

# Stone World

## Fabricator E-News

Brought to you by *Stone World* magazine

April 12, 2011

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## Industry Insight

### Revisiting shop and warehouse safety

by Michael Reis, Editor

When I was in journalism school, I was taught that the editor's column is the most valuable space there is. It is where I get to communicate directly with my readers and, on occasion, to speak from the heart. Once again, I am using this prime real estate to urge the industry to focus on safety in the workplace -- whether that is a shop, a warehouse, the jobsite or even the office. This is something that comes up far too often, and it is usually sparked by yet another tragedy in a fabrication shop or slab warehouse. [Read more](#)



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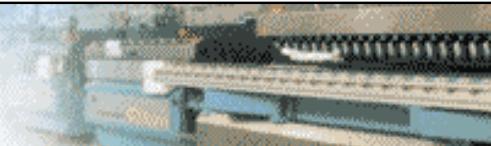


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## Inside the Shop

Construction Resources, Atlanta, GA (parent company of Atlanta Kitchen, Decatur, GA; Innovative Surfaces, Pelham, AL; and Florida Bath & Surfaces, Santa Rosa Beach, FL)

**by Michael Reis, Editor**

Over the past few years, countertop fabricators across North America have expanded their business into sectors such as tile, sinks, fireplaces and even cabinetry in order to provide a more complete buying experience for their customers. However, this concept has been taken to a new level at Atlanta, GA-based Construction Resources, Inc., which offers a range of building products that is unparalleled in the industry. [Read more](#)



## Fabricator Issue of the Month

A look at building stone production

**by Jennifer Adams, Managing Editor**

With a vision and determination, Homer Weller set out to start Rolling Rock Building Stone, Inc. in Boyertown, PA, in November of 1955. At the time, the company specialized in quarrying building stone locally from a site in Berks County. Today, Rolling Rock has expanded to include four quarries - three of which it owns - and has also become a well-known producer of thin stone veneer. [Read more](#)



## Project Spotlight

### MIA Pinnacle Awards

The Marble Institute of America's (MIA) prestigious Pinnacle Awards honor stone companies around the world for projects that noticeably stand out above the rest. The Pinnacle Awards competition drew a record number of entries in 2010, while also presenting the largest number of awards in its many-year history. However, judging the numerous entries was a challenging task.



After the four-judge panel reviewed the entries, they determined the winners of the various categories -- residential, commercial and renovation. The final selection was for the top overall project to receive the coveted Grande Pinnacle Award, sponsored by Marmomacc, a leading stone show which is held annually in Verona, Italy. Awards are presented to projects whose beauty, creativity, ingenuity and craftsmanship exemplify professional mastery in the use of natural stone. The Pinnacle Awards are open to all MIA member companies, and projects submitted must comply with MIA standards. This year, the MIA sought to identify and award a project that demonstrates environmental responsiveness and successful resolution of sustainability goals. [Read more](#)



### Shop How-To

#### Fabricator Forum: Shop Safety

***moderated by Michael Reis, Editor***

Despite all of the information out there on shop safety, we are still hearing about way too many accidents -- often fatal accidents. My question is this: How are your businesses addressing the issue of safety in the workplace? How formalized is your safety program? Do you hold regular safety meetings? Have you changed or expanded your approach to workplace safety in the past few years? [Read discussion](#)



## Industry Happenings

### MIA/**Stone World** Regional Seminars kick off with events in Anaheim & Atlanta

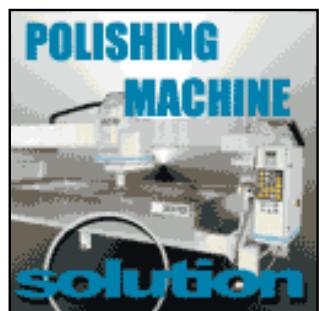
The Marble Institute of America and **Stone World** Magazine kicked off its 2011 regional seminar series on February 23rd in Anaheim, CA. This installer-focused seminar drew a crowd of over 80 stone professionals. The event, hosted by Daltile and Custom Building Products, addressed four important topics: stone selection, surface preparation, stone installation, and care/maintenance. The featured speakers were Danny MacNair, Daltile; and Rod Sigman and Mike Micalizzi of Custom Building Products. This installer-focused seminar will be repeated in Phoenix on November 2nd. [Read more](#)



### Developments at Marbrasa in Brazil

by **Michael Reis, Editor**

Marbrasa, a leading stone producer based in Cachoeiro de Itapemirim, Espírito Santo, Brazil, reports a number of developments and investments within the company. It is currently in the process of increasing its production capacity with the investment of multi-wire diamond wire saws for cutting blocks into slabs.



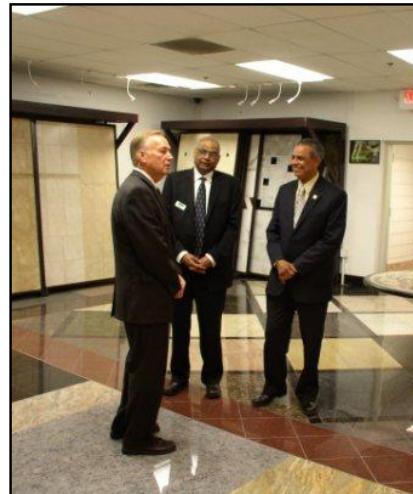
Additionally, Marbrasa's is adding a diamond wire saw to its San Gabriel Black quarry, an investment that will be repeated at the company's other quarry sites. This not only adds efficiency, but it is an eco-friendly investment because less waste will need to be transported from the quarry sites.

Marbrasa is also adding two new warehouses in Cachoeiro de Itapemirim, each of which offers more than 30,000 square feet (2,800 square meters) of space.

Finally, the company announced that it has added an office in China to complete architectural projects in conjunction with factories located within China.

## Dignitaries and customers celebrate Grand Opening at Cosmic Stone

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ -- Cosmic Stone & Tile Distributors is currently in the midst of a three-day Grand Opening event at its facilities, which runs from April 12 to 15. The company recently added 50,000 additional square feet of facilities -- making for a total of 100,000 square feet -- at 502 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901; Phone: 732-937-5400 -- Fax: 732-937-6969. The facility is located in the light industrial section of New Brunswick. [Read more](#)



**STONE INDUSTRY EDUCATION**  
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**AIA 2011**  
**MAY 12-14 NEW ORLEANS**

## AIA 2011 National Convention And Expo To Continue Stone & Tile Pavilion

Design professionals from across North America and beyond will gather in New Orleans at the AIA 2011 National Convention and Expo, which carries the theme: "Regional Design REVOLUTION: ecology matters." Convention activities, education and networking events will begin on May 11, and they continue through May 14. There are 200+ planned program offerings, including preconvention workshops, theme presentations, continuing education learning units (CEUs) and expo education -- all specifically designed to be convenient, plentiful and well rounded. [Read more](#)

**NATURAL STONE COUNCIL**  
THE UNITED VOICE OF THE NATURAL STONE INDUSTRY

## Artisan Group Teams With Granite City Tool

Granite City Tool, a family-owned manufacturer and distributor for the stone industry since 1885, has become the Artisan Group's preferred tooling vendor for 2011. Artisan Group is a nationwide network of premium stone fabricators. [Read more](#)

**Faucets**  
  
[www.pelicansinks.com](http://www.pelicansinks.com)

## New Officers Chosen For The MIA

CLEVELAND, OH -- Gasper "GK" Naquin (pictured), Founder and President of Stone Interiors in Loxley, AL and Gaston, SC, has been chosen as the new President of the Marble Institute of America (MIA). Some of Naquin's accomplishments include: the 2004 Pinnacle Award for Special Use of Stone and the 2005 *Stone World* magazine "Fabricator of the Year" Award. Naquin has also served on the MIA board of directors as Treasurer and Secretary. [Read more](#)



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"Movin' On" Collection of Success Stories is released on Video

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parent  
company  
BNP Media  
has been  
chronicling  
the success  
stories of



companies fighting through the construction downturn. Please check out [this slideshow](#) that brings these success stories to life.



## AEC Store Corner

### Training Books and DVDS for Tile and Stone Pros . . . Plus MORE!

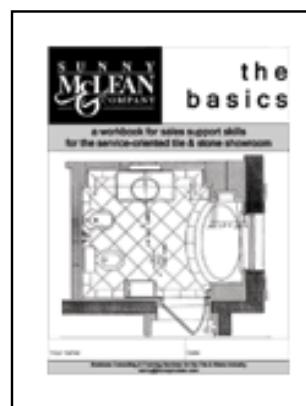
#### ***Featured product***

#### **the basics, by Sunny McLean**

This new workbook offering training in sales support skills for tile and stone businesses by Industry Expert Sunny McLean is a workbook for high-end tile and stone or kitchen and bath showrooms that need well-trained and professional sales associates.

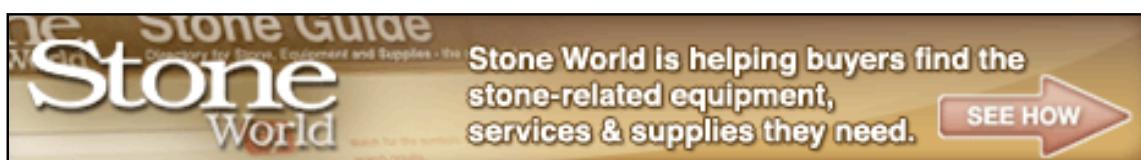
In today's competitive environment, selling is not just about product and price anymore. A productive sales associate must meet the customer's expectations for top quality service, professional knowledge and a competent, pleasant sales experience. The Basics enables a new-hire to develop important support skills and a more experienced associate to update their existing skills.

Written in a workbook format with lessons, illustrations, activities and tests, The Basics provides a self-managed program that can be completed in as little as eight hours of work time, spread over four



weeks. [Follow this link](#) to purchase this item or call 248/244-1275 to order by phone.

To view more products for the Stone Industry, visit [AECStore.com](#).



This edition of **Stone World Fabricator e-News** was sent to you because of your expressed interest in natural stone and ceramic tile. This monthly e-newsletter offers industry updates, application features, practical tips, and commentary on stone and tile design, sent directly to your inbox. We welcome you to a readership of architects, interior designers, specifiers and consumers.

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