

Stone World

Fabricator E-News

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Industry Insight

Are "stone purists" accepting quartz surfacing?
by *Michael Reis, Editor*

Before I get to the main point of this column, let me first state that I have historically considered myself a "stone purist." I have continually hassled friends for putting DuPont Corian in their kitchens. "Oh, cool. It looks just like Formica!" I have mocked designs of engineered stone that include actual U.S. currency in the matrix -- I believe they used pennies and nickels.



And I have generally adhered to the notion that if a material has to be cooked in an oven, then it is a "fake." Over the past few years, this line of thinking has changed -- particularly when it comes to quartz surfacing. This change in attitude is not only in my view, but in the view of many long-time stone fabricators. I can think of many shops that said, "You won't catch me processing that stuff," only five years ago, and now quartz surfacing makes up a large percentage of their business. [Read](#)

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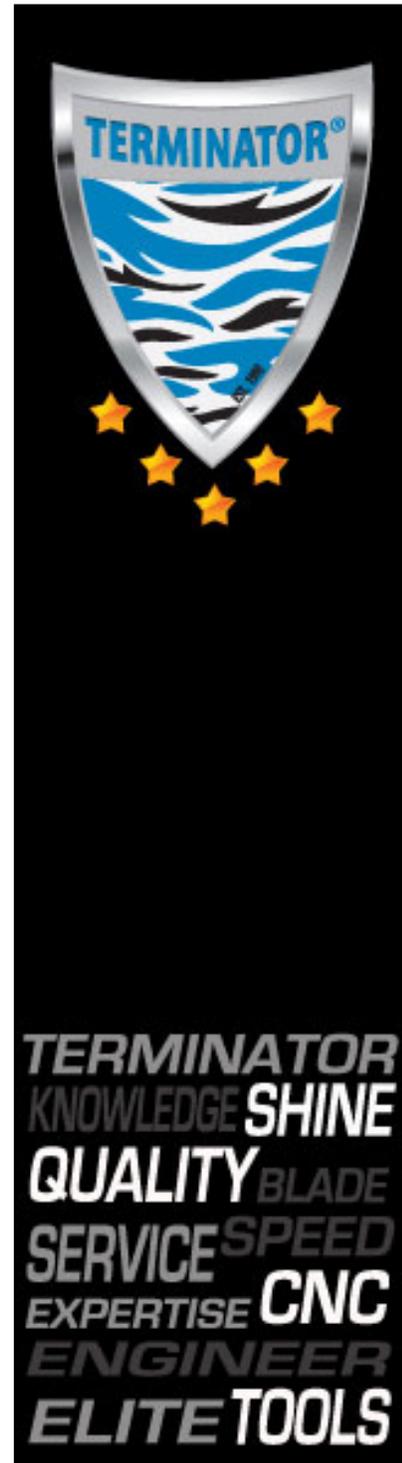
Inside the Shop

United Marble, Watertown, MA
by *Michael Reis, Editor*

In 1987, Tom Kilfoyle built upon his experience as a tile installer and founded United Marble Fabricators. Today, the company operates a technologically advanced shop and upscale showroom in Watertown, MA, and it has developed a reputation as a leading high-end stone and tile supplier in the region. [Read More](#)



Metropolitan Marble & Granite, LLC, Rock Hill, SC
by *Jennifer Adams, Managing Editor*



While Luis Carlos Machicao is known around the world for his high-fashion designs, many might find it surprising that the native Peruvian is also known on a more local level for his stone fabrication business, which he started 12 years ago. At the age of 20, Machicao enrolled at The School of Dramatic Arts in Peru. Upon completion, he studied design at a local fashion institute and then went on to study sociology at a university. He pursued his fashion career in Paris, and then returned to Peru - working in television mini series, soap operas and theater. But it was not until he moved to the U.S. that Machicao developed his love for stone and founded Metropolitan Marble & Granite LLC in Rock Hill, SC. [Read More](#)



Fabricator Issue of the Month

A look at quartz surfacing production
by *Michael Reis, Editor*

As quartz surfacing continues to gain acceptance in the marketplace, new producers are emerging in locations around the world. Very often, these factories are using the latest generation of technology and a level of automation that is among the highest in the industry. An example of this can be found at Belenco Quartz Surfaces, which just opened a state-of-the-art facility in Turkey. [Read More](#)



Project Spotlight

Dolder Grand Hotel, Zurich, Switzerland
by *Michael Reis, Editor*

Standing high above Lake Zurich in Switzerland, the five-star Dolder Grand dates back to 1899, when it was completed under the direction of Swiss architect Jacques Gros. Over the past few years, the hotel underwent a renewal that involved completely rebuilding the facility. Among the more prominent features of this project, the spa area and portions of the exterior facade utilize German limestone. [Read More](#)



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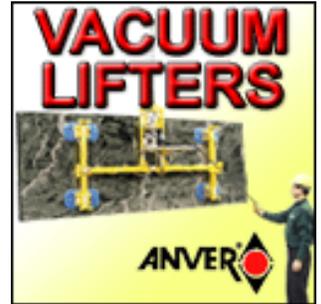
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Stanford University Law School, California by Michael Reis, Editor

Designed by Richard Olcott of Ennead Architects of New York City, the new William H. Neukom Building at Stanford Law School in California serves as the new hub of the institution, with an open environment that encourages interaction between students and faculty. Among the design elements of the project, natural stone was used in a variety of formats. [Read More](#)



Shop How-To

Examples of "green" stone usage

At a time when it seems that every new residential and commercial design is seeking "green" components, it is more important than ever to consider the environmentally friendly aspects of stone. The sustainability of stone and use of local materials are two eco-friendly aspects of the material, and in terms of engineered stone, the marketplace now features surfacing materials that are made from recycled content. The following feature articles illustrate some of the ways our industry is joining the green movement.



Private Residence, Wise County, TX - Sustainable Material by Michael Reis, Editor

After being abandoned for 40 years, a post-Civil War stone structure near Decatur, TX, received a new lease on life after a thoughtful restoration project led by Stephen Chambers, AIA, NCARB, Principal of Stephen B. Chambers Architects, Inc., of Dallas, TX. [Read More](#)



U.S. Embassy, Valletta, Malta - Local stone materials

by Jennifer Adams, Managing Editor

Stationed in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea -- directly south of Sicily and north of Libya -- is Malta, a group of seven islands of which three are inhabited. The largest of the three is Malta. With low rocky terrain and sandy soil, the land is rich in limestone. Recently, a new U. S. Embassy compound was built in the island's capital of Valletta -- featuring an



extensive showcase of stone, including Maltese limestone. The use of the local limestone not only reflects the style of the island's existing architecture, but contributed to overall LEED certification.

[Read More](#)

Kennedy Residence, Mount Kisco, NY - Recycled Content

by Kelly Martin, Editorial Assistant

In designing or renovating any home, homeowners often have the same goal -- to stay within budget while achieving the vision that they desire. But as the green movement gains momentum, homeowners and the architecture and design community are also thinking of ways to create environmentally friendly designs. This was the case for Robin Wilson, owner of New York-based interior design firm Robin Wilson Home,



when she designed the private residence of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. -- located in Mount Kisco, NY. The designer worked as part of a six-member team with the client to achieve a Gold LEED-certified residence. [Read More](#)

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Industry Happenings

Preview of Marmomacc in Verona, Italy

In a return to its mid-September time slot, the 46th edition of Marmomacc will take place from September 21 to 24 at the Veronafiere Fairgrounds in Verona, Italy. The event has long been a leading exhibition in the sector, and the 2011 edition has been increasing its global scope in recent years. [Read More](#)



Faucets

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MSI hosts education event in Boston

The Boston Edition of the MIA/Stone World Industry Education Series was held at MSI's facility in Norwood, and it was attended by more than 40 fabricators from around the region as well as more than a dozen sponsor representatives. Education took place in many forms. [Read More](#)



SFA Mega-Workshop is set to return to St. Louis from October 20 to 22

Conceived in the tradition of the Stone Fabricators Alliance (SFA) Workshops, the second edition of the SFA Mega-Workshop will take place from October 20 to 22, 2011 in Collinsville, IL -- a suburb of St. Louis, MO. Hands-on demonstrations of full-scale equipment and gear will take place on the show floor, as the event will once again take place in a 40,000-square-foot facility with cranes reaching 140 feet long. [Read More](#)



MIA awarded two Power of A Silver Awards

The Marble Institute of America's (MIA) Accreditation Program, as well as its Stone Slab Handling Safety Program, have been awarded the "Power of A" Silver Award. The Power of A Awards are the premier program honoring associations that exemplify how the association community and its dedicated professionals are essential to a stronger America and world. The awards, presented each year by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), recognize and celebrate the extraordinary contributions associations make to society year round by enriching lives, creating a competitive workforce, preparing society for the future, driving innovation and making a better world. [Read More](#)



Laticrete donates installation products to Haiti hospital

Laticrete, a global manufacturer and leader of premium installation and finishing systems for the building industry, recently donated a large amount of tile installation products to a major hospital construction project in earthquake-ravaged Haiti. [Read More](#)

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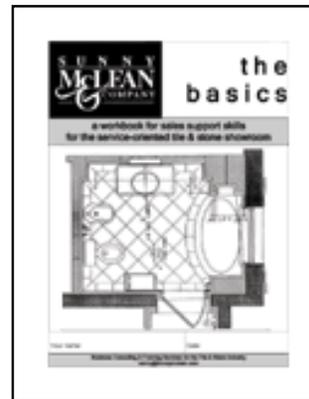
the basics, by Sunny McLean

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.

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.

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