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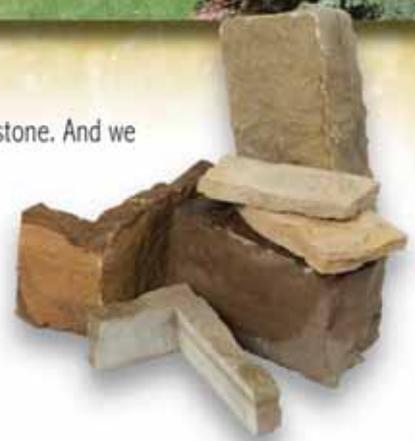
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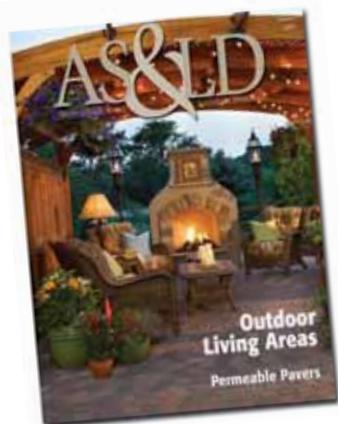
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Photo courtesy The Outdoor GreatRoom Company™



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Impaired Flow?

If anyone's selling water features as a resource-saving alternative to endless strips of green lawns, the federal government would like to offer one word of advice: **stop**.

There's no official prohibition hidden in some huge omnibus bill before Congress, but a voluntary program-in-progress from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is less-than-friendly to the water-feature concept. It provides enough discouragement to strike any water-related architectural feature from a homeowner's wish list.

The EPA's WaterSense® program offers a sensible goal in sustainable living, as it aims to cut total water usage in new homes by 20 percent. Developing the specifics of builder guidelines for the project, though, proved to be a rocky road for water features, including custom-built

hardscape applications.

The draft WaterSense specifications, released a few years ago, threw up a total roadblock, noting in a support statement that water features – “fountains, ponds, waterfalls, man-made streams and other decorative water-related constructions provided solely for aesthetic or beautification purposes” – were off the permitted list.

“Because these water features serve no functional or practical purpose,” the support statement noted, “their water use is not considered efficient.”

That stance drew the ire of the **International Professional Pond Contractors Association (IPPCA)**, which mounted an effort to allow water features in WaterSense guidelines. The IPPCA argued the features should be included by meeting any of several mitigating features, such as a

closed recirculation system; support for local wildlife; and utilization of reclaimed or natural water sources.

Last December, the EPA published a new set of WaterSense guidelines for single-family home construction, available online at www.epa.gov/watersense/partners/irr_final.html.

Ornamental water features, as defined by the new WaterSense specifications, “must recirculate water and serve a beneficial use,” which meets the IPPCA's definition and appears to dodge the bullet of prohibition.

Unfortunately, there's more ammo in the chamber. The supporting statement for the specs goes much, much farther, and I'll quote it directly:

“In addition, the water surface area of the ornamental water features shall be considered as turfgrass. Water features are treated as turfgrass to

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account for their annual evaporation rates and water use requirements. This requirement helps differentiate closed system water features that contain and recirculate water from those features that are less efficient.”

In other words, there's no difference between a water feature and a lawn.

It's also worth noting that using reclaimed water or a natural source doesn't come into play, either. The surface area of water on a custom-built course – no matter the source – is still the same as its equivalent in lush, thirsty bluegrass.

Figuring out efficient water use outside the home is an inexact science, given the large variances in U.S. climate. To pull together some kind of benchmark, the EPA resorted to culling data from various sources, including worldwide weather-station data from 1961-1990.

To apply all this to single-family residences, the EPA devised the WaterSense Water Budget Approach, which takes a landscape professional through the calculations to determine a water-efficient landscape plan. A Microsoft Excel spreadsheet is provided, although you can go through the procedure to fill out this formula:

$$LWR_H = \frac{1}{DU_{LQ}} \times [(ET_o \times K_L) - R_a] \times A \times C_u$$

Trust me: You'll want to use the spreadsheet.

The formula determines your climate zone and natural-precipitation amounts (matching weather-station data to your zip code) and then assigns total water usage, based on the vegetation included in your plan. This is where the water surface areas of water features suddenly become turfgrass, as both are assigned the same water-usage rate – or, as the process puts it, coefficient.

Water features, though, gain two partners. Since the WaterSense approach wants to track all outdoor water use, pools and spas are thrown into the mix and, according to the process, “assigned the same coefficient as high-water-using turfgrass to account for the high amount of evaporation expected from these features.”

Did you say you were planning on using something other than the municipal water supply for any of these items? Sorry; these make no difference whatsoever in the WaterSense water budget; there's no allowance for alternative sources as an offset. In fact, even if there's no irrigation system installed at the home, the budget procedure accounts for one anyway, and assigns the usage rates.

The procedure ends with a simple pass/fail grade. If you get a “Yes”

on the spreadsheet, you meet WaterSense guidelines. If you get a “No,” you go back and redesign it.

Anyone with a “No” will look at the list of water-using features on a property. It's not too hard to guess, with a high water-usage rating, what's going to get the ax. Waterfalls are nice, but it's a strange family that will vote for one ahead of a pool or spa.

Of course, the whole WaterSense program is a *voluntary government program*, but you don't need to be a total cynic to place that phrase in the same sense as *temporary tax*. Optional programs have a way of becoming policy, often in short order.

It also won't take long for water features to end up as the fast loser in the sustainability market. It's going to be increasingly difficult to include them and keep a WaterSense designation for new home construction; they'll likely be excluded right from the start.

The final result? Instead of being stopped at the entrance with WaterSense guidelines, water features are essentially shown the back door. It's all in the name of water conservation, but this idea seems all wet.

Sketch/Plan is an open-comment area for anyone in the process of landscape stone, masonry and design. Emerson Schwartzkopf can be reached at emerson@as-ld.com. ■



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Outdoor
Living
Areas



Recipe for Residential

By K. Schipper

Much of the market may not look so great – but a lot of designers and contractors are keeping their eyes this summer on outdoor kitchens.

While projects sold and project values declined last summer in residential hardscape work, outdoor kitchens offer an attractive option for people with some money to spend and a desire to be more home- and family-centered.

What's also making outdoor kitchens more attractive is that they're becoming more-affordable. While custom-built is always an option for the highest-end clients, more companies are coming out with component systems that can be assembled and finished onsite, or even delivered already finished.

For those willing to sell jobs a little differently, the outdoor-kitchen concept also makes it easier for designers and contractors to master-plan a project, then spread the work over several seasons as the client's finances allow.

Half-Full Glass

Last year, outdoor kitchens started slowly, and then ramped up as the season went on in many parts of the country. This year may be more of the same.

However, it's a *positive* same says Joe Rider, president of Collinsville, Okla.-based Stone Age Manufacturing Inc.

"Outdoor living areas are the true bright spot in the construction industry, whether it's a home remodel, expanding the size of a home into the outdoors or a new construction," says Rider. "There are still a lot of people with good jobs and equity in their homes. With interest rates still low, the custom homes being built are certainly incorporating outdoor rooms into their projects."

Still, the market isn't as hale and hearty as it once was. In central Florida – a place where outdoor living would seem to be a natural – John DiGioia, president of Elite Outdoor Kitchens, says he's seen a reduction in the size of an average job.

"A lot of them have a budget that they're setting," he says, adding, "A lot of people don't even have a preconceived idea about how much a kitchen should cost. Once they hear the number, they're often appalled

or need to rethink it."

Often, that translates into the quality of the equipment going down, or the size of the entire installation getting smaller.

Thomas Earl, a partner in Muskego, Wis.-based design/build firm Durham Hill Nursery, agrees that finances played a big role in what they saw last year. However, after a slow winter and early spring, things began to look better.

"Things started to ease up to the point where people felt they weren't going to lose any more and they became very realistic as to what they wanted and what they could afford," he says. "Then the calls started coming. At the end of the year we were very close to where we were in 2008, if not just a little off."

Even Rick Fox, the owner of Straight Line Imports in Martinez, Calif., says business has been off – and Fox specializes in doing custom-built projects for what he estimates is the top 15 percent of the marketplace.

Because of his customer base, he says what people are spending really hasn't been down.

"The people who are doing outdoor kitchens are going all out and taking our recommendations as far as equipment and sizing and design," he says. "However, we're trying to make things a little more conducive to the economy by not promoting some of the things that are out there."

A case in point: certified outdoor refrigerators. A 24" model sells for more than \$2,000, but Fox suggests that his customers get the same size box without the certification for about one-tenth of the price. When it fails, he says, they can replace it.

A Matter of Flexibility

Probably the biggest boon to the less-expensive outdoor kitchen these days is the growing number of component systems on the market.

Although once mainly the niche of grill manufacturers offering warming trays and rotisseries as add-ons, the built-to-finish systems provide work and seating areas, as well as a place for amenities such as sinks and refrigerators.

What could be easier than ordering factory-assembled components that can be delivered directly to the jobsite? By using materials such as Belgard's Nottingham line and matching pavers, the client gets a finished look for much less than a custom-built project. (Photo courtesy Harmony Outdoor Living)



(Above) Outdoor areas run the gamut of amenities. There's little missing from an indoor kitchen in this deck-built oasis. (Below, right) This kitchen offers a separate prep area with guest seating, all behind a granite countertop. (Below, left) A more-modest effort has the cooking area off to the side. (Top photo courtesy Campbell and Ferrara Outdoor Living™; lower right photo courtesy Straight Line imports; lower left photo courtesy The Outdoor GreatRoom Company™)

Dale Profusek, a senior designer with Alexandria, Va.-based Campbell and Ferrara Outdoor Living™, says the company came across the component-kitchen concept at a Baltimore tradeshow. Today, the design/build firm is a dealer for the Las Vegas-based Calise® Outdoor Kitchens.

“You’re really buying the framework for a kitchen-cabinet setup,” Profusek explains. “They’re made of metal with a covering board that’s somewhat like a WonderBoard® and is designed for masonry applications.”

Once the design a client wants is assembled, it’s simply bolted together, and then covered with the client’s preference of finishes, be it a natural stone or man-made thin-veneer, stucco or tile.

“Really, the client has to come up with a decision on what countertop and side veneer they want to have, and that’s it,” says Profusek. “It avoids having to have footers, and it’s so light it can be built on a deck, as well as on paver, concrete or flagstone surfaces. It’s also plumbed, so



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all you need to do is figure out where the outlets for electrical and gas need to be.”

The bottom line for that convenience: Profusek figures it speeds up the construction time on an outdoor kitchen by 40 percent to 50 percent, with the resulting savings being passed along to the customer.

Calise is certainly not the only company offering this type of product mix. The Outdoor GreatRoom Company™ of Burnsville, Minn., offers pre-finished grills, as well as modular components that can be assembled in multiple ways and finished onsite.

The company’s biggest advantage may be that it offers a diversity of products, including pergolas, furniture and – as vice president of sales Ross Johnson puns – the really hot seller, fire pits. The flexibility of its modular system offers something for just about every outdoor-kitchen need.

“We’ve always had a standard system that’s 8’ long and has a refrigerator on one side and the grill on the other,” Johnson says. “Now, we have 12 or 14 different modules that will help a landscape contractor create a 90° corner, or a 45° one. You can do a peninsula or an L-shape or a U-shape. Basically, you’re creating a custom kitchen.”

A Hot Option

While outdoor kitchens may be in the public’s eye at the moment, even those happy with the old charcoal grill are making outdoor fireplaces and especially fire pits the backyard item of choice. And, new designs make them affordable for just about everyone.

Robert Smith of Super Landscape Supply in Greenville, S.C., points out that the fireplace is the focal point of just about any outdoor project.

“The element of fire is really the focal point, whether you’re talking about an outdoor kitchen or an outdoor living space,” he says.

Contractor Rick Fox of Straight Line Imports in Martinez, Calif., agrees, although he says many of his clients are opting for fire pits.

“They’re becoming much-more-popular today because there are so many pre-manufactured ones,” Fox says. “You can buy the basic unit and build around it, as opposed to the old days when you were running lines and piping and vents.”

Thomas Earl of Muskego, Wis.-based design/build firm Durham Hill Nursery, says that he’s also seeing a changing role with the fireplace or fire pit.

“In the past, it seemed as though the grill was always off to the side and whoever was stuck with the job of grilling the hamburgers was removed from the group,” he says. “What we’ve been designing is something where the person performing the cooking is more part of the show, and we set up seating so they can interact with the guests. Then, the cozy little fireplace or fire pit is off to the side.”

As with outdoor kitchens, what’s making these amenities popular for a larger customer base than in the past is the options available for people who don’t want to pay the price – in time, labor and materials – to go with a custom-built product.

Although they have expanded into other outdoor features, both Harmony Outdoor Living and Stone Age Mfg., Inc., launched their businesses selling outdoor fireplaces. As with Harmony’s other products – which today include both fire tables and fire pits – the fireplaces are delivered to the customer already assembled.

Stone Age, on the other hand, offers kits for a range of fireplaces and fire pits that can be assembled in as little as an hour, and then finished with the customer’s choice of exterior veneer.

“There’s a growing demand for the fireplaces,” says Stone Age president Joe Rider. “We’re trying to target a lower price range of



Outdoor activities often center around a fireplace or fire pit. As with kitchen components, kits are making both much easier to construct, and mobile fire pits are also an option. (Photo courtesy of Stone Age Mfg. Inc.)

customers while still offering a good quality masonry fireplace. That’s why we’ve created several different avenues for our customers.”

The Outdoor GreatRoom Company™ is another firm that’s focused heavily on fire pits. One of its most-popular kits includes the fire burner unit, an access door and control panel that allows the contractor to provide his own materials and make his own pit.

While that company’s vice president of sales, Ross Johnson, says its fire pits and fire tables can run as little as \$600, in March Outdoor GreatRoom Company unveiled new technology to provide an even less expensive alternative that creates a more dynamic fire from gel fuels that can be contained in a ceramic dish or base.

Called Venturi Flame Technology™, the patent-pending cell uses a round glass cylinder that, when placed over a gel fuel flame increases both its height and BTU (British thermal unit) output.

“The gel fuels are actually a bio fuel, so it’s a green product,” says Johnson. “You’re getting a more visual look with about half the energy consumption and it can be utilized both indoors and outdoors. A basic unit will sell for less than \$200.”

The Venturi cylinders can also be used with gas-powered fireplaces and fire pits, and Johnson agrees that’s where the market is strongest.

“That’s something people want, especially if they have to choose between a fire pit and a grill or a pergola,” he says. “It’s utilitarian, and it’s something that will keep them in the outdoors longer.”

– K. Schipper



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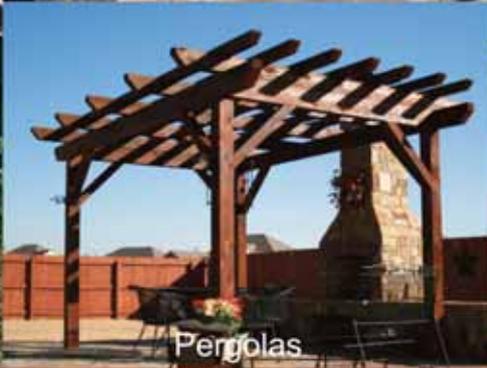
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A pergola often helps to define an outdoor space, whether that space is a formal seating area within a larger expanse (left), or a cooking and dining area (right). (Outdoor parlor photo courtesy Durham Hill Nursery; dining-area photo courtesy Stone Age Mfg. Inc.)

Stone Age's Rider also stresses flexibility.

"We have a bracket system that we've developed that makes it easy to put the panels together," Rider says. "Our niche is that the contractor puts the shell together, determines where all the equipment and appliances are going to go, and then takes the saw and cuts it.

"Because you're cutting it to fit you're still able to do a custom job."

And, for the client whose requirements can be even more standardized, the Burlington, Wis.-based Harmony Outdoor Living is offering a growing number of factory-built items for every facet of the outdoor experience that can be delivered to a jobsite, placed on prepared footers and are ready to go in a couple hours.

The products are built using the Cordova and Tuscany lines of materials from Unilock®, and the Wexford, Bristol and Nottingham lines from Belgard® Hardscapes Inc., and are sold through those companies.

And, while Harmony got its start with deliver-to-site fireplaces, its line has grown since then to include a couple pre-designed kitchens, as well as a component system that company president Joseph Raboine compares to an interior cabinetry system.

"We have brick ovens, which are the centerpiece for a lot of the kitchens we sell," he says. "Then, we have a variety of cabinets, some with end caps and some that are fillers so you can have a grill, refrigerator, drawers or any other kind of accessory. We also incorporate low-voltage lighting, and we're just now switching over so that all our countertops will be a granite-like polished composite surface that will come standard with the kitchen."

Strong Feature

While these component systems aren't going to appeal to everyone, they do offer advantages to designers and contractors that might not have been so attractive when times were flush a few years ago.

Raboine says one of the pluses to his system is that clients tend to view them more like furniture.

"It takes away a lot of the unknowns that they might have had," says Raboine. "Historically, they'd have questions about who could do the work, how long would it take, how much would it cost, and could it be done with a particular look. What we offer is a very consistent and

finished product."

As a former hardscape contractor, Raboine adds that he knows how difficult it can be to find people with the skills to do a decent custom project.

"What we've done is taken it from being a very high-end product, and almost cut the price in half," says Raboine. "Because we work with Belgard's and Unilock's materials, they can get a complete and seamless look."

Although the unfinished modules may not be perceived quite like furniture, the Outdoor GreatRoom's Johnson says they offer a level of flexibility that someone without a six-figure budget is going to find very helpful.

"Maybe they want to do an L-shaped total length of 22', but they can only afford to do 10' this year," he says. "Do three modules, then get creative at the end, but figure out a way you can add it back on next year. If you're finishing in stucco or in a manmade stone, you can match the color again. Maybe you can do a peninsula and an island. The modular concept is the way to do that."

Johnson agrees with Raboine that one of the most important things these products can offer is a definite price to customers who don't want to be burdened with debt, and may also be looking for a deal.

Sold properly, they also can offer a bit of cautious optimism to people waiting for the economy to rebound. Johnson's advice: go in with a plan for what he calls "the ultimate dream," but be prepared to show how it can be done in stages.

"Maybe they're interested in an outdoor kitchen and a fire pit and a pergola and some outdoor lighting," he says. "Sell them the feature they want to have right now. Maybe it's the fire pit, but they can get by with the old grill for now. Then, next year, go back, and depending on how things are for them, do the pergola next. You have to change the way you're selling, because people are changing the way they're buying."

Campbell and Ferrara's Profusek is one who's already taking that approach. He says an effort to contact last year's clients generated about a 25-percent response rate – fueled, in part, on a winter discount offer on hardscape.

"People are being not as impulsive in the selection of work and the shape and size of the work as they've been in the past," he says. "But, when it comes to the use of the feature versus the cost, the outdoor-kitchen concept is strong."

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Getting Water Out of the Gutter

By K. Schipper

Even landscape masonry contractors who've never installed a fountain are going to find plenty of wet work in the future. The reason: stormwater.

It's a rare municipality today that simply allows storm runoff (especially from large commercial projects) to just meander offsite to overburdened waste-treatment systems or local waterways. And, some traditional options for onsite management – such as retention basins – fall out of favor as land prices increase.

Given the right design and contractor, a pervious pavement system is a better option, allowing the water to percolate down to the water table or be recovered for future treatment or gray-water use. The systems often require some different thinking about costs in commercial developments.

However, in an era where more individuals are going green, pervious – also called *permeable* – pavement can also offer an attractive option for some homeowners trying to be water-conscious on their own property.

Work in Progress

Showers and storms may be the lifeblood of rural areas. But, in an urban landscape, it's a hard rain that's going to fall on the landscape ... and the economics of development.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), stormwater flowing off parking lots and down city streets contains a mix of sediments, petroleum products, chemicals/pesticides, salt, heavy metals from roofs, and bacteria/viruses from pet excrement.

Although the nation's water is cleaner overall than in the days before the EPA cracked down on wastewater treatment, that rain – depending on the location and the body of water it flows into – can sicken swimmers, poison fish and wildlife, or overload it with nutrients that encourage unwanted plant and algae growth.

The federal agency is now getting serious about cutting down on stormwater pollution. In most cases, the EPA lets the various states determine the best way to deal with this unwanted runoff, although it's also in the process of developing new national rules by the end of next year.

Current work in stormwater control is a work in progress, according to A. Jeffrey Sholly, a township engineer based in York, Pa. Sholly says the Keystone State is looking at having no more volume of runoff into creeks post-development than existed with bare property.

"We've just put out the parameters that tell the designer what we're looking at in more specifics," he says. "We haven't had a lot of people take advantage of it yet."

The other problem he sees is that designers and property owners – including homeowners – don't yet have the knowledge and examples to inspire them. For instance, he talks about a recent project he reviewed where the homeowners wanted colored stamped concrete in their driveway.

Not only is this expanse of hand-set pavers between the sidewalk and the gutter of the Marq2 project in Minneapolis attractive, it also helps irrigate street trees and keeps runoff from the nearby Mississippi River. (Photo courtesy of Willow Creek Concrete Products).



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The County Conservation District in Lebanon, Pa., made an example of itself with a pervious Portland cement picnic area behind the district's office to show clients what can be done. Commercial developers are also finding uses for the product. (Photo courtesy Karl Kerchner)

“I said, ‘How about if you put a border around some of the flat areas in your driveway in pavers?’” Sholly relates. “They could have put a filtration system under the paving just by putting in a few extra stones, but they went with the stamped concrete and built a totally separate filtration system.”

He adds that many are still reluctant to go to products

such as pervious pavers and design features such as rain gardens because they aren't familiar with them.

However, down the road at Villanova University, Dr. Robert Traver, the head of the Villanova, Pa., school's Stormwater Project, is doing his best to get students in the environmental engineering department thinking about stormwater options.

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Enviroflex® is a concrete-block product designed to handle excess stormwater in rivers and channels, including wetland crossings and retention basins. (Photo courtesy Soil Retention Systems)

He explains that about 10 years ago, the issue of stormwater moved away from looking only at containing floodwaters and started looking at water quality and aquifer recharge.

“We figured that since nobody had ever done it before,

we needed to do a lot of research in understanding how these things work,” Dr. Traver says. “That’s what we’ve been doing since then: building best-management-practices sites all over our campus and testing them.

“At the same time, they’re demonstration sites where,



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when municipal officials think all this stuff is nasty, we can show them it's friendly and it looks great."

The projects Villanova students are studying include a green roof, stormwater wetlands, bio-retention rain gardens, rain barrels, and multiple pervious concrete and porous asphalt applications.

"We also have an infiltration trench where the overflow is made of pavers," says Traver. "There are some other things we'd like to do, but we'll get there eventually."

Growing Market

For the designer or contractor faced with the need to put down some sort of pervious surface, the range of products is broad – and growing.

Andy Vander Woude, chief executive officer (CEO) of Minneapolis-based VAST Enterprises LLC, claims pervious paver uses have been growing at a rate of about 50 percent per year in recent years, although the material still constitutes only about two percent of the total paver market.

Vander Woude relates the issue as much to water conservation as to stormwater management.

"The United States has about a 3.7-billion-gallon water deficit," he says. "Aquifer levels in certain parts of the country have dropped more than 100 feet since the 1940s. The issue is water quantity, as well as quality."

Ted Corvey, paver business director for Winston-Salem, N.C.-based Pine Hall Brick Co., echoes Vander Woude.

"The idea of permeable pavers goes back about 10 years in this country, but longer in Europe," he says. "Some 30 years ago in Europe, they started looking for

ways to recharge groundwater and came up with the idea of using segmental pavements and open-graded aggregates that allow the water to flow down and infiltrate back into the soil."

While that may not be such a stretch in a continent where sand-set cobbles were the norm for centuries, the big issue in the United States is the acceptance of segmental pavements in general – typically with higher up-front costs.

"When you're looking at someone who wants to replace a retention pond and make the parking lot bigger, those installations are driven by economics," says Corvey. "You're going to see a mechanical installation to save money and you're probably not going to see clay pavers as a result because they need to be hand-installed."

On the other hand, one of Pine Hall Brick's permeable products – RainPave® – is designed with the residential driveway market where impervious cover limits apply and a more-traditional material is desired.

Green takes on several different meaning with other pervious products entering the market. One of VAST's goals, along recharging the aquifer, is to create products from almost 100-percent recycled materials – mainly tires and plastic.

Then, there's the matter of plantable pavers, such as Drivable Grass®. Created by Carlsbad, Calif.-based Soil Retention Systems, it connects concrete cells in a flexible polymer grid suitable for both vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Jim Engelke, the product's national sales manager, says education is a big part of his job, with designers and contractors being only some of his students.

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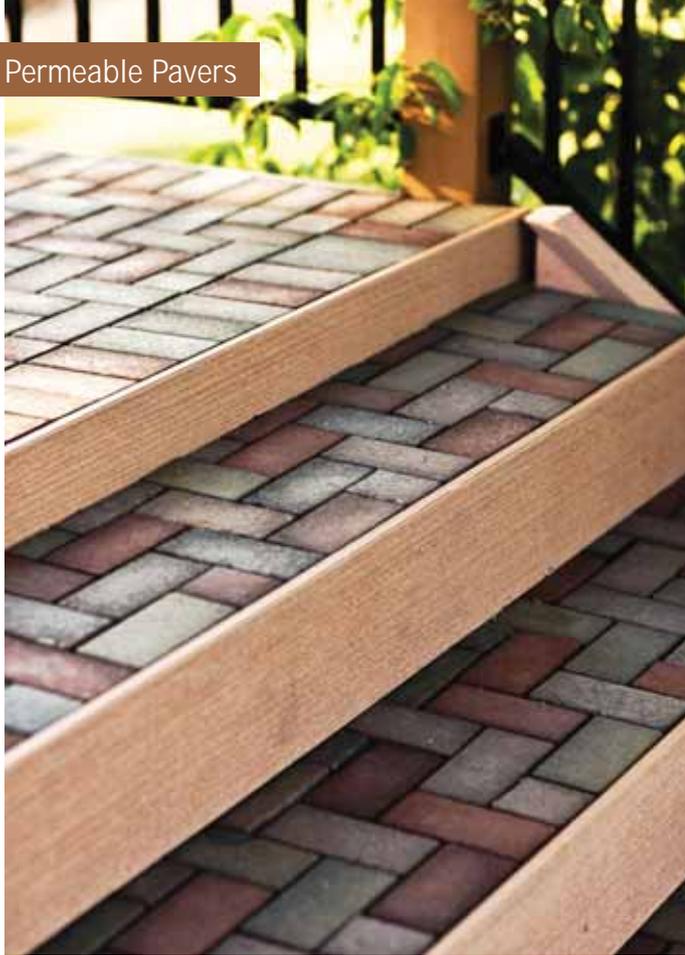
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Pavers from VAST Enterprises can be installed as part of a stormwater conservation program, with the added benefit of being made from recycled materials. (Photo courtesy of VAST Enterprises LLC)

“When a client wants to use the product on a commercial project, I go ahead and meet with the fire department and explain why this is going to work,” he says. “A lot of times the agencies know what they have to conform to, but they don’t necessarily know the latest ways to achieve their ends.”

As with Pine Hall Brick, Engelke adds that often homeowners are among the most-knowledgeable and accepting of Drivable Grass.

“We probably have an equal interest at the homeowner level,” he says. “If we don’t have a regional distributor, we’ll sell a driveway’s worth of Drivable Grass and have it shipped.”

NDS Inc. of Woodland Hills, Calif., is another company that offers both plantable and aggregate-filled pavers for residential and commercial use. However, Sharon Vessels, NDS director of marketing, doesn’t see it making much of a dent among homeowners – yet.

Where its products are making a splash is with developers and designers looking for credits through the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design™ (LEED®) program.

“These fit nicely into the green-building trend as they qualify projects for LEED credits,” Vessels says. “And, landscape architects are designing with them because they offer flexibility in the design. That’s why I think more of these products are being developed.”

At the same time, Vessels cautions contractors and designers need to make sure the right product is specified for the right application.

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“Load-bearing, in particular, is a pretty big deal,” she says. “Particularly if you have something like fire-lane access, you have to be careful and use the right product. It’s important the specs be followed for installation. If you’re careful about the specification you’re trying to meet, it’s much more likely the client will be happy with the result.”

Proof Positive

Chuck Taylor, general manager of Advanced Pavement Technology in Oswego, Ill., knows about keeping clients happy. And, for him, that means using permeable concrete or clay pavers.

Although he argues that neither porous concrete nor pervious asphalt offers the firm surface of a good, machine-installed paver, he says the problem he runs into most often in championing pavers is – as Corvey mentioned – price.



Cambridge® Pavers Inc. is another company making permeable pavers from recycled materials. The company’s Aqua-Bric® product can be machine-set. (Photo courtesy of Cambridge Pavers Inc.)

“And, the truth is, if you’re a developer, price drives the engine,” Taylor notes, adding that to warm up to pavers it’s necessary to get designers and their clients to think about maintenance and replacement costs.

A case in point is a facility his company installed several years ago. Before construction, the design team created a cost analysis for the owner looking at initial cost and maintenance for both heavy- and light-duty asphalt, along with permeable pavers.

“They found at 22 or 23 years, the cost was break-even for all three systems,” Taylor says. “But, at 50 years, the client would have paid 40-times more for asphalt maintenance.”

As a result, Taylor installed a 500-vehicle parking lot of concrete pavers. And, he says over the nine years since, the actual cost of maintenance is half of what was forecast.

Taylor says that doesn’t even take into account situations where the elimination of a retention pond provides more buildable space. He recently did a project in Kentucky where

eliminating the retention pond in favor of putting the stormwater under the streets allowed the developer to build an additional building.

“The engineer placed the value of the space at \$400,000,” Taylor relates. “The developer said it was actually worth a million dollars to him, because he got to put a building on it.”

A just-completed project in Minneapolis won’t have quite that level of financial payback, but property owners in what’s referred to as the Marq2 district will be able to apply for stormwater utility credits from the city.

Marq2 (short for the Marquette Avenue and Second Avenue South Transit Project) incorporates approximately 15,000 ft of pavers from Willow Creek Concrete Products



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in Oakdale, Minn., and installed by Glacial Ridge Inc., of Willmar, Minn.

Chris Behringer, a senior urban designer with S E H in Minneapolis says that city's Stormwater Management Group asked the design firm to consider a structural-cell component for the project, and S E H suggested the use of the pavers.

Behringer, whose firm has been looking at permeable and pervious products for several years, says the pavers were a better option for parts of the sidewalk than porous concrete, which she says isn't as aesthetically pleasing.

"Because this is in the sidewalk area, the bituminous asphalt really wasn't an alternative," she says. "And, because we were using colored concrete and plain concrete as well, the price difference was just about a wash."

The pavers were hand-laid in the non-pedestrian area between 179 street trees, which will be the recipients of stormwater recovered from the sidewalk. In this case, the stormwater is retained in an underground grid of plastic-framed cells filled with a bioinfiltration soil mix after passing through a geotextile membrane and two layers of different-sized aggregates.

"We did work with the city's head forester on making sure the tree species we picked would do well within the corridor," Behringer says. "The salt put on the streets shouldn't be a problem, as long as we have some good rainfalls to flush the system. And, the soil is going to remove the phosphorous and nitrogen and other minerals that come through the stormwater."

Since the project was just completed late last fall,



Pavers used for stormwater control often need to be hand-set. For that reason, some products are better for residential applications where the square footage is small. (Photo courtesy of VAST Enterprises LLC)

Behringer adds that it's probably too early to get good feedback on how well the system deals with the up to 20,000 ft³ of water it's supposed to handle with each rain.

"However, what we're hearing from people is that the look of the transportation corridor is a big improvement," she says. "The aesthetics of the improvements are very positive." ■

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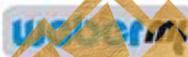
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A Wall Fit For a Castle

By K. Schipper



Client: BWC Properties, Atlanta
Engineer: REDI Engineering, Alpharetta, Ga.
Block Supplier: Piedmont Precast, Atlanta
Block Installer: MSE Site Solutions, Atlanta

With a 120' change in elevation from the front to the rear of the lot, only a massive wall structure could help anchor the soil and provide a large-enough flat space for this \$5 million residence. (All photos courtesy Piedmont Precast)

ATLANTA — Although it's technically a reproduction of a French chateau, it's not surprising that passersby often refer to the home built by locally-based BWC Properties on Claire Rose Lane as a *castle*.





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The retaining walls echo the formality and dignity of the home and provide some space from the neighboring home (seen in the background at left).

With a change-in-grade of 120' from the front to the rear of the property, it's a given that people look up to the \$5-million-plus structure. However, keeping the home in place and maximizing lot use became a challenge for developer Bobby Webb.

His solution: a retaining wall that enhances the look of the home, while providing design flexibility for a lower price than the stone-veneer, poured-in-place concrete wall he'd originally considered.

High-Profile High Wall

Webb and partner Joseph Babb knew there were challenges ahead when they bought the last six lots in the 57-lot Tiller Walk subdivision.

"They were the last ones left," says Webb. "We got a good deal provided we bought all six, but every single one of them posed challenges. I knew there were going to have to be some massive retaining walls."

The other lots are inside the property and less visible, so Webb

went with concrete walls covered with either paint or stucco. However, the chateau lot faces directly on Claire Rose Lane.

"It's a lot more visible," he says. "I knew this would have to be a 22' or 23' wall that's at the front of the home and visible to the street. I needed something that was matching the style of the home as well."

His first thought was to do a poured-in-place concrete wall, finished with a stone veneer. However, while attending a home builders' show in Orlando, Fla., he visited the booth of Charlevoix, Mich.-based Redi-Rock International.

"At that time, I was just getting ready to start the project here," says Webb. "After I saw the product and saw that each of the blocks weighs more than a ton, I started doing a little more research and it fit into my schematic very well."

Attending a subsequent builders' show in Atlanta, Webb made the acquaintance of Redi-Rock's local supplier, Piedmont Precast.

Patrick Flanagan, Piedmont's sales manager, says he remembers meeting Webb.

"Being the type of home it is, he wanted a really spectacular look," says Flanagan. "He was attracted to our product initially because it could give him the same natural-stone appearance as a veneer, but with precast modules.

"We also were able save him about 35 percent on the cost of that other option."

Still, things did not move quickly. Flanagan estimates it took about 18 months between that initial meeting and the time when Webb was ready to move ahead with the job. And, in the interim, Flanagan's situation had changed.

"I could see that people weren't really bidding our product in situations where it was best-suited, based on engineering and price," says Flanagan. "Being that we were having such a hard time selling the product, I started my own design-build company. Once we did that, block sales

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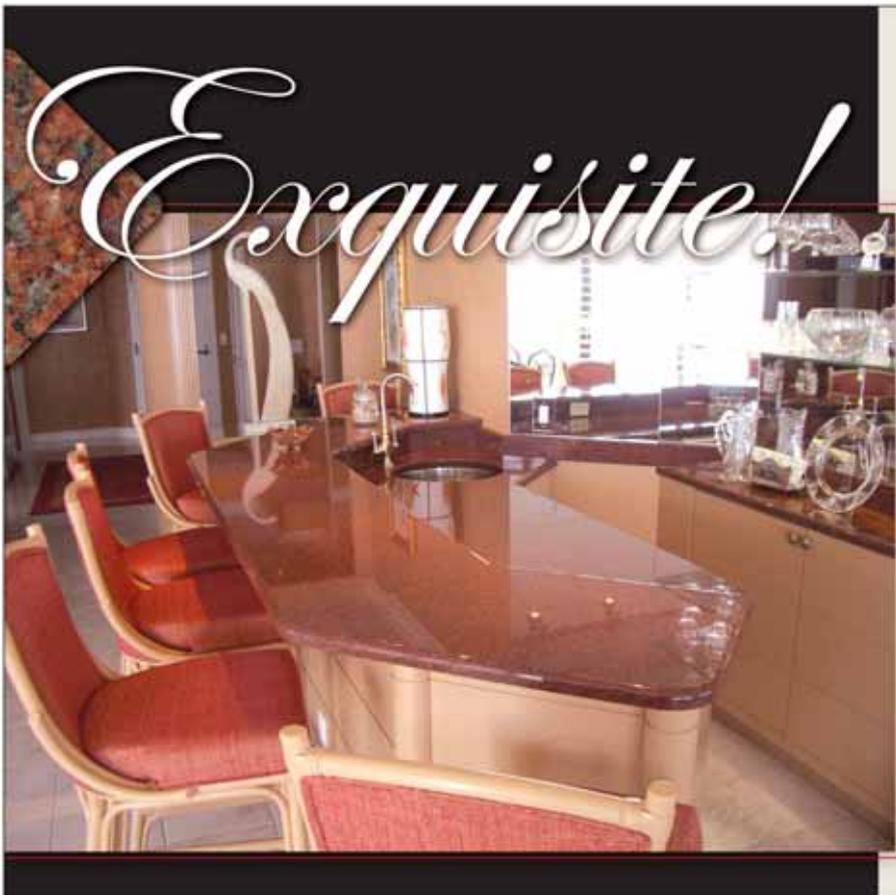
As impressive as the front is, the precast modules in the rear of the home create more usable space in different levels, and contribute to the overall look of the property.

increased 80 percent in our first year.”
 Flanagan adds that he had kept in touch with Webb over those 18 months, and so when the developer

called he knew Flanagan would be able to supply both the blocks and bid the installation through his MSE Site Solutions.

Great Payoffs

Still, Flanagan says his first trip to the site was an eye-opener.
 “When he called me to come out



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onsite and said he was ready to talk, he had already started to build the home,” says Flanagan. “He had already poured the basement and there was a 35' exposed concrete wall.”

Webb had the site plans; Flanagan took photos and a video of the property with his cell phone, and had an online conference with the engineer and construction manager at that time.

“We were able to come up with some solutions almost immediately,” he says. “Actually, the front wall was pretty cut-and-dried. However, there was a pretty difficult situation at the rear.”

“I had the design layout for the property,” Webb agrees. “As far as where the curves went in the wall – we did a lot of that in the field. And, they (MSE) had an engineer who did a design based on the height of the wall, the size and the compaction. Through the process, we had an engineer who monitored compaction and the lengths of the geogrid behind the wall.”

John Paulson, an engineer with



Even the low wall in front helps define the edge of the property, and provides additional formality to the setting.

the Alpharetta, Ga.-based REDI Engineering, says his part of the job started with basic information Webb's civil engineer had done developing a plan for the site, showing where the walls would go and their elevations. The developer also provided information on drainage and site grading drawings.

“We also got a soils report from a geotechnical engineer who identified

soil types and conditions,” Paulson says. “Then, based on all that, we use a standard design procedure from the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA). It was a relatively straightforward process.”

Flanagan says negotiations between Piedmont and the developer took about 10 days, and in the end the cost-savings of using a precast block system was only part of the issue.

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"The other option he was looking at was more-expensive," Flanagan says. "Once we were released to design, we had final engineering plans in his hands within a week-and-a-half."

MSE started installing the project approximately 45 days after the drawings were completed, a schedule dictated by timing issues with other subcontractors at the site. Flanagan says that, from his standpoint, it wasn't exactly a typical job.

"We had sufficient stock before we began and our initial estimate was for about 5,500 ft²," he says. "But, after it started, the developer's vision changed in what he wanted. That's when the two swales in the front wall came about. It started as a straight wall, but he had the idea of the two swales with gun turrets to give it that castle appearance.

"If he would have poured the wall in concrete, he wouldn't have been able to make any of the changes he wanted to, especially on the fly in real time."

Flanagan adds that the job required every block in the Redi-Rock product arsenal, from 28"-60" in depth, and weighing anywhere from 1,400 lbs-3,500 lbs. A six-man crew did the installation in 45 days, although Webb notes that the drought situation in the Atlanta area two years ago helped reduce construction times for large parts of the job.

Engineer Paulson says his presence on the site was minimal.

"I visited the project on several occasions, but the contractor's foreman and the project superintendent were onsite the whole time, and they had a geotechnical firm that did testing and inspections during the construction," he says.

Webb says he was so pleased with the appearance of the wall in the front of the property that he expanded his use of Redi-Rock for the project.

"I was not going to use it in the rear of the home," Webb says. "I had a steep bank at the rear of the home, and I said, 'Let's put in a wall and integrate a waterfall into it.' We were able to cut it into different levels and I was able to utilize more of the space back there.

"We went more than we had budgeted and planned for, but the payoff was really great from the aesthetics," he adds.

Webb's decisions were certainly ratified when the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association gave the home a silver designation for projects of more than \$5 million in its 2008 awards competition.

"I'm absolutely satisfied," says Webb. "I get so many compliments on it from people saying they feel like they're in Europe when they're around it. I'll definitely use the product again.

"We're delighted to see our product used on a project that won such a prestigious award," says Jake

Manthei, marketing director for Redi-Rock International. "That's our niche in the market, though: building tall gravity retaining walls."

And, Piedmont's Flanagan says he's very happy to have been involved in such a successful project.

"If I'm ever allowed to be involved in another job like this, it will be a lucky thing," he says. "We were lucky to get hooked up with a builder who had a vision like Bobby Webb had. He's talented and unique and it was a pleasure to be part of this." ■



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On Track for Louisville

LOUISVILLE, Ky. –

It's a new time of the year – among other things – for **Hardscape North America** (HNA), as it moves from its traditional early-year position to late October.

There's more new in store for the event, however, as it moves here to the heart of Bluegrass Country, and also picks up a new partner.

HNA will now run concurrently with the GIE (Green Industry and Equipment)+EXPO, on Oct. 28-30 at the Kentucky Convention Center. The new addition will bring together thousands of lawn and landscape professionals with the design-build contractors, architects, engineers and allied companies of the hardscape trade.

Hardscape North America, sponsored by the **Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute** (ICPI), is the event for manufacturers, specifiers and installers of segmental pavement systems, segmental retaining walls, water features, outdoor kitchens and landscape environments for residential and commercial applications.

The show debuted at Nashville's Gaylord Opryland complex in 2007, and moved to the downtown Nashville

Convention Center in 2008. In January 2009, the event called Atlanta's Cobb Galleria Centre home.

"Having the addition of HNA at GIE+EXPO next year literally adds a number of new dimensions to the show," says Warren Sellers, GIE+EXPO show director. "HNA will bring thousands of new attendees to Louisville from their own show with the buying power for on-the-job equipment as well as exposure to all of the educational opportunities that will be available throughout show week."

In 2009, HNA attracted more than 2,300 industry professionals – a gain from 2008's total count – while GIE+EXPO drew more than 16,500 attendees last October

The combination of the green industry, power equipment and permeable concrete pavers spotlights the movement towards integration of softscapes and hardscapes in sustainable environmental designs.

Ed Fioroni, ICPI chairman, recognizes the benefits of bringing their show to GIE+EXPO.

"It's a great marriage for attracting new contractors, landscape designers and irrigation professionals

to our show while providing our attendees with all there is to see on the equipment side," says Fioroni, who's also a Pavestone® Co. vice president. "Today we see our industry expanding beyond residential into much larger projects for cities and greener environments, and this is the perfect venue for providing the latest tools and training needed to help contractors grow."

HNA will be offering valuable certification and hands-on educational sessions for hardscape and landscape professionals, including ICPI and National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) instruction on Oct. 26-27 in Louisville. Topics will range from segmental retaining-wall installation to permeable interlocking concrete-pavement construction.

"We're looking forward to helping the landscapers learn the proper installation guidelines to take advantage of all that the combined shows have to offer," adds Bill Schnieder, president of Advanced Pavement Technology. "Here they see the tools they need while learning from in-depth sessions, as well as seeing hands-on installations in progress at the outdoor demonstration area."

HNA will also feature its indoor and outdoor exhibits areas from Oct. 28-30. Indoor exhibits open the first two days at 9 a.m., and outdoor stands will open at 10 a.m.; both areas will close at 5 p.m. Only the indoor exhibits will open on Oct. 30 from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

“As an HNA exhibitor, we are looking forward to being in Louisville,” says Craig Willike, general manager of Pavestone. “It’s an exciting destination for the contractors we want to see at the show, and it’s easy to get to from a multi-state area.”

Bill Harley, Outdoor Power Equipment Institute president and CEO, says that, “as our environment changes so do the industries that design, build and maintain it. Having HNA alongside GIE+EXPO is another solid reason why attendees should plan to attend. They want to see new products, learn new ways to improve their business and head back home energized with practical, implementable value from the show.

“We’re looking forward to the dynamic synergy that GIE+EXPO and HNA will bring in 2010.”

For more information:

www.HardscapeNA.com,
info@gie-expo.com, 888-580-9960.

**Preliminary List of Hardscape
 2010 Exhibitors (as of mid-April)**

- Adsil MicroGuard (First Coast MicroGuard Systems, Inc.)
- Advanced Pavement Technologies
- Alliance Designer Products Inc.
- American Brick Saw Co. Inc.
- Amerisafe Inc.
- Ameristar Fence Products
- Architectural Stone & Landscape Design
- Atlantic Water Gardens
- Belden Brick Co.
- Belgard ®
- Boral Brick
- Brick Industry Association
- Carthage Mills
- Cell-Tek
- Cemex
- Cherokee Manufacturing
- Collier Metal Specialties Ltd.
- CONTRx Systems (EDCO)
- Curv-Rite Inc.
- Dancing Bear
- Depiction Software
- Dimex
- Envirobond
- Frog Lights LLC
- Hanson Hardscape Products

- Hardscapes USA
- Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute
- John Deere Construction & Forestry
- John Deere Landscapes
- Keystone Retaining Walls
- Master Mark Plastics
- Millenia Wall Solutions
- National Concrete Masonry Association
- Nitterhouse Masonry Products LLC
- North Carolina Granite Corp.
- Olympic Stone
- Oly-Ola Edgings Inc.
- Pathfinder/Optimas/Tiger Machine
- PAVE TECH Inc.
- Permaloc Corp.
- Pine Hall Brick Company Inc.
- Premier Diamond

- Prosoco
- Roman Fountains
- Seal'n Lock System™
- Sims Stone
- Smooth-On Inc.
- Snap-Edge Corp.
- SRW Products
- Stone Resources Consulting
- Strata Systems Inc.
- Surebond
- Techni-Seal
- Techo-Bloc
- Tencate Geosynthetics
- Weber Machine USA
- West Block Systems
- Whitacre-Greer
- World Diamond Source Inc. ■

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Materials

Cement Products



Soil Retention Products Inc., Carlsbad, Calif., offers a range of concrete-block products suitable for retention walls and paving, including the Verdura® with unique block configuration and inclination to form a positive bond between the blocks and the geosynthetic material. Drivable Grass® replaces asphalt or concrete in a driveway, or anchoring V-ditches and swales.

Contact: 800-346-7995

Manufactured Stone Collection



Dal-Tile®, Dallas, introduces its new Manufactured Stone collection, made of light-weight concrete and pumice aggregate and cast in rubber molds to mirror the shape and look of a variety of natural stones and bricks. Colors include Chiseled Ready Stack, Sculpted Ledge Stone, Mesa Ledge Stack, Ridged Field Stone, Today Stone, Temple Ledge, Windswept Ledge, Velvet River Rock, Grecian Limestone, Texas Mission Stone and Waterfront Brick. All are available in pallets or boxes with flats and corners. Matching accessory pieces are also available.

Contact: 214-398-1411

Precast Concrete Products



ARTO Brick, Gardena, Calif., offers a complete line of precast concrete products for both interior and exterior applications. Selections include thin bricks in a variety of sizes and colors; Artillo and Roman tile, liners and deco; precast balustrades in both 24" and 30" heights; precast fountains; Soft Grip and Roman pool copings; wall and pier caps; and pavers.

Contact: 888-757-8453

Veneer Granite



United Builders Supply Co., Inc., Westerly, R.I., announces the availability of Westerly Pink, Westerly Blue and Westerly Gray granites for full-depth and thin veneers. The supply is cut from pieces of the varieties, which were once popular carving stones for statuary, memorials and buildings.

Contact: 800-439-2832

Retaining Wall Blocks



VERSA-LOK Retaining Wall

Systems, Oakdale, Minn., offers Mosaic, a randomized use of its Standard, Cobble and Accent pieces in a 10" X 24" panel to give walls more visual appeal while providing the same strength created by using any of the pieces separately. As with all VERSA-LOK blocks, Mosaic pieces are available with either a split-face or a weathered finish.

Contact: 800-770-4525

Pennsylvania Bluestone



Herb Kilmer & Sons, Inc., Kingsley, Pa., offers Pennsylvania bluestone and fieldstone products. With quarries throughout the Endless Mountains, the company stocks a wide selection of step treads, hearths, mantels and capstones. Also available are both regular- and irregular-shaped flagstones in both regular and tumbled finishes. The company also offers a line of natural thin-veneer products in a variety of shapes and finishes.

Contact: 877-600-2284

Sawn Sandstone



Arkins Park Stone Corp., Loveland, Colo., offers sandstone building products from sawn slabs to full and thin veneers to coping and steps. Rip-rap and screened stone are also available. All the stones are quarried locally, and come with names such as Loveland Buff, Berthoud Sunset, Berthoud Pink and Lyons Red.

Contact: 970-663-1920

Desert Stone



Blake's Wholesale Stone, Ridgecrest, Calif., offers Sydney Peak Stone, a unique deposit of quartzitic schist from the Mojave Desert. The stone is available in thin-cut veneer flats and corners, thin flag flats and corners, regular flags, big flags, thin and full copings, landscape boulders, decorative slabs, column and wall caps, sill and treads.

Contact: 760-375-4430

Thin-Stone Veneer

Capitol Products, Inc., Jarrell, Texas, offers natural thin veneer (NTV) cut from the company's 10 quarries in Texas and Oklahoma. Capitol offers several distinctive colors and varieties of limestone,



sandstone and shale in a range of colors from buff and tan to chocolate, black, orange and gray. Some include natural shell fossils. Veneers are available in both corners and flats.

Contact: 512-863-9967

Permeable Paver



Cambridge® Pavers, Inc., Lyndhurst, N.J., introduces

Aqua-Bric® Type 1 with ArmorTec®, a new ADA-compliant permeable paver. Made from environmentally friendly raw materials, these pavers are produced through compaction and vibration with no heat or energy resources and are completely recyclable. They are designed specifically to return stormwater to the underlying soil, and are available in light colors that don't retain excessive heat.

Contact: 201-933-5000

Installation/ Maintenance

Stone Look

Seal-Krete®, St. Louis, introduces GraniTex, a decorative natural stone finish designed to give a facelift to existing concrete. The acrylic coating is rolled on to surfaces such as pool decks, steps and garage floors in a three-step process. The solution is available in four colors – DesertStone, SandStone,



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Salt-Water Sealer



DuPont™ StoneTech® Professional, Walnut Creek, Calif., introduces its Salt Water Resistant Sealer for protecting natural-stone and masonry surfaces around salt-water pools. The solution keeps water with dissolved salt from penetrating; it also protects against water-based stains, and is weather- and UV-resistant. The water-based sealer, with three-year durability, is suitable for porous tile, natural

stone, concrete, terracotta and grout; it's available in one-gallon, five-gallon and 55-gallon quantities.

Contact: 877-786-6383

Thin-Veneer Cutter

The Mighty C LLC., Kalispell, Mont., introduces the Mighty C, a hydraulic splitter designed to split natural-stone thin-veneer flats and corners at the jobsite with minimal dust and no need for water. Made of high-quality tool steel, the Mighty C includes the toothed-C-clamp for cutting, a pump, hydraulic hose with quick-couplers, tripod stand and quick-attach mounting brackets. The Mighty C comes with complete instructions and a one-year warranty.

Contact: 406-752-7625



Field-Textured Silicone



Pecora®, Cayce, S.C., is now offering its 890FTS Field Tintable Silicone in a textured version – 890-FTS-TXTR – that gives applicators the option of a mortar-like appearance. The new formulation provides a grout-like finish with joint movement of plus-or-minus 50 percent.

Contact: 800-527-6688

Cure and Seal Compounds

Increte Systems, Odessa, Fla., offers Cure-Crete, a family of cure-and-seal formulas designed for the demands of almost any job. Cure-Crete is a standard, solvent-based formula, while Cure-Crete



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Contact: 800-752-4626

Stone Chisel



GranQuartz, Tucker, Ga., introduces the BigDog™ Stone Chisel, with scallop, reverse-scallop, soft-stone and standard-bite carbide chisel teeth for producing natural and decorative edge designs on most stone from 2cm-8cm. The BigDog's ergonomic design is easy to operate and gives operators a clear view of the work area for precise placement and a cleaner edge. The hydraulic ram delivers five tons of directly applied force, and the modular jaw system allows the operator to switch the chisel teeth in seconds.

Contact: 800-458-6222

Lighting

Tiki Light

Unique Lighting Systems, Inc., Escondido, Calif., introduces its new Islander tiki light. Designed to function as a torch and/or an area light and available in Weathered Brass or Natural Copper, the fixture include a removable wick assembly and



threaded collar for easy refueling. The shroud has two-tone paint on

the inside; white for added reflection, and a flat black rim for added glare reduction. Each comes with an AstroBrite 35 W lamp and a lifetime warranty.

Contact: 800-955-4831

New LED Line

Kim Lighting, City of Industry, Calif., launches its 12V LED Premium Landscape Lighting Collection, a system of modular components that can be easily

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installed by landscape contractors for smaller-scale landscape applications. The line includes 10 different luminaires in a variety of styles and finishes, including accent lighting, pathway lighting, safety lighting and up-lighting with a variety of mounting options. All offer 50,000+ hours of illumination and a three-year limited manufacturer's warranty.

Contact: 626-968-5666

Compact Hardscape Fixtures



Vista Professional Outdoor

Lighting. Simi Valley, Calif., introduces two new fixtures to its compact hardscape fixture line. The 4261 is 12" long and includes two wedge-base 10 W T3.5 Xenon lamps. Model 4263 is 24" long and includes three wedge-base Xenon lamps. Both can easily be applied as a rail light, or as a step light under stair treads, and can be anchored to masonry and walls with an optional interlocking flange plate. Available in four different metal finishes, the units can also be ordered in 13 different powder-coated finishes.

Contact: 800-766-8478

Solar-Powered Lighting

Lumec, Boisbriand, Que., announces that all its LifeLED™-equipped luminaires are now available as solar-powered models. The addition of solar panels to the fixtures means that all can be 100-percent grid-free, providing optimal levels of illumination at no electrical cost.

Contact: 450-430-7040

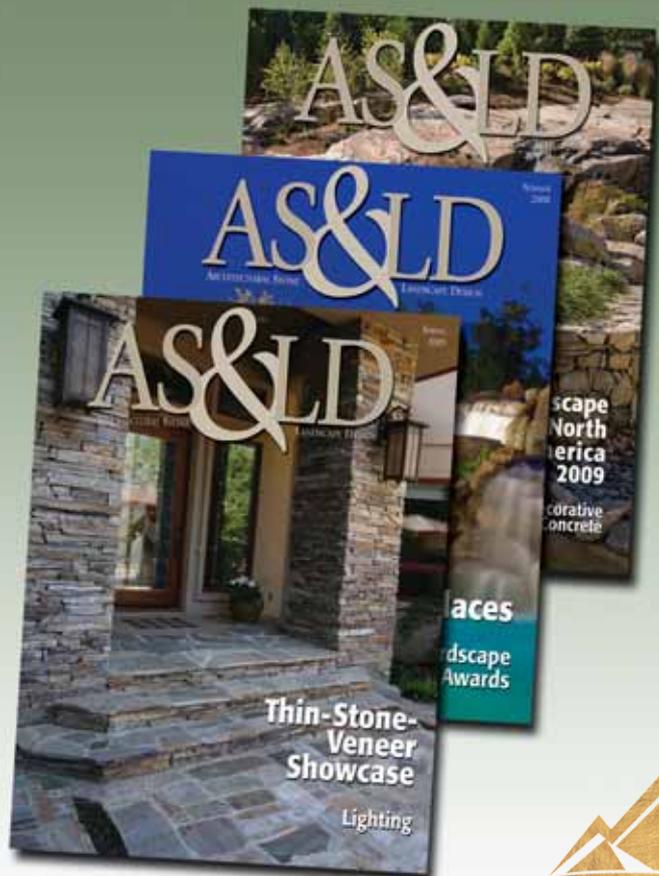
Flame Technology



The Outdoor GreatRoom Company™, Burnsville, Minn., introduces Venturi Flame Technology™, a glass cylinder secured to a turbo cell that delivers an air source at an accelerated speed. The combination creates a swirling, clean-burning flame in any gas, propane or Biofuel Gel fireplace or fire pit.

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Hardscape Awards Open for Entries

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – It's time to get those entries ready for the Third Annual Hardscape North America (HNA) Project Awards.



The competition, open to all industry professionals, recognizes outstanding hardscape projects by contractors in residential and commercial/industrial applications. These projects may include but are not limited to walkways, patios, driveways, plazas and parking lots.

The categories remain the same from previous HNA awards, with:

- Residential, recognizing projects using clay brick, concrete paver, segmental retaining walls and/or a combination of all hardscape products. Awards will be given to projects under 1,000 ft², 1,000-5,000 ft² and more than 5,000 ft². The project size includes the hardscape portion only.
- Commercial/Industrial includes projects utilizing hardscape materials and products. Awards will be for projects of 1,000-10,000 ft², 10,000-50,000 ft² and more than 50,000 ft². Again, the size parameters are only for the hardscape portion.

Entry information will be available online at www.hardscapena.com. The awards will be announced at HNA 2010, set for Oct. 28-30 in Louisville.

Entry photos and information become the property of the HNA Hardscape Project Awards sponsor and co-sponsors. Participants assume responsibility of obtaining clearance from owners concerning entries.

Genuine Stone™ Website Offers Key Green Data

HOLLIS, N.H. – The **Natural Stone Council (NSC)** announced the availability late last month of a growing repository of natural stone information available on its website of www.GenuineStone.org.

“The NSC is building an impressive library of knowledge, research and information, particularly with regard to the hot topic of sustainability, that we would like to share with the industry,” said John Mattke, Chairman of the NSC’s Sustainability Committee.

Based on two years of research and assessment in partnership with the University of Tennessee’s Center for Clean Products and Clean Technologies (CCPCT), the NSC is able to share a variety of data on Best Practices, Case Studies, and Material Fact Sheets.

Best Practices information includes details on water usage, site maintenance/quarry closures and solid-waste management; information on transportation should be added this month. Case studies include details on green building certification, stone-flooring durability, reclaimed stone and an anticipated publication on solar reflectance.

The site also offers lifecycle data sets and material fact sheets on granite, limestone, sandstone and slate, along with a fact sheet on marble. Fact sheets are now available for granite, marble, limestone, slate sandstone. There’s also a comprehensive life-cycle assessment comparing

stone to other types of cladding materials

Website access is free and requires no login.

Sustainable Masonry Program Growing

BOWIE, Md. – The **Sustainable Masonry Certification Program** from the **International Masonry Institute (IMI)** now includes 31 contractors nationwide.

The program educates union masonry contractors on the basics of sustainability practices and their role in the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED® certification process. The course also addresses subcontractor responsibilities from estimating and project scope to project management and documentation.

It also covers the LEED credits every masonry contractor should know, plus green strategies like site use and construction waste management. Contractors are tested to verify their ability to fulfill LEED responsibilities.

“When masonry contractors understand how they can contribute to successful LEED projects, everybody wins,” says IMI President Joan Calambokidis. “A LEED project’s evolution from concept to reality can make a big difference in whether LEED goals are achieved.”

Upcoming program sessions in Virginia, Ohio, California, New Jersey and Illinois are expected to educate hundreds more. For more information and reviews, go to www.imiweb.org.

NSC Ready For MIA Accreditation

CLEVELAND – Affiliates of the **National Stone Council (NSC)** will be able to participate in the **Marble Institute of America (MIA)** accreditation programs under a new pricing agreement.

The MIA’s Accreditation Commission announced the approval of a new structure for NSC participating groups such as the **Building Stone Institute**, the **Indiana Limestone Institute** and the **Elberton Granite Association**.

The MIA’s Natural Stone Industry Accreditation Program currently has three different designations available to companies: Natural Stone Fabricators (primarily residential), Commercial A Contractors (heavy commercial) and Commercial B Contractors (light commercial).

“From our standpoint, the decision was really a no-brainer,” said Garen Distelhorst, MIA accreditation manager. “It is in the best interest of the accreditation program, and the companies already invested in the program, to increase the number of accredited companies.”

Current MIA-accredited companies include 25 Natural Stone Fabricators, one Commercial A Contractor, and three Commercial B Contractors.

For information on the MIA accreditation program and a complete list of accredited companies, please visit www.marble-institute.com/accreditation.

Top Awards for Gallegos

DENVER – The Gallegos Corporation took honors for two projects recently from the Rocky Mountain Masonry Institute (RMMI).

In the Gold Hard Hat/Masterworks competition last fall, the Vail, Colo.-based company’s Vail Masonry division

won the "Masterworks in Masonry" first place for its work at the Arrabelle at Vail Square, a luxury hotel evoking the character of Bavarian Alpine destinations. The project broke ground in January 2005 and was completed in September 2008; it's owned by Vail Resorts, designed by 42 40 Architecture and constructed by Shaw Construction.

The Denver Masonry division won for its work on NorthCreek Phase III, a mixed-use commercial project in Cherry Creek North. Designed by Humphries Poli Architects, with The Weitz Co. as general contractor, the project broke ground in November 2007 and was completed in March 2009. Multiple masonry materials used include granite cladding, sandstone cladding, ashlar sandstone veneer, CMU and granite paving.

"This award speaks highly to the design and construction team but most importantly to our craftsmen in the field" said JC Slocum, TGC's PM for the NorthCreek project.

In addition to its Vail headquarters, The Gallegos Corporation operates offices in Denver, Aspen, Colo., and Sun Valley, Idaho.

StonExpo, Coverings Make 2011 Vegas Plans

LAS VEGAS - Two of the biggest U.S. stone shows - **StonExpo/Marmomac Americas** and **Coverings** - will play here early next year, with dates less than two months apart.

In a long-anticipated move, Hanley Wood Exhibitions announced late last year that its StonExpo event would skip 2010, and reappear on the schedule in January 2011 in conjunction with the SURFACES show

at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center.

This spring, **National Trade Productions** (NTP), the manager/producer of Coverings, announced that its 2011 edition will take place at the Sands Convention Center in March, moving the show up both the calendar and Interstate 15 from its planned April opening in Los Angeles.

Jennifer Hoff, NTP president of events, said that, "Coverings has had its eye on Las Vegas for years, so we're thrilled that the show will be going to this truly singular city earlier than we had anticipated."

The moves put both shows in a tight first-quarter window next year. StonExpo will be Jan 25-27, while Coverings will run from March 14-17 at the Sands Convention Center (the previous home of Hanley Wood's SURFACES event).

The 15-month StonExpo hiatus also means that the Marble Institute of America (MIA), which holds its annual meeting concurrently with the event, will need to meet independently of the event sometime in 2010. Gary Distelhorst, MIA executive vice president/CEO, reported on the MIA-produced Stone News Channel that 2010's annual meeting would possibly be held in tandem with a high-level management conference for the organization's membership.

Distelhorst added that Hanley Wood agreed to help fund the 2010 MIA meeting/conference.

NTP announced last July that it would be holding Coverings in Los Angeles in April 2011, after holding the last two odd-numbered-year shows in Chicago. Coverings' base in even-numbered years is Orlando, where the event was held this April. ■

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July 2010

Events

22-23

"Permeable Paver (PICP) Installer Technician Certification Course," Double Tree Hotel, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Interlocking Concrete Paving Institute (ICPI), 703-657-6901. www.icpi.org

August 2010

Events

25-27

ICPI Summer Meeting, Fairmont Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, Ont. ICPI, 703-657-6900. www.icpi.org

September 2010

Events

10-13

ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO, Washington Convention Center, Washington. American Society of Landscape Architects, 202-898-2444. www.asla.org

29-Oct. 2

Marmomacc 2010, Verona Exhibition Centre, Verona, Italy. VeronaFiere, +39-0458-298-111. U.S. contact: Consultants International Group, 202-783-7000. www.marmomacc.it

October 2010

Events

19-20

Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference, Navy Pier, Chicago. Restore Media LLC, 202-339-0744. www.traditionalbuildingshow.com

28-30

Hardscape North America 2010, Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, Ky. ICPI, 703-657-6900. www.hardscapena.com

Education

6-7

"Quarry Tours," Barre, Vt. Marble Institute of America, 440-250-9222. www.marble-institute.com

November 2010

Events

4-6

Total Solutions Plus 2010, Naples Grand Beach Resort, Naples, Fla. National Tile Contractors Association, 601-939-2071. www.tile-assn.com

17-19

Greenbuild 2010, McCormick Place West, Chicago. U.S. Green Building Council, 202-742-3818. www.greenbuildexpo.com

25-28

Natural Stone (Seventh International Marble, Natural-Stone Products and Technologies Exhibition), CNR EXPO, Istanbul. CNR Ekspo Trade Fairs, +90-212-465-74-74. www.cnr-naturalstoneturkey.com

January 2011

Events

12-15

2011 International Builders' Show®, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando. National Association of Home Builders, 800-967-8619. www.internationalbuildersshow.com

17-21

World of Concrete 2011, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas. Hanley Wood Exhibitions, 866-550-6808. www.worldofconcrete.com

25-27

StonExpo/Marmomacc Americas, Mandalay Bay Convention Center, Las Vegas. Hanley Wood Exhibitions, 866-550-6808. www.stonexpo.com

March 2011

Events

2-5

Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Expo, Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City. Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association, 703-522-0086. www.hpbexpo.com

14-17

Coverings 2011, Sands Convention Center, Las Vegas. NTP, 703-683-8500. www.coverings.com

15-17

Natural Stone Show 2011, ExCeL, London. QMJ Publishing Ltd., +44-115-945-3889. www.stoneshow.co.uk

22-26

ICON Expo, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas. Icon Expo, 877-343-6268. www.ncma.org/2011/Pages/IconExpo_2011.aspx

25-27

ICPI Annual Meeting, Las Vegas. ICPI, 703-657-6900. www.icpi.org

May 2011

Events

12-14

American Institute of Architects (AIA) 2011 National Convention and Design Expo, New Orleans. AIA, 202-626-7300. www.aia.org

June 2011

Events

22-25

Stone+tec 2011, Nuremberg Exhibition Centre, Nuremberg, Germany. NürnbergMesse North America, 770-618-5830 or NürnbergMesse GmbH, +49-9-11-86-06-81-08. www.stone-tec.com

October 2011

Events

4-7

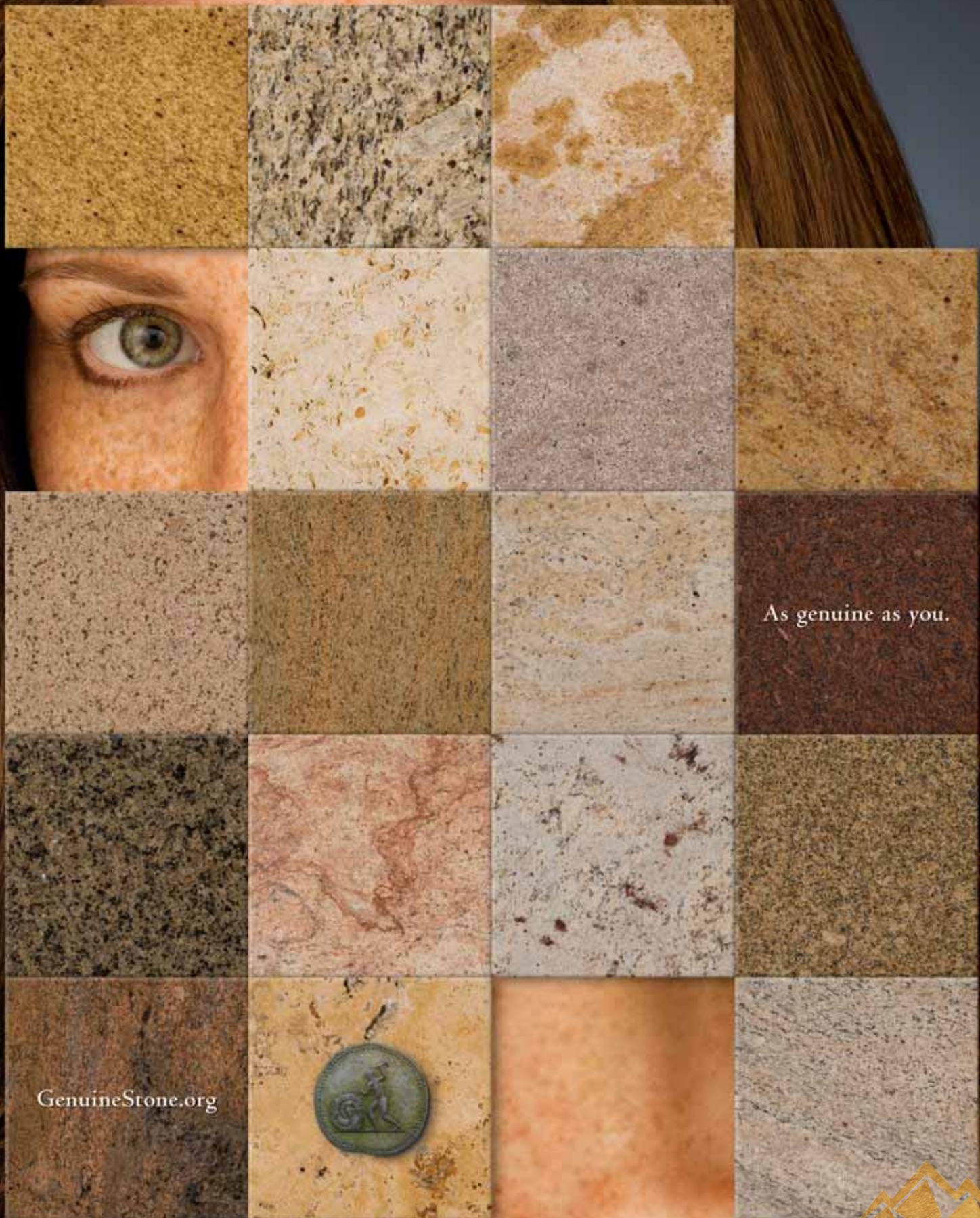
Greenbuild 2011, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto. U.S. Green Building Council, 202-742-3818. www.greenbuildexpo.com

30-Nov. 2

ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO, San Diego Convention Center, San Diego. American Society of Landscape Architects, 202-898-2444. www.asla.org

Have an event, classroom or workshop for professionals? Send the information to emerson@as-ld.com.

For a complete, up-to-the-minute listing of industry events, go to www.as-ld.com. ■



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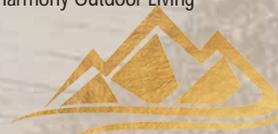
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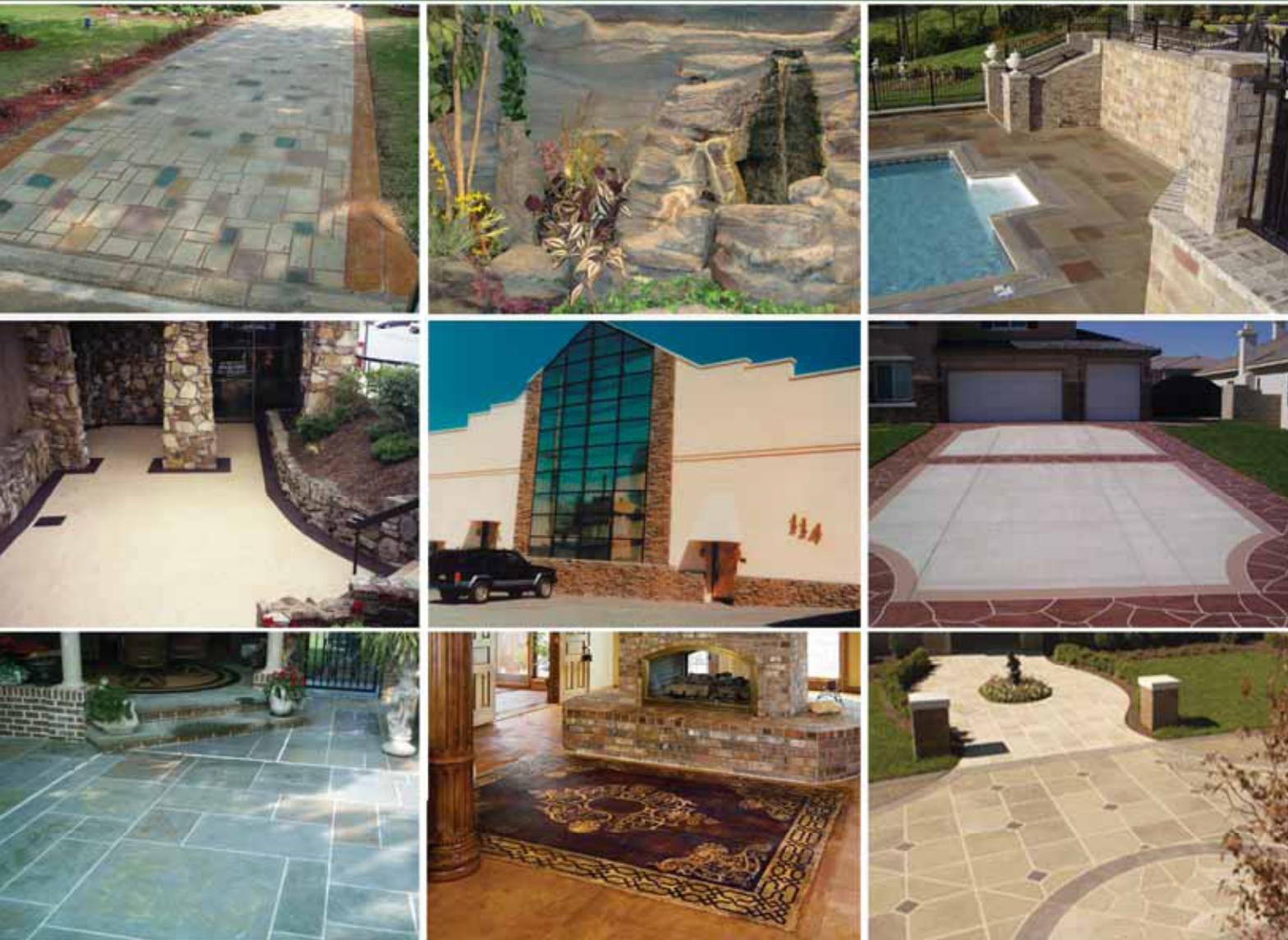
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