the land.



### Landscape Architect

Design Workshop   
Denver, Colorado

### Other Project Team Members

Pearson Design Group  
Architect

Landscape Workshop  
Landscape Contractor

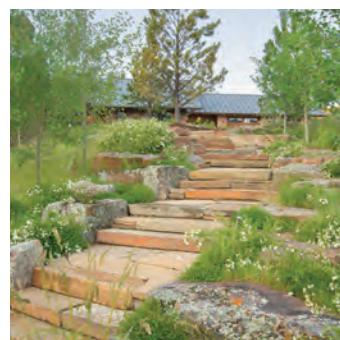
Select Stone   
Stone Supplier/Fabricator

Stone Curators   
Stone Supplier

Suarez Masonry  
Stone Installer

### Stone

Frontier flagstone  
Montana Moss boulders  
Montana Moss veneer  
Oklahoma Moss veneer  
Reclaimed granite planks



# Residential – Single Family



Photos © DoubleSpace Photography.

## Meadowcliffe House Toronto, ON Canada

Lake Iroquois' historic shoreline terminates in one of the most striking geological landforms in Ontario, the Scarborough Bluffs. Meadowcliffe House is a multi-generational residence nestled at the edge of the bluffs, where Lake Iroquois' ancient shoreline once stood. Inspired by this dramatic geological setting, the home is deeply rooted in the stone landscape, forging a strong architectural dialogue with its surroundings. Located on a secluded dead-end street, the site offers a rare convergence of forest and shoreline, which inspired the home's sculptural form.

The design features two solid volumes carved to reveal a luminous central atrium, with bridges spanning a dramatic three-story space. These volumes house the primary functions of the home and are clad in 6,350 square feet of locally sourced Algonquin limestone. This durable and elegant material was carefully selected by the architects directly from the quarry, then cut into varied sizes and finishes to create visual texture. The stone wraps from the exterior into the interior, seamlessly connecting the home to its natural context. A combination of load-bearing stone masonry and mechanically fastened stone panels were used, with meticulous detailing including pre-mitered corners and custom stainless-steel hardware.

Designed for both beauty and functionality, the house features open living spaces for large family gatherings, a ground-floor accessible suite, and bedrooms on the second floor connected by bridges. Each space is filled with natural light and offers views of either Lake Ontario or the adjacent forest. A third-floor family room and green roof terraces provide year-round enjoyment with sweeping views. Accessibility was a priority throughout: an elevator links all levels, with barrier-free transitions and integrated wheelchair access designed within the home's architectural rhythm. Meadowcliffe House stands as a lasting structure, both responsive to its geological roots and adaptable to future generations.



### Architect

**Lebel & Bouliane**  
Toronto, ON Canada

### Other Project Team Members

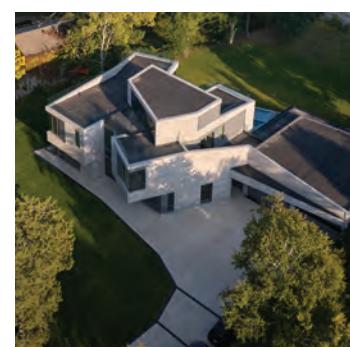
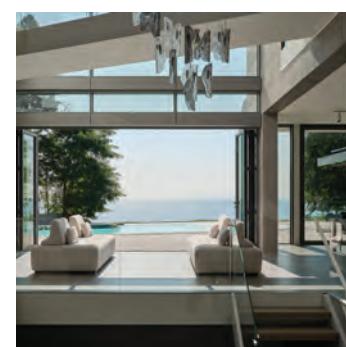
**PICCO Engineering** NSI  
Stone Engineer

**Owen Sound Ledgerock**  
Stone Supplier/Fabricator

**Finbarr Masonry Inc.**  
Stone Installer

### Stone

Algonquin limestone



# Commercial Exterior



Photos courtesy of Reneszánsz Ltd.

## Sauska Tokaj Winery Tokaj-Hegyalja, Hungary

The innovative Sauska Tokaj Winery is built on top of Padi Hill, in the Tokaj wine region of Hungary, located on the southern slopes of the village of Rátka. This newest Sauska winery redefines traditional architecture. The architectural concept was to create a light, floating form above the landscape which was inspired by the undulating vineyards. From a distance, the structure appears as two sculptural bowls floating in the vines. Each bowl measures 36 meters in diameter, one housing a restaurant and the other a bar, with the technology completely sunk into the ground. The winery's operating areas, which require a constant climate, were located below the surface.

During the design process, the close connection between the building and its setting was decisive. Its mass and limestone façade form an organic unity with its natural surroundings, thus preserving the wonderful panorama of the foothills from the huge viewing terrace directly connected to the restaurant and bar.

The trapezoidal cut limestone slabs, their fit to each other and to the structure, their fastening, placement and installation solutions, had to be carefully planned to achieve the visual effect desired for a façade and paving of such unusual geometry.

The paving of the two circular sections on different planes required unusual and creative solutions from the stone company's specialists through sample making and modeling.

The complexity is well reflected in the fact that determining and setting out the starting point for the geodetic survey was also a very serious task.

The stone cladding elements were made of freshwater hard limestone from the Sütő quarry in Hungary. The slabs were typically 5 cm thick, featuring a sandblasted surface treatment.

The unique design presented an unusual challenge in the installation of the stone elements, yet the winery was successfully completed after two years of construction.



**Natural Stone Institute  
Member Company**

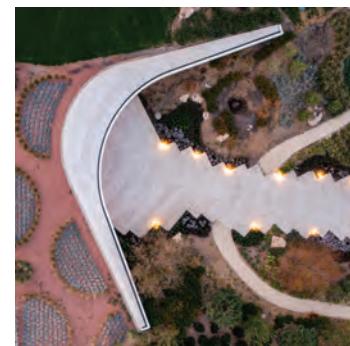
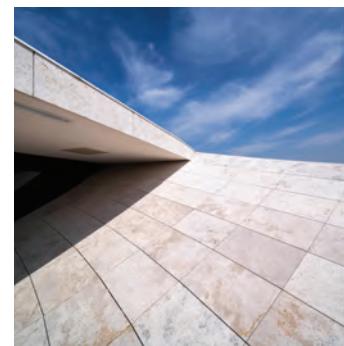
**Reneszánsz Ltd**  
Üröm, Hungary  
Stone Supplier/Fabricator/Installer

**Architect**

**BORD Architectural Studio**  
Budapest, Hungary

**Stone**

Reneszánsz limestone



# Commercial Exterior



Photo ©Anthony Lindsey Photography.

## Sunnyvale Civic Center Sunnyvale, California

The Sunnyvale Civic Center Master Plan is a testament to sustainability and the power of collaboration, transforming a vehicle-oriented campus into a vibrant, people-centered destination. Central to the project's success is a 20-year partnership between the natural stone supplier and landscape architect, both committed to using local stone. Their collaboration resulted in the creation of 222 custom, CNC-fabricated granite benches and planter walls, along with 40,000 square feet of granite paving, all sourced and fabricated in California.

The design involved several challenges, including warped granite walls, radial benches and the seamless blending of light and dark granite to evoke tree roots that symbolize community. The landscape architect played a highly active role, making frequent visits to the supplier's plant to ensure the design vision was realized. Utilizing 3D modeling and physical mockups, the team refined details such as bench lighting, skateboard deterrents, and the number of granite finishes required, enhancing both aesthetics and functionality while reducing costs and simplifying documentation.

Sustainability was a guiding principle throughout the project. Insisting on local fabrication, the landscape architect prompted the supplier to invest in advanced wire saws and two 5-axis CNC machines at its California facility. This enabled all granite to be sourced and processed locally, while reducing the project's carbon footprint by avoiding long-distance transportation.

The resulting civic plazas unify indoor and outdoor spaces with continuous granite elements, serving as central gathering places for events and daily community life. The design's success is evident in the plazas' immediate adoption for public events and city gatherings, as originally envisioned. As part of a broader vision that includes the nation's first ground-up, net-zero, LEED Platinum city hall, the Sunnyvale Civic Center Master Plan stands as a model of sustainable civic design, community engagement and innovative public space use for cities everywhere.



### Natural Stone Institute Member Company

**ColdSpring**   
Cold Spring, Minnesota  
Stone Supplier/Fabricator

### Landscape Architect

**SmithGroup**  
San Francisco, California

### Other Project Team Members

**Western Tile & Marble**   
Stone Installer

### Stone

Academy Black granite  
Sierra White granite



Photo courtesy ColdSpring.



Photo ©Anthony Lindsey Photography.



Photo courtesy ColdSpring.

# Commercial Interior



Photos courtesy of Rugo Stone, LLC.

## Jewish Leadership Academy Miami, Florida

The Jewish Leadership Academy in Miami set out to create a modern Orthodox learning environment for middle and upper school students. Rugo Stone was brought on board early in the design phase to consult and assist Gensler architects with the stone specifications and anchorage design.

Jerusalem limestone was used throughout the campus, most prominently on two monumental radial feature walls: one at the school's central study hall, and the other anchoring the main entrance façade.

Both walls feature a deliberate and striking interplay of honed and split face finishes. The honed surfaces provide crisp, refined planes, whereas the split face zones introduce rugged relief that captures light and shadow.

Constructing walls of this complexity with a highly variegated, undulating surface posed big technical hurdles. The split face finish varies significantly across each panel, and any joints would show shadowing and undulation when the stone panels are put together. The radial geometry required precise, hand chiseled and aligned miters so that the face texture "flows" seamlessly around each turn. Coordinating two thicknesses of limestone on adjacent walls, while keeping all running joints on the same lines, demanded meticulous detailing.

To address these issues Rugo partnered with A. Grebelsky & Sons, a fabricator in Israel, who employed a full dry-lay mock-up process at the factory. Skilled stonemasons hand-chiseled the exposed edges of every panel, ensuring that adjacent ridges and valleys aligned perfectly. Mitered returns were hand-chiseled to perfection and stone was gauged for achieving the right thickness.

Rugo's team performed this project with in-house workforce who installed the walls using extensive scaffolding, and scissor lifts. Installing the stone panels and maintaining the alignments was a great challenge but the team executed the job perfectly.



### Natural Stone Institute Member Company

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

### Architect

**Gensler**  
Miami, Florida

### Other Project Team Members

**A. Grebelsky & Sons**   
**Granites of America**   
Stone Suppliers/Fabricators

### Stone

Jerusalem Gold limestone  
Jet Mist granite



# Residential – Single Family



Photos by Todd Winslow Pierce Photography.

## Private Residence Colorado Colorado

The design team for this custom home in Colorado had some very stringent criteria that had to be met. The coursing of stone veneer on this home was exacting. From the base of the home to the top of the third-level chimney, the varying stone coursing needed to be continuous across all elevations, seamlessly transitioning from the exterior to the interior. This was especially difficult due to the sequencing of the installation. Some exterior sections were finished over a year before the corresponding interior work, yet both were visible through windows, requiring precise alignment. The color requirements were very strict as well. The quarry had to cull some of the integral colors in this stone blend, because the owner had specific criteria around the desired buff color range. All orange, brown and light tones were removed at the quarry.

It took approximately two years to complete the stonework utilizing a small crew that matched the pace of predecessor construction, as their tolerances were as exacting as the tolerances stone masons had to maintain. Nearly 14,000 sf of full bed depth stone veneer was installed, all requiring precise cutting and chiseling to create the exact design.

This project was unique in that it called for the use of traditional materials and techniques but asked for them to be delivered in a very modern and exact fashion. The practice of masonry has been around for thousands of years, but being able to marry these classic materials and methods with the design team's complex vision was a true challenge for the crews.



### Natural Stone Institute Member Company

**The Gallegos Corporation**  
Wolcott, Colorado  
Stone Fabricator/Installer

### Architect

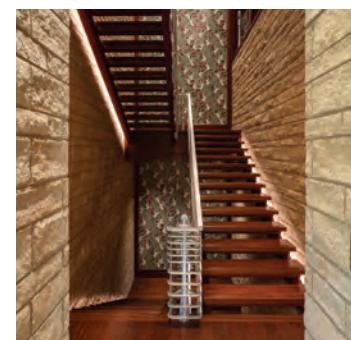
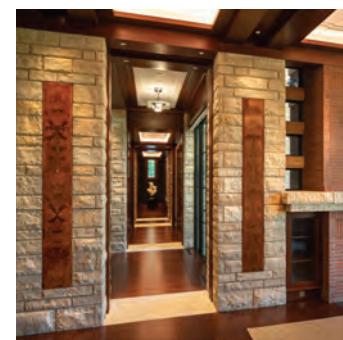
**Forum Phi**  
Aspen, Colorado

### Other Project Team Members

**Lyons Sandstone** NSI  
Stone Supplier/Fabricator

### Stone

Aspen Buff sandstone



# 2025 Excellence in Leadership Awards



**Filippo Emanuel**  
COMES North America Inc.



**Robert Hicken**  
Mountain Valley Stone Inc.

Filippo Emanuel has demonstrated significant leadership to the Natural Stone Institute (NSI) in 2025. His strong voice for process and systems is advancing the NSI's continued growth, most notable in the work he, along with Evan Cohen, did in developing key performance indicators (KPIs) that now serve as a clear and practical overview of the organization's health. His analytical approach and forward-thinking mindset helped the NSI establish measurable benchmarks to guide decision-making and long-range planning.

Filippo also provided vital leadership in forming the new finance and budget committee following recent changes in the bylaws. By helping recruit additional financial experts, Filippo strengthened the organization's capacity to support its growing trajectory and ensure strong fiscal stewardship. Additionally, Filippo stepped in to support NSI's CEO Jim Hieb during several high-impact meetings affecting both domestic and international members. His professionalism and knowledge of the industry contributed significantly to productive outcomes during these discussions.

The NSI celebrates Filippo Emanuel for his exceptional service and leadership.

Robert Hicken is recognized for not only his years of service to the natural stone industry, but the depth, clarity, and steadiness he provided as the Natural Stone Institute (NSI) focused attention on several complex challenges in 2025.

Robert has been an essential advisor to the NSI's CEO Jim Hieb in helping the industry navigate the evolving landscape of silica-related lawsuits. His practical understanding of how these legal developments affect quarriers, fabricators, and distributors has provided the NSI and its members with grounded, actionable counsel.

Robert's guidance has also helped shape some upcoming silica safety studies being conducted, especially around the important role of medical surveillance.

Equally valuable is his historical perspective. As a past NSI president, and a seasoned North American quarrier, fabricator, and installer, Robert's contributions in discussions with past leaders proved insightful and greatly assisted current direction being taken by the board of directors.

The NSI proudly acknowledges Robert Hicken with exemplary leadership, unwavering commitment, and enduring impact.



## Celebrating Our Projects • Honoring Our People



Scan the QR code for information on NSI's awards programs.

# 2025 Scholarship Winners



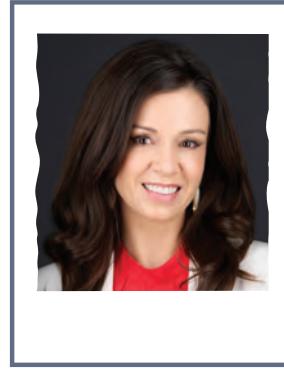
**Lauren Larios**  
Pacific Shore Stones



As a child Lauren Larios traveled the world through a handful of television channels that aired documentaries about grand examples of architecture. Lauren virtually experienced the Taj Mahal in India, the Great Pyramids of Giza, and the Colosseum in Rome with only the click of a button. She was captivated. After realizing natural stone was a common denominator, she started collecting rocks with a fascination that eventually landed her a career centered in stone.

Lauren's commitment to her career runs deep. She believes in the product, the people, and the potential. As a natural stone sales representative, she knows that every slab tells a story including that each slab is a natural work of art that was millions of years in the making. Not only is she fascinated by the stone itself, but by the technical aspects as well: the differences between granite and quartzite, and the importance of fabrication, and installation techniques. Lauren has made it her mission to understand not just how to sell stone, but how to guide clients to the right choice based on their needs, lifestyle, and budget.

In her nomination for this scholarship, general manager Bre Covell shared that Lauren is at the heart of her Arkansas-based, Pacific Shore Stones team, and knows that she will carry the spirit of this industry forward for decades to come. Covell further believes Lauren's enthusiasm is contagious; you can see it in how she approaches her work and connects with others. It's a quality that can't be taught, but one that defines who she is. Lauren admits, "I want to be part of shaping the future of the industry - helping it evolve like it has in the centuries behind us."



**Shannon Clarke**  
Classic Rock Fabrication



Shannon Clarke's journey into stone began unexpectedly. As the owner of a small HR consulting firm, Classic Rock Fabrication was her first client. She was inspired by their bold goals, innovative leadership, and their relentless drive for excellence. When they invited her to interview for their Director of HR & Safety role, Shannon knew it was the right leap.

In her role as Vice President of Human Resources, Shannon has transformed Classic Rock Fabrication, elevating company culture, safety programs and career development initiatives through exceptional leadership, vision and dedication.

Alex Bazdar, President and CEO at Classic Rock Fabrication credits Shannon's oversight of their safety programs, including the implementation of innovative protocols, for the significant reduction of workplace incidents, earning insurance recognitions. By redesigning their HR policies to prioritize equity and employee engagement, Shannon's policies have resulted in a measurable increase in employee satisfaction and retention. Her mentorship and leadership training programs, particularly with the women in their organization, have aligned perfectly with the mission of the Women in Stone program. Promoting our industry to young women and future tradespeople is a cause she cares deeply about. It's vital that the next generation sees the many possibilities – and strong female leaders – within this space.

Shannon's passion for empowering others extends beyond Classic Rock Fabrication. She actively works with emerging professionals and advocates for greater representation of women in the natural stone sector.

Upon receiving the Women in Stone Empowerment Scholarship, Shannon believes it will allow her to broaden her knowledge, build new relationships, and return with actionable insights. She added, "I am eager to shadow others and represent the power of women in stone. Leadership isn't about titles—it's about influence—and I strive to use mine to lead with knowledge, confidence, and care."





Knowledgeable. Skillful. Patient. Experienced. Precise. Loyal. Ask anyone who has worked with Steve Christensen during his 50 years in the construction industry, and these are the words you will hear used to describe him.

Steve began his masonry career in 1971, earning experience as a bricklayer that soon paved his way to the stone industry. He spent the early 80's hand-setting stone on large commercial projects in Utah and California before joining KEPCO+ in 1987 as a stone setter in their panel shop.

KEPCO+ president Bruce Knaphus, who joined the company only a few years before Steve, recalls Steve's first job was the Disney Corporate Headquarters. He instructed Steve to go out and build a stone panel, then asked him to tear it down. When Knaphus asked why he had to tear it down three times, Steve replied, "practice".

Despite being new to panelizing stone, Steve was able to learn quickly on the Disney job, and successfully layout and install 32,000 SF of sandstone panels.

In 1995 Steve was promoted to General Superintendent and led teams on several prominent Pinnacle Award winning projects like Nauvoo Temple Recreation, Grand America Hotel, Sun Valley Music Pavilion and the Utah State Capitol Renovation.

With more than two-thirds of his life spent in the stone business, Steve has filled every role as a stone craftsman. He takes great pride in his work. Each time he sees one of those impressive projects, knowing that he contributed to it, he feels that



**Steve Christensen**  
KEPCO+

accomplishment even more, especially each time one of them wins an award.

Steve transitioned to the role of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Supervisor in 2019, when his wealth of knowledge and experience became part of his mentorship to others. He was also panel plant foreman and through demonstration and support, Steve stressed patience, technique and striving for perfection. He reminds his colleagues to look for ways to make things better and invest in others, which is what makes a crew become a team.

When commended on his long career, Steve shares that the work is something he has always enjoyed. He hopes to continue doing what he loves until his body wears out.

But as Steve now transitions to retirement, Knaphus recalls watching the setting of the North Capitol building's pinnacle and feeling it was the symbolic pinnacle of both their careers. A figurative ending to the productive stone journey they have shared together.

Knaphus believes Steve's legacy of craftsmanship will continue not only through the buildings he's clad, but also through the hundreds of individuals he has trained and mentored.

Upon receiving this award and of his three decades of stone masonry service to KEPCO+ Steve said, "Bruce, thanks for the 34 years. It's been nice working and growing up with you. Thanks again."

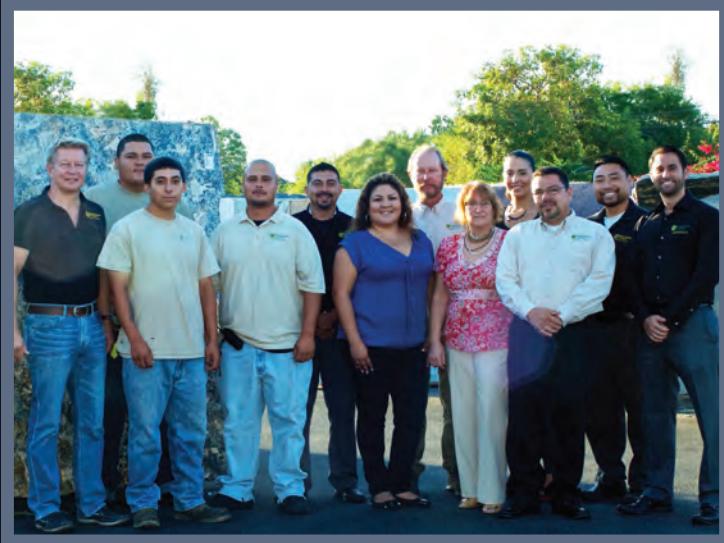
Congratulations to Steve Christensen, the 2025 recipient of the Natural Stone Craftsman of the Year award.

*"Our projects' successes are due to Steve's ability to listen carefully to a plan, add his insights, discuss them, and then implement the plan. Steve is one of the masters of the industry. A true natural stone craftsman in every way."*

Jeremy Simmonds – Vice President of Construction, KEPCO+

*"Steve taught me the skills needed to become a capable stone mason and stone mechanic. As my ability grew, I had the opportunity to work closely with Steve to learn stone layout. Steve's expertise and attention to detail impressed me daily. Through his example, I learned how to be a true stone professional."*

Spencer Knaphus – Senior Project Manager, KEPCO+



# 2025 Person of the Year



**Evan Cohen**  
Quality Marble & Granite

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. Evan Cohen, President of Quality Marble & Granite and the 2025 President of the Natural Stone Institute (NSI), has been honored as the NSI's 2025 Person of the Year.

This is an acknowledgment of his exceptional leadership, strategic vision, and unwavering support during a year marked by significant organizational milestones and industry challenges. Throughout his presidency, Evan remained consistently accessible to the CEO, executive team, staff, and board members. This availability became one of the defining strengths of his leadership.

NSI CEO Jim Hieb emphasized that Evan's involvement went far beyond traditional presidential duties, shaping several of the association's most important initiatives of the year.

Major components of Evan's leadership impact included:

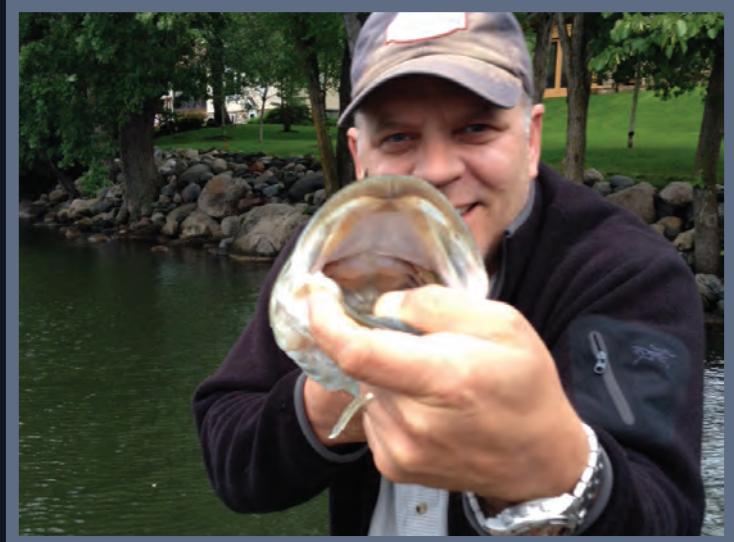
- NSI's strategic plan: Under his direction, the plan was updated and refined to make an even bigger impact on our industry, by raising the profile of natural stone, and celebrating our people.
- Key performance tracking: Evan contributed directly to the development of new organizational KPIs—clear, measurable indicators that will enhance accountability, strengthen performance tracking, and support long-term organizational health.

- Silica-related topics: Evan also played a critical advisory role as NSI addressed silica-related topics. His steady, well-informed guidance helped the organization navigate complex legal terrain while reinforcing its commitment to safety and compliance.
- Tariff policy: He advocated for a new board policy calling for "fair, open, and free trade for the natural stone industry."
- Committee structure: His governance contributions extended to helping design a new committee structure, built to enhance member engagement and streamline operational workflows.
- New NSI brand identity: Evan offered meaningful support in the creation of NSI's new brand identity, helping ensure the refreshed brand captured both the association's rich history and its forward-looking mission.

Drawing from insights gained through his Vistage experiences, he shared leadership approaches that supported board alignment, strengthened executive decision-making, and improved communication across the organization.

His leadership has positioned the NSI for continued growth, relevance, and industry excellence.

Congratulations to Evan Cohen, the 2025 Person of the Year.





**Migliore**  
AWARD FOR  
Lifetime Achievement

In a letter of recommendation for the 2025 Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement, Scott Lardner wrote that he met Guido Gliori in 2004 at a Marble Institute of America event. He still remembers their discussion about direct-adhered thin veneer. From that moment, Lardner knew Gliori spoke from a position of extensive experience and knowledge of everyday conditions in the field. Gliori quickly gained attention and deep respect from many other association peers for his trade knowledge, and willingness to give to the industry without limit. Gliori joined Grazzini Brothers of Eagan, Minnesota in 1988. Then a supplier of natural building and landscape stone, Grazzini has since expanded into every aspect of the natural stone industry. This includes design, procurement, installation and fabrication for both residential and commercial applications.

Rising through the ranks at Grazzini, Gliori eventually became the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President, both roles exhibiting his amazing story of dedication and ability to advance himself, his company, and industry. He retired in December of 2022 concluding a career that spanned 34 years with a single, national firm.

In 2004, Gliori joined the board of directors for what was then called Marble Institute of America and became an immediate candidate for the executive committee. His willingness to serve on various committees and his commitment to the executive board through shaping the MIA during its transition of executive directors, and the sale of StonExpo, speak to his long-standing commitment to what is now, the Natural Stone Institute.

Gliori's NSI resume is extensive. Several elected and appointed positions include his time on the executive committee from



**Guido Gliori**  
Grazzini Brothers



2005 through 2009, ultimately serving as board president in 2009. While serving on the board, he concluded the industry-wide campaign to dispense with the radon in stone threat. He continued the implementation of safety training videos and guidebooks; and contributed to various Stone Summits, where he participated in panel discussions. He also served as an inspector for the Commercial Accreditation program.

In that volunteer spirit, Gliori guided work on the association's strategic planning, advised on development of technical standards and explored methods to increase membership. He was part of a critical group of past presidents – and future Migliore Award recipients – that helped NSI navigate industry threats and challenges.

These men are not only successful industry leaders, but also special friends who often gather for sportsman adventures. The fraternity has even been on display at industry events, especially when showing support for each other's awards.

Throughout his career Gliori, and Grazzini, have earned many awards for the impeccable work they performed, including NSI's Pinnacle and Tucker Design awards, and Eagle and Pyramid awards from the Associated Builders & Contractors of Minnesota and North Dakota.

Gliori remains a close colleague to many in the industry who do not hesitate to call him for sage advice. His knowledge of this industry, his willingness to help or provide advice, and his comedic demeanor have served him and the industry well.

Congratulations to Guido Gliori, the 2025 recipient of the Migliore Award for Lifetime Achievement.

*"I joined the MIA board during Guido's term as president and instantly respected his knowledge of the industry and his own special brand of communication that causes people to listen and stay engaged, even when tough subjects and hard decisions are on the table."*

Dan Rea – Senior VP of Sales, Coldspring [retired]

*"I was humbled and honored to receive this award last year. Part of what took me by surprise was the many deserving candidates that contributed as much or more to this industry than I did. Guido is one of those people, and I am blessed to have him as my colleague and friend."*

Scott Lardner – President, Rocky Mountain Stone



### Rick Atkinson Stony Creek Quarry

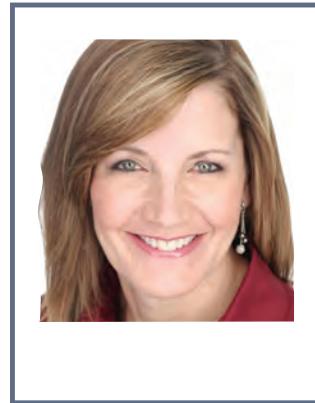
A fourth-generation leader of Connecticut's historic Stony Creek Quarry, Rick Atkinson has spent more than 45 years preserving the legacy of American granite while advancing modern quarrying practices. Known for his steady leadership, commitment to safety, and mentorship of countless industry professionals, Rick has guided Stony Creek through decades of change while maintaining its reputation for world-class dimensional stone. Under his direction, the quarry achieved early certification to the Natural Stone Sustainability Standard and supplied granite for landmark projects including the Statue of Liberty Museum and Columbia University.

The Thor Lundh Quarrier Award, established in 2024, honors professionals like Rick who have made

extraordinary contributions to natural stone quarrying. Named for Thor Lundh, founder of Lundhs AS in Norway, the award celebrates visionaries who dared to take risks, modernize practices, and inspire others.

By every measure, Rick embodies that same spirit. His loyalty, innovation, and courage have not only preserved the legacy of Stony Creek Quarry but also shaped the broader natural stone industry for generations to come.

Respected internationally for his craftsmanship, collaboration, and integrity, Rick exemplifies the innovation and perseverance that define great quarrymen. Congratulations to Rick Atkinson, the 2025 winner of the Thor Lundh Quarrier Award.



**Karla Forest**  
Outdoor Living Supply



Veteran Josh Geddis and Family pictured with Karla Forest.



L to R: Husband Jason Forest, Karla Forest, Taylor and Josh Hargis (veteran), and Outdoor Living Supply CEO, Brian Price.



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

Special thanks to Mario & Son for generously donating this award.



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