



A TOUCH OF STONE

2024

# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

DEAR VALENTINES,

2024 HAS STARTED WITH A BANG!

(IT ACTUALLY ALWAYS DOES FOR ME BECAUSE IT IS MY BIRTHDAY MONTH AND I LOVE TO CELEBRATE! 🎉)

FEBRUARY IS ALL ABOUT LOVE AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT IT IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT FOR ME WITH ALL OF WHAT IS COMING UP: 💕

VERY EXCITED TO SAY THAT OUR NEW SHOWROOM ON WESTSIDE IS OFFICIALLY OPENED AND WE ARE NOW TAKING APPOINTMENTS. SO I CANNOT WAIT TO SHOW YOU WHAT IT ALL ABOUT! CALL ME ANYTIME TO SET UP A VISIT. 📞

THIS MONTH ALSO MARKS SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL TO ME BECAUSE MY SISTERS ARE COMING TO VISIT WITH THEIR FAMILY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 20 YEARS! I WILL GET TO HUG THEM AND HOLD THEM IN MY ARMS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS. THERE WILL TEARS OF HAPPINESS AND CELEBRATION!! 👨‍👩‍👧‍👦

I CANNOT WAIT TO SHOW THEM ALL OF THE GREAT PROJECTS I AM WORKING ON WITH SOME OF YOU AND WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT TO LIVE IN ATLANTA, WHICH I HAVE CALLED HOME FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS NOW. 🏠

LASTLY, THE KBIS (KITCHEN AND BATH INDUSTRY SHOW) IS HAPPENING THIS MONTH. IT IS HELD ONCE AGAIN IN LAS VEGAS AND I CANNOT WAIT TO BRING BACK TONS OF NEW PRODUCTS AND AWESOME IDEAS WE WILL INCORPORATE IN YOUR FUTURE PROJECTS AND THE NEW TRENDS OF OUR INDUSTRY. 🎉

THANK YOU VERY MUCH AS WELL FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT!

*xoxo*  
*Marglene Briere*





## THE ART OF BOOKMATCHING NATURAL STONE

The process of bookmatching is designed to create a mirror effect with consecutive slabs of natural stone. Bookmatching is done by placing successive pieces of stone next to one another so that they resemble an open book.

In order to produce the desired mirror image effect with natural stone, large blocks of stone are sliced into slabs and polished on the two sides that were previously facing each other. This method creates stone slabs which are virtual copies of each other, resulting in an astonishing kaleidoscopic pattern when they are arranged side by side.

Book-matched stone is highly sought after, and creates a unique aesthetic unmatched by any other material. Many have compared it to complex Rorschach patterns or abstract art. Most whom take a moment to study book-matched marble often claim that they see all manner of interesting patterns not unlike seeing shapes in clouds.

The natural colors and patterns in stone will almost look amplified when presented in the mirror-image arrangement of a bookmatched pair. A certain amount of movement is required to create a visually interesting effect, but an overly complex stone can cause sensory overload. Stones with soft hues and flowing movement, like marble, will create a beautiful look that's not too jarring. Vivid slabs with bright colors and high-contrast patterns are not for the faint of heart, but offer an unforgettable statement.

It's practically inevitable that you'll see images in the adjoining stones. Maybe it will look like a beautiful flower or a snowy owl. Or... maybe you'll see the face of a malevolent goblin, or, heaven forbid, something resembling the, ummm, human anatomy? Once seen, these forms can't be unseen; they will greet you every time you walk in the room. So take your time and carefully examine the potential designs and shapes you'll end up with once the stones are cut and assembled.





# NEWSLETTER



## DESIGNER: LAUREN DAVENPORT

### **Question 1: What makes you choose between stone and quartz?**

It depends on what the clients is looking for in terms of durability. If they want the look of marble, without the maintenance of marble, we will go the Quartz route. If they want the richness and movement in a stone, then we will go the marble or Quartzite route.

### **Question 2: How do you incorporate stone or quartz in your designs?**

We recently did an installation with a Touch of Stone, where we installed a slab of stone on the wall in the Dining Room. The client saw the slab when we were looking for countertops for their kitchen and fell in love with the material. It did not match the aesthetic that we were aiming for in the kitchen but worked as artwork. We used the material in an unconventional way on the wall, and it turned out amazing!

### **Question 3: What Influences or inspires your design choices?**

A lot of it is directed by the client and what they want to see in their bespoke designs that we create for them. If the client is more traditional, then we will keep the material more traditional but add sculptural details like a backsplash behind the range. If it is a transitional or modern design, then we will go with a thick, laminated, or a waterfall edge on the countertops.

### **Question 4: Do you have a favorite stone and what is the name?**

I love Calacatta Gold Marble. It is such a classic and goes with so many different design directions.

### **Question 5: When choosing a stone or a quartz, do you choose first the color pallet or the movement of the stone? Which is predominant in your choice?**

I love natural material. It always amazes me when you look at marble, quartzite, onyx or granite that all these different colors and patterns came from the earth. Often, the stone material is the last thing that we select. It is driven by the color palate, cabinet design and furnishings.



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### **Question 6: What is your opinion on manmade products?**

There is a time and place for man made products. For those that want a zero-maintenance product, it is a great option. I love the texture and aesthetic feel that a natural stone offers.

For more info visit:

 DAVENPORT  
designs



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### **Question 7: Have you ever designed a room around a slab just because you loved it even if it was not your original concept? How did you handle that?**

I have never designed a room around a slab because I loved it, but it has swayed some of my decision making in design. I thought I wanted a material that had soft color and movement, but then I see bold stone with a lot of movement in person, and think you know what, let's go for it.

### **Question 8: When you first look at a project do you know immediately what stone you will use, or does it take time?**

In the 21 years that I have been in business, there is only 1 time that I saw a marble and designed the Kitchen with that material in mind. There are so many decisions that go into the design and selection of the material. Sometime the clients know what material they do not want, but often they look to me for the direction on the material, color and design.

### **Question 9: What stone has surprised you most when it was installed?**

The slab of Fusion Ice with a leathered finish, we installed as artwork on the wall. It is not typically a stone that I would specify or think about. But used as art on the walls, it absorbs so much natural light that you see patterns and variations in the stone on a vertical plane, that you do not typically see when it is installed on a horizontal plane.

### **Question 10: Do you have any predictions on future stone design trends?**

I feel that natural stone with movement and color is coming back. Especially if it is more in the warm tones. I believe you will see porcelain used in more applications.

*Lauren Davenport and Marylene Briere Collaborate at 2022 Home for the Holidays Kitchen*



ATLANTA  
HOMES  
LIFESTYLES