

Stone World

Fabricator E-News

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**NEW PRODUCTS!
IMPROVED PRODUCTS!
GREAT NEW LOOK!**



Industry Insight

Taking a deeper look at 2010

by **Michael Reis, Editor**

At this time each year, the Stone World editorial department receives the year-end stone import and export statistics from the U.S. Department of Commerce. And even though we still have to wait a few months in an era when we all expect instant gratification in terms of information, this data is worth the wait, since the import totals offer an excellent snapshot of how our industry is faring -- especially compared with the figures from previous years. Up until the mid-2000s or so, publishing the data -- and comparing it to previous years -- was an extremely gratifying exercise. As we all know by now, the value of stone imports to the U.S. had been growing at an explosive rate -- reaching a record high in 2006, when \$3.36 billion worth of stone came into America. [Read more](#)



Inside the Shop

K & D Counter Tops, Trenton, IL

by Jennifer Adams, Managing Editor

When it was founded, K & D Counter Tops of Trenton, IL, specialized in the production of laminate countertops. But as time passed, the company evolved to the point that it is now primarily a stone fabrication shop. And despite a slowing economy, K & D Counter Tops has held its ground and has continued growing by diversifying into other segments. "We started in 1997 as a laminate shop, but knew from the beginning our focus would be on more premium surfaces," said John Daiber, who owns K & D Counter Tops with partners David Kapp and Troy Kapp. "While in college, I got my start sweeping floors for a small laminate shop. I gradually worked my way up within the company and after graduating managed their operation. I was starting to see a demand for premium surfaces and after failing to convince the owner to expand his operation I decided to branch out on my own. [Read more](#)



Barbosa Cabinets, Inc., Lathrop, CA

by Jennifer Adams, Managing Editor

**Better!
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Started more than 30 years ago, Barbosa Cabinets, Inc. is a family-run business that prides itself on efficiency and outstanding customer service. From its humble beginnings as a cabinet shop working out of a 2,500-square-foot facility, the company has grown to include a full-scale countertop division, which operates out of a 66,000-square-foot plant in Lathrop, CA. Additionally, there is a 312,000-square-foot space that houses the company's cabinet business and former countertop shops. [Read more](#)



Fabricator Issue of the Month

A look at current stone production in Brazil

by Michael Reis, Editor

The latest edition of the Vitória Stone Fair -- which takes place annually in the stoneworking region of Espírito Santo, Brazil -- showed growth in both attendance and number of exhibiting firms. The event serves as a showcase of the latest materials coming out of Brazil, which supplies more granite to the U.S. than any other nation in the world. The following is a look at some of the stones that were on display at the Vitória Stone Fair, as well as the technological advances at two stoneworking facilities in Espírito Santo. [Read more](#)



Brazilian Producer Case Study - Imetame Granitos, Linhares, Espírito Santo, Brazil

by Michael Reis, Editor

Founded six years ago, Imetame Granitos of Linhares, Espírito Santo, Brazil, has developed into a major exporter of natural stone in Brazil. Not only does it process stone with the modern stoneworking technology from Italy, but it also maintains a high degree of precision and organization in its operations. [Read more](#)



Brazilian Producer Case Study - Granitos Itapoama Ltda., Rio Novo Do Sul, Espírito Santo, Brazil

by Michael Reis, Editor

Already a leading supplier of slabs in Brazil, Granitos Itapoama Ltda. has expanded its operations in Rio Novo Do Sul, Espírito Santo, with the addition of three state-of-the-art multi-wire diamond wire saws from Italy. The machines were all purchased from Bideseimpianti, and they include three different versions. [Read more](#)



Project Spotlight

Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR), Palo Alto, CA

by Kelly Martin, Editorial Assistant

Located near the Hoover Tower on Stanford University's campus in Palo Alto, CA, the home of Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR) includes a 35,000-square-foot newly built conference and office facility as well as a popular courtyard. Featuring a combination of travertine and limestone, the building and the courtyard refer to the Romanesque architecture of the campus' original Quads. [Read more](#)



Shop How-To

Taking measures to reduce fabrication waste

by Jennifer Adams, Managing Editor

A year after Planet Granite of Colorado Springs, CO, started to strategize ways to reduce its impact on the environment, it successfully teamed up with a local asphalt company to have its stone waste products removed -- ultimately saving money and avoiding the landfill. This is just one step the company has taken towards being green as well as reducing its budget to remain on a successful



business path. [Read more](#)

Industry Happenings

Stone+tec 2011 Preview, Nuremberg, Germany

by Michael Reis, Editor

Taking place every two years in Nuremberg, Germany, Stone+tec is set for June 22 to 25, and it will feature a solid lineup of stone and machinery exhibitors -- thanks to strategic agreements by the organizers and a general upswing in Europe's economy. [Read more](#)



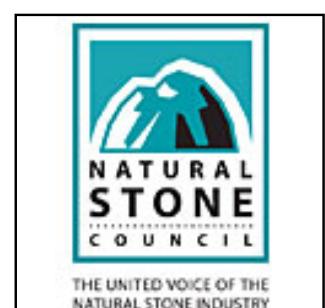
Interview with NSC President Brenda Edwards of TexaStone Quarries

What are some of your goals in your new position at the Natural Stone Council (NSC)?

My goals in this new position are to keep the visibility of the NSC in front of the entire stone industry and flood the construction market with stone information. To keep the enthusiasm high amongst the industry, both domestic and international, in order to achieve our certification standard and to communicate clearly our sustainability initiatives. To direct our mission to the best of my ability. [Read more](#)

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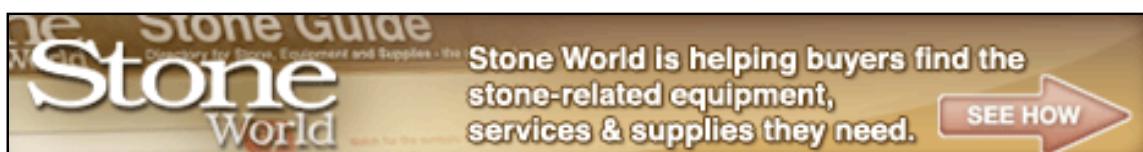
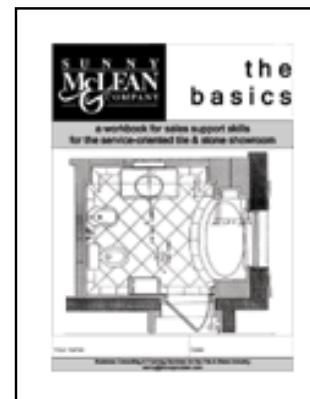
the basics, by Sunny McLean

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.

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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](#).



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