

# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

*A Touch of Stone*



Dear Friends, Clients and Stone Enthusiasts,

This summer has gone by like a hot flash!!! And what a summer it has been!

My daughter started her veterinarian undergrad program at UGA and I became officially an empty nester!! Moose is now officially the king of his castle and he LOVES it!

So many great projects we got the chance to be involved in and I met some incredibly talented people I cannot wait to work with soon.

September looks promising as well. We will be working on getting the 2023 Luxury Living Show at Phipps Plaza ready for you to see in October.

We get the chance to work with new products that will be launched for the first time on the Atlanta market. You don't want to miss that. More details to come...

Thank you as always for all of your support and encouragement. I cannot wait to see what fun projects you guys will bring. I am always up for the challenge!

À très bientôt,

Marylene Briere

## Rocking Upcoming Events

### The French Take Over Atlanta

September 9, 2023 🇫🇷

Address: Buckhead

### Atlanta United vs. Inter Miami

September 16, 2023 ⚽

Address: Mercedes-Benz Stadium

### Serenbe Showhouse

September 29 - October 22, 2023

Address: Chattahoochee Hills, GA



Let's get social   @touchofstoneinc

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**Stone Studies (May the quartzite be with you 🤔)**

## Quality Quartzite

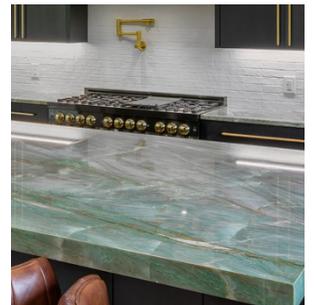
Quartzite is a natural stone that is becoming increasingly popular in the design industry due to its durability, unique patterns, and beautiful texture. It comes in a variety of colors and patterns, allowing you to add a touch of natural elegance to any space. Whether you're looking to update your kitchen countertops or add a stunning accent wall to your living room quartzite Stone Collection is the perfect choice.

Quartzite is durable, and strong. It is heat resistant making it a versatile and low-maintenance option for homes.

Quartzite is a naturally occurring metamorphic rock that's formed when sandstone is subjected to extreme heat and pressure beneath the earth's crust. Featuring natural veining patterns, quartzite closely resembles marble, which goes through a similar production process, but it is much more durable and requires less maintenance.

### ***Quartzite Countertops: Do's and Don'ts:***

- **Do** Always seal your stone with a stone penetrating sealer to help with staining.
- **Do** Always wipe clean your surfaces after each use.
- **Do** Use only eco friendly cleaners to clean your surfaces.
- **Don't** use any acidic cleaners.
- **Don't** let your surfaces air dry after cleaning.
- **Don't** leave spills on your services for a long period of time even if they are sealed.



***And most importantly, enjoy living with your beautiful stone selection!***

***Remember, each piece of stone is one of a kind... ❤️***

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**Designer Spotlight: *Lisa Wester***



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

Every designer has their preference but for me, design will always be about the beauty of creation. The most beautiful products are those things found in nature, physical God-made beauty like natural stone. My clients choose me because they want a one of a kind plan and natural stone is one of the ways we get them there. It can never be replicated so no matter what stone we select, their project will always be unique.

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

When I'm working on a project, I want my design work to spark a fire in my soul. I want each room to have passion and personality. With stone, I've installed incredible slabs in walls as art features. I've built entire encapsulated backsplash surrounds in stone. From waterfalls to special book matching, there are so many ways to create a moment in a space through the use of stone.

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

Nature, first and foremost but I also believe it's critical to stay ahead of design trends. I spend lots of time each year in continuing education, trade shows and find inspiration in my travels.

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

This question is a double edged sword for me. My favorite stone would be the one I'm currently working with you on, Calacatta Vagli Rosatto! BUT, I never use the same thing twice, and that's on every project I do. My next favorite thing will be something rare, exotic and something nobody's seen in our region.

## **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?**

Movement and color pallet selection are simultaneous decisions for me. The stone must speak to me through the fluidity of shape and visual interest in the slab. The coloration throughout the stone is part of or what creates the overall composition.



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

I believe manmade products have their place in the correct environment and for the proper client. There are some wonderful quartz and porcelain products on the market that given the correct fabrication and application are wonderful finishing touches, especially in budget sensitive areas.

## **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?**

Yes I have! I designed an original concept primary shower and floating vanity with integral sinks from three exotic slabs simply based on the wave of motion in the stone. I'm still proud of that work today.

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

It absolutely takes time and research. Like the slabs we will be using from New York, I source slabs from all over the United States. I always tell my clients, photography never does them justice.

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

I've used some beautiful soapstones that truly packed a visual punch and were outstanding for the client's wallet!

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

You're going to see more high-level custom fabrication. Integral sinks are going to be standard on high end jobs. Lots more mitering, custom fluting, reeding and other stone designs like mixing multiple stones in one surface or clever ways to disguise seams. All of these things exist and with the right fabricator like *A Touch of Stone*, are easily achievable.

