

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

A Touch of Stone



Hello Stoneworld aficionados,

September went by so fast! I call it a transition month because we close the chapter of summer and begin to feel the warmth of the Holiday season. And trust me when I say, at A Touch of Stone, we have jumped, head first, into the Holiday season!

We are very proud to participate once again this year in the Luxury Living Show at the Phipps Plaza. It starts today and runs until the end of the month. We have had lots of fun putting together this kitchen and master bath and cannot wait to share them with you. Come and check it out, it is open to the public during mall hours. I can't wait to hear what you think!

We are also very excited to be part of the 2023 Atlanta Home for the Holidays. This is my favorite event of the year! The intense work in a packed environment in a short period, is so worth it to get to see our community come together and check out what we did. Everyone who comes is always in such a jolly spirit!

It goes without saying that at A Touch of Stone, we are officially in holiday mode. I know many people are thinking of remodeling or updating your spaces for family visits... You are about out of time for this year. So if you need a nudge to get the renovation party started in time for the holidays, here it is! :)

Thank you for joining along my journey. Even after the 20 plus years, I still get excited with every project that comes my way. I love making the world a more beautiful place, one project at a time!

See you at the Phipps!!

Rocking Upcoming Events:

Serenbe Showhouse

September 29 - October 22, 2023

Address: Lupo Loop,
Chattahoochee Hills, GA

Luxury Living Show

October 1-30, 2023

Monarch Court at Phipps Plaza
Buckhead, GA



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Stone Studies (I'll take a quartz of pumpkin soup 🤔)

Quality Quartz

Quartz countertops are a form of engineered stone made from ground-up particles of quartz bound together with resins. The industry is increasingly using the term engineered stone to refer to this type of countertop in order to differentiate it from natural stone.

Quartz countertops are not made of solid quartz, but a mix of 90 percent crushed granite, marble, natural stone, or recycled industrial materials, such as ceramic, silica, glass, and mirrors. The other 10 percent is a polymeric or cement-based binder that binds the material. The mix of these materials gives quartz countertops the look and feel of stone.

Quartz countertops became a popular choice for consumers as they can choose a countertop that looks like stone but does not have the standard maintenance requirements a natural stone. It is a great choice of material for areas that require using chemicals that could be harmful to natural stone like bleach, windex, colorants.

Quartz kitchen countertops have certain qualities that make them special. You can find many colors—from bright whites to cool grays, warm creams, and rich browns and blacks. Some quartz even has veining that makes it look like marble.

Quartz Countertops: Pro's and Con's:

Pro's:

- Comes in many colors and there are no issues with pattern matching
- No sealer is needed
- All cleaning products can be used (I am still very partial to eco friendly multi purpose cleaners)

Con's

- Quartz does not hold heat so hot pans need a trivet
- Cannot be installed outside exposed to the natural elements. (A few colors are UV resistant but the choices are limited)
- Shades from slab to slabs may not be a perfect match. Always make sure they come from same batch.



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Designer Spotlight: *Toey Lynn Butler*



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

Stone, be it natural or engineered, is a very integral part of my design because it lends a sense of luxury or elegance to any space. I choose between the two on a very specific basis which is dependent on my client's needs and the project itself. For example, marble has an upscale aesthetic, has a natural beauty, is timeless, and works well with a range of styles. Yet, quartz is amazing for my clients that have active families due to it being low maintenance and easy to clean.

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

I favor using stone and quartz because they can transform a space entirely. I often love using the Calcutta marble quarried in northern Italy. The veining with pale gold to a rich honey hue adds a beautiful warmth and pairs beautifully with the warmer wood tones we are seeing in design lately. Marble's unique beauty perfectly paired with a design can be a show stopper on countertops, on surrounds for tubs, and even vanities! Of course, quartz is gaining popularity in bathrooms for counters, flooring, benches, and especially shower walls. Quartz shower walls are EVERYTHING!!!

Question 3: What Influences or inspires your design choices?

Anyone who knows me well knows how much I love fashion. For me, fashion and design definitely have a close relationship. Well-known events, like the infamous New York Fashion Week and the glamorous Met Gala, greatly forecasts what is to come in both consumer fashion and interior design. To me, the relationship ebbs and flows with each taking the lead at different times. Also, TRAVEL!! I love to travel and am incredibly inspired by other cultures and the way they use materials, colors, fabrics, and other design elements.

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

Yes! I love Italy's Calacatta Da Vinci Marble. I love the variations in the color and the unique and large veining patterns. I especially love the slabs that have a warmer hue running through the gray and white.

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Designer Spotlight: *Joey Lynn Butler*



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?

This is dependent on the other elements in design we have fallen in love with, but I am tremendously moved by pattern. Sometimes, a pattern in a stone as well as the moment will stop me in my tracks and I will then know I have to use that stone somewhere. Sometimes, color can be so rich and gorgeous that you just know it's the perfect fit. Right now, I am madly in love with the Quartz called Carmen Symphony. The colors and movement are both beyond gorgeous! I am thrilled to be using it a current project!!

Question 6: What is your opinion on manmade products?

Manmade products definitely have their place in design! I am always considering the durability, gorgeous design styles, and the ease of install. Therefore, it is a first when it comes to designing spaces for my active, young, and stylish families.

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?

Absolutely! I have been walking through a stone yard and have been so moved by a slab because of the movement present that we changed the overall aesthetic of the bathroom. I made a conscious decision to select the other elements which would be less conflicting and more subdued than our prior selection. The stone was to take center stage!!

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

For me, it takes time because I want to see everything to ensure I am giving my clients the absolute best choice out there!

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

Quartzite always surprises me in a magical way because I never know just how the light will reflect off of it in a given area.

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

I really feel designers will be fascinated by doing a two-tone back splash using multiple types of stone running up the wall.