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STONE JOURNAL

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Fresh Perspectives
on Designing with Stone

Carving a Home
into the Side of a Cliff

Creating an Oasis that
Welcomes the Desert

SPRING 2026



BUECHEL
STONE

STONE JOURNAL
chronicles excellence in the use
of natural stone and the
artisans whose work brings
projects to life.

In its raw form, stone holds possibility.
In the hands of a craftsman, it becomes timeless.





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BUECHEL STONE



Buechel's Chilton Rustic Ledgestone *stays away from gray with earth tones ranging from browns to yellows to rusts.*

Mike Buechel
President & CEO

EVERY PROJECT IS MORE THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS, IT'S A STORY SHAPED OVER TIME.

It All Starts With the First Cut

There's a moment in every project when raw material begins to tell a story.

Sometimes that moment happens on a job site, as stone is set for the first time. But just as often, it begins much earlier: on a set of plans, in the origin of the stone, or during fabrication. Often, it starts inside the saw shop, where each cut is considered, each edge refined, and every piece prepared with purpose. It's there that possibility takes shape.

In this issue of *Stone Journal*, we explore that journey from origin to outcome. We begin with the craft itself. Inside the saw shop, precision meets a personal touch, and shaping stone becomes both technical and deeply human. Every finished space reflects a series of deliberate decisions made by skilled hands that understand the material at its core.

From there, we look outward to see how those decisions come to life across a range of homes and landscapes.

In California, stone brings texture and permanence to a setting defined by light and openness. In Minnesota, it grounds a home within its environment, connecting architecture and landscape in a natural, enduring way. Along the East Coast, our showhouse in New Jersey pushes creative boundaries, bringing together designers and artists from across the country to create one of the most distinctive homes you'll encounter.

Beyond the U.S., a project in Vancouver, Canada, reflects something consistent across every region: while styles may vary, the desire for authenticity remains. Stone, in all its variations, continues to connect people to place.

What ties these projects together is not a single aesthetic, but a shared commitment to craft. At Buechel Stone, we believe material



matters, but even more so, how it's handled, understood, and brought to life defines the artistry of natural stone masonry.

Stone Journal exists to explore that intersection—where natural stone meets inspired design, and ideas become something lasting.

As you move through this issue, we invite you to look closer: at the details, the decisions, and the hands behind the work. Because every project is more than the sum of its parts, it's a story shaped over time.

And it all starts with the first cut.

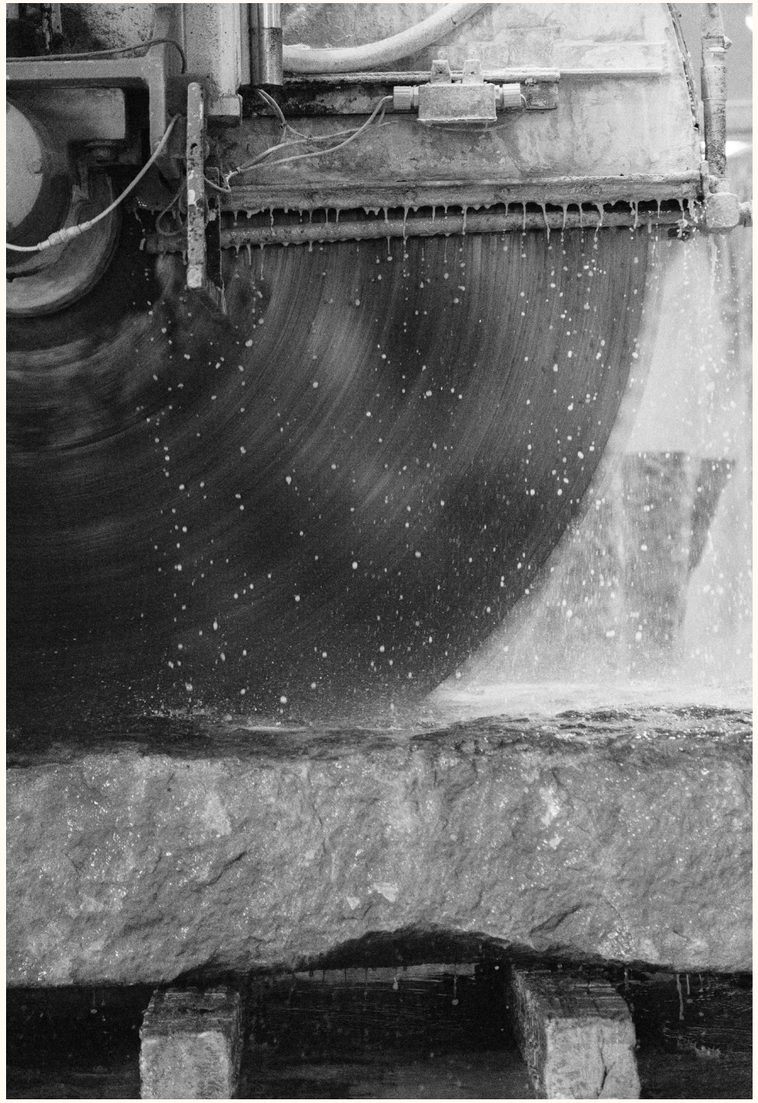
SHOP

Great results come from shared pride and purpose: Meet the Rockstars behind the scenes, who are guiding the process from quarry to project, at Buechel Stone.

TALK

TEXT BY DANINE ALATI PHOTOGRAPHY BY JACOB HAND





ABOVE *A 6 foot saw blade is cutting a stone to the desired thickness.*

RIGHT *A 12-year veteran Rockstar, Ryan Flasch, is working on one of Buechel's CNC saws for a custom cut stone order, alongside Director of Operations Ken Jacobs.*

PREVIOUS PAGE *Jeyson, a slabbing saw operator, who began working for Buechel Stone straight out of high school, is loading an 11'6" saw with the 15-ton crane.*

Back in the day, employees often worked for a company for life—today, not so much. Nowadays, long-term loyalty to just one company is rare, and careers are often measured in short stays and strategic moves. But at Buechel Stone, longevity is easy to find—and so is pride. This stone company refers to its employees as "Rockstars," a reflection of how central people are to its success.

"You have to make people feel valued in what they do," says Tony Mueller, Buechel Stone's vice president, who has been part of the company for 29 years. "A successful company surrounds itself with great people—and great people need to know they're doing great work."

Mueller has been with the company for nearly three decades, and his commitment is personal. "It isn't a job—it's a lifestyle I love," he says. "The stone dust gets in your blood! This is my extended family."

That sense of connection runs through every stage of production, shaping how employees see both their work and their place in the journey from quarry to completed project. For Wayne Geiser, an estimator specializing in cut stone who has been with Buechel for 24 years, the process begins with translating design intent into precise specifications. He reviews construction documents, prepares quotes, develops shop drawings, and helps guide projects into production. Once a project is approved, he coordinates closely with the saw shop—where raw, large-format stone blocks and slabs are refined into more usable sizes and specialized shapes—and sometimes visits job sites to ensure the finished stone aligns with the client's vision.

Having started in the saw shop himself, Geiser understands how materials move through the plant and how design decisions affect fabrication. That shared knowledge keeps communication fluid among departments, which is essential once an order reaches the saw plant. There, raw stone begins its transformation. Blocks are selected from a range of colors and material types.



BELOW *Daniel, a stone finisher who's been with the company for five years, is wet sanding a limestone surround.*

BOTTOM RIGHT *A hammer and gloves await their next use in the saw shop.*



"PATIENCE IS A KEY TO THIS TYPE OF WORK. IT TAKES TIME TO LEARN THE PRODUCTS, APPLICATIONS, AND READING THE STONE."

—Mike Schuh,
Saw Shop Supervisor





Then, they are slabbed, shaped, finished, and inspected before shipping.

According to Mike Schuh, saw shop supervisor and 31-year Buechel team member, achieving the desired look for the stone requires seamless coordination. “We work as a team to give the customer exactly what they asked for,” he says. “Communication is a big part.”

The company’s collaborative workflow also supports constant innovation. Ken Jacobs, director of operations, supports the saw shop to expand capacity, push technical boundaries, and tackle increasingly intricate custom work. “We’re always looking for ways to realize our potential,” he says. “When opportunity comes along, we move quickly.”

That forward momentum has helped position the company as an industry leader. Over the years, Schuh has watched competitors—and even equipment manufacturers—adapt in response to the company’s methods and standards.

But Mueller emphasizes that what sets the company apart isn’t just the stone or the process—it’s the service surrounding it all. From inspiration through installation, the company’s approach centers on guiding clients toward the best long-term solution. Rather than limiting offerings, the team produces a broad spectrum of custom-cut stone, advising clients honestly when a particular selection may not be the best fit. The goal is durability, performance, and lasting beauty.

That client-first mindset shapes daily work across departments. “We take pride in everything we do,” Jacobs says. “We always keep both internal and external customers in mind. The experience from selection to delivery is where we excel.”

For Geiser, responsibility continues after the stone ships. He remains available to support customers and, when needed, visits job sites to resolve issues firsthand. Standing behind the product—and the craftsmanship—is part of the job.

And every Rockstar contributes to the finished result. Their shared pride stems not only from the material they shape, but also from a workplace built on trust, respect, and genuine connection. Employees are encouraged to grow, challenge the status quo, and take ownership of their work—while enjoying the process along the way.

“I feel valued for what I bring to the table,” Jacobs says. “I’m challenged in the best ways—and I’m having fun!”

That spirit, Mueller adds, is easy to spot on the shop floor. “Our people work hard and have fun doing it,” he says. “They care about each other—and about what they create.”

In an industry largely defined by material, process, and precision, what stands out most here is the people behind the stone—and the pride they carry from quarry to finished project.



“I LOVE HELPING MAKE ROLES BETTER FOR ROCKSTARS. THAT MAY MEAN A NEW TOOL, NEW EQUIPMENT, OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN SKILLS, OR SIMPLY ASKING WHAT I CAN DO TO HELP.”

—Ken Jacobs,
Director of Operations

ABOVE *Silverdale panels are inspected and packaged by hand to ensure product quality.*

LEFT PAGE *Tony Blatz, who has been with Buechel for 25 years, is moving a custom piece of cut stone with a one-ton crane to be hand sanded.*

FACETS



1 Old World

The Blind Horse Restaurant and Winery bills itself as Wisconsin's premier winery destination—a taste of Napa in Cedarburg. The building dates back to the 1800s and has hosted a variety of businesses over the decades, accruing a richness of character that the owners wanted to preserve through its renovation. However, much of the interior needed removing to meet modern building codes. So the team at Distinctive Design turned to Buechel's Oiled Nubuck Siena veneers to help the reimagined space look as though it had outlasted generations. Skilled masons sought to give the space the character of an old-world wine cellar during installation, and guests frequently assume the stone has been there for more than a century. "The owners' goal was to create an immersive experience—one that feels as though guests are stepping back in time," says interior designer Angie Boettner. "Stone became a key part of that vision, lending the space a sense of authenticity and atmosphere." See more at blindhorsekohler.com.

Courtesy Stephanie Kamstra

2 Exact Match

This home is located in Ellendale Farms, an upscale master-planned community surrounded by rolling hills and picturesque ponds near Crown Point, Indiana. Eric Van Vossen of Crown Brick and Supply, Inc. helped the homeowner choose its featured stone after she saw a bar display in their showroom. "The owner fell in love with the colors and wanted the exact same formula for her build," he recalls. "Crazy how a 40-square-foot area turned into 8,000 square feet of building stone." Van Vossen says the project called for a random ashlar pattern stone, and Buechel's Fond du Lac Country Squire was the right fit because of its cool, timeless color range from light gray to slightly white. He also trusted Buechel's high standards and proven longevity in the face of Midwest winters. "To this day, it is still visually stunning and fits with the trends," says Van Vossen.

Good Vibes



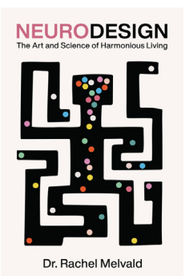
Rachel Melvald of Psychitecture is a therapist—and the author of *Neurodesign: The Art and Science of Harmonious Living*—whose work includes guidance in areas that might surprise, such as architecture and design. Much of this involves neuroaesthetics—a school of thought that offers insight into why certain spaces feel calming, grounding, or inspired while other spaces agitate us. "The brain is extraordinarily sensitive to pattern variation, depth, microtexture, natural materials containing fractal variation, and the subtle irregularity of it all," Melvald explains.

So how do our brains react to stone? "Stone signifies permanence, shelter, and geological time. That's part of our evolutionary psychology," says Melvald. Thus, thoughtfully integrating stone into spaces can offer a sense of stability and produce a calming response.

The specific response may vary with the type of stone. "The brain prefers complexity within coherence—variation that is ordered, not chaotic," she adds. "Bold veining can feel dynamic and dramatic. Softer tonal variations often feel soothing."

Our brains may even register the quality of the installation. "A skilled mason is able to create continuous rhythm and precision that communicates safety and competence," Melvald notes, "so that's psychologically reassuring."

Melvald hopes that sharing this knowledge will help people consider design beyond decoration—as a force that can improve mental health, relationships, and cognitive function. This can include quantifying responses one might casually think of as mere passing feelings. "Oftentimes when you walk into a space, you might say there's a good vibe," says Melvald. "Psychitecture unpacks the reason for that." Learn more about these ideas at psychitecture.com.





Slim Shady

The Versa PX parasol, designed by Dirk Wynants for Umbrosa, is cantilevered for maximum versatility, and has a modern, streamlined profile, making it a welcome addition to any outdoor space. PX stands for Personal Experience: Choose your shape (square or round), and customize the canopy, frame, and stand colors. Crafted in Belgium, the Versa blends sun protection with an avant-garde, yet understated silhouette, allowing it to look at home in modern and contemporary environments, as well as in the context of a more traditional space. It's available through Hundred Mile Outdoor and other retailers. Featured: Buechel's Antique Black Webwall.

5

Natural Retreat

Hotel Naboa sits between the Caribbean Sea and the jungle in Tulum, Mexico. Designed by Jaque Studio—with interiors by Studio Wenden and landscape architecture from Hugo Sánchez Paisaje—the property weaves together framed views and open-air structures to create a serene, contemporary retreat. The buildings are crafted from local materials, including wood, travertine, stone, and chukum—a natural and waterproof stucco technique invented by the Mayans and made by mixing cement with the resin of the Chukum tree, which is native to the Yucatan Peninsula. Naboa's vision emerges from a collective effort in which architecture, interiors, and landscape align to serve a singular idea: offering space defined by quiet simplicity and a deep connection to Tulum's tropical climate. Featured: Buechel's Jute Cloth Siena.



6

Old Soul

Andy Friesen, principal designer and founder of Su Casa Design, had definite ideas when it came to shaping his own kitchen. "I wanted it to be refined, but also old-world and rustic, like an English kitchen. I wanted modern conveniences, but for it to also have some old soul," says Friesen. He turned to a custom blend of Fond du Lac Country Squire and Fond du Lac Webwall stone that stands out. "The first thing anyone notices in our kitchen is the stone wall. I took off the upper cabinetry because I wanted the stone to do the talking," he adds. He particularly loves how the stone—which he used throughout the home—looks with the lights on in the evening: "It cascades down the rock: texture, warmth, rustic edge."

Hugging the Shore

Cedar, pine, and Fond du Lac Rustic stone shape a modern mountain-inspired home.

Text by Shannon Sharpe Photography by Motion 46 Media

“We draw a lot of inspiration from homes in Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, and Lake Tahoe. We think of it as a modern mountain home.”

—Charlie Beavers





PREVIOUS SPREAD *Tucked within towering Norway pines along the wooded shoreline of Gull Lake, the cedar-and-stone home sits on a rare three-acre waterfront parcel designed to maximize privacy and lake views.*

ABOVE *A curved flagstone patio spans the rear of the house, where a firepit in Buechel’s Fond du Lac Rustic provides a natural gathering point overlooking the lake.*

OPPOSITE *Cedar siding, paired with Fond du Lac Rustic along the base and turret, establishes the home’s modern mountain character while creating a dramatic focal point as the home comes into view.*

Inside, the great room's 22-foot ceilings draw the eye upward to a tall double-sided stone fireplace that connects the living area with the dining room beyond.

“When you walk into this home, you immediately feel relaxed.”

—Traci Beavers





LEFT *Fond du Lac Rustic climbs the full height of the stairwell, where a cascading chandelier glows through the turret windows and becomes visible from the driveway at night.*

ABOVE *In the primary bath, rustic stone contrasts with the smooth form of a sculptural freestanding concrete soaking tub.*

“Using the stone in spaces such as the kitchen ensured the whole house spoke the same language.”

—Traci Beavers



In the kitchen, Fond du Lac Rustic appears as a backsplash—rather than a typical tile; this brings the project’s palette of natural materials all the way into the heart of the home.

Along the wooded shoreline of Gull Lake in northern Minnesota, a modern-rustic new build sits hidden among the trees at the end of a nearly quarter-mile-long stretch. The approach is mostly flat until the driveway dips slightly, then rises again for a stunning reveal. All at once, the home’s cedar-and-stone façade appears between the branches—a cascading light fixture glowing in turreted stairwell windows.

“The sight of it is majestic,” says Charlie Beavers, who co-owns the real estate development company Lakewood Acres LLC with his wife Traci. The pair was pleasantly surprised to discover the vacant waterfront parcel they would eventually build upon. “To have three acres of land on Gull Lake is pretty unusual,” he adds. “We were able to start from scratch.”

The Beavers turned to the American West as a jumping-off point for the design. “We draw a lot of inspiration from homes in Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, and Lake Tahoe,” Charlie explains. “We think of it as a modern mountain home.”

To channel this sensibility, the Beavers used strong architectural forms and a warm, natural material palette of cedar, pine, white oak, and Buechel’s Fond du Lac Rustic. The stone’s variation in color—buffs, golds, tans, and soft grays—helps the architecture feel rooted in the lakefront setting while creating a material thread that continues from the exterior into the interior spaces.

Outside, warm cedar wraps most of the house, while the Fond du Lac Rustic makes a dramatic appearance on the windowed turret and base of the home. Inside, the stone climbs a soaring double-sided fireplace that anchors the 22-foot-high great room—an architectural focal point that quickly becomes the natural gathering spot for friends and family when they visit.

From the great room, the house unfolds in a gentle progression toward the lake. The dining room sits just beyond that soaring double-sided fireplace, opening to the kitchen, where the Fond du Lac Rustic appears as a backsplash—a more distinctive choice than typical tile, marble, or quartzite—and extends the home’s natural material palette into its very heart. “Using the stone in spaces such as the kitchen ensured the whole house spoke the same language,” Traci says.

As the design evolved, the Beavers found additional opportunities to work stone deeper into the house. One of the most striking moments appears along the staircase, where Fond du Lac Rustic continues up the full height of the stairwell wall. The stone also appears in more private corners of the house, such as in the primary bathroom—an unexpected move in a space where smoother materials often dominate. Here, the stone frames a freestanding concrete soaking tub, drawing the eye to its sculptural form and creating a striking contrast in texture .

The couple approached the landscape with the same level of care they brought to the house itself. More than 30 trees were planted across the property to enhance privacy and maintain the site’s wooded character. The back patio, with its stone fire pit using Fond du Lac Rustic, serves as another area to enjoy the lake vistas. The Beavers spent the first summer after the home was complete enjoying this serene setting themselves before eventually putting it on the market. “When you walk into this home, you immediately feel relaxed,” Traci says. “In the warmer months, with the lake right there and the trees all around you, it’s just a beautiful place to be.”

Developer: Lakewood Acres LLC. Mason: Trana Masonry. The stone used in the project is Buechel Stone’s Fond du Lac Rustic.

Give Me Shelter

On Vancouver Island, a home carved into rock connects forest, sea, and architecture in striking harmony.

Text by Danine Alati Photography by Platinum Creative





LEFT *Interior designer Mari O'Meara uses a natural, neutral palette, with white oak floors and extensive custom millwork adding warmth and texture without competing with the panoramic views. The interiors also echo the Buechel Stone exterior, creating a seamless indoor/outdoor connection.*

PREVIOUS SPREAD *Natural stone, stucco, and composite slate echo the home's linear massing and dramatic ocean vistas. At the client's request, the exterior is clad entirely in Buechel Stone. White Marigold Tailored Blend was selected to complement the architecture, existing hardscape, and surrounding landscape.*

Has an ocean-front, cliffside home ever looked quite like this? In fact, "cliff-side" is a misnomer because this Vancouver Island property—fondly known as Shelter Cove—is actually carved into the rock cliff, thanks to some precise building, construction, and masonry achievements. And the resulting design feels natural, purposeful, and deeply rooted in place.

"This property was about connection to the site. The rock, the forest, the sea—all of it informed our decisions," says Terry Johal, the developer of the property. The clients—international globetrotters who sought out this 9,000-square-foot home to be a place of rest—specifically selected Buechel Stone to complement the home, the existing hardscape, and the surrounding landscape. Johal collaborated with David Sogomonian of DS Masonry on the exterior design. Meanwhile, Mari O'Meara, principal designer at Mari Kushino Design, created interiors with a neutral palette so as not to distract from the dynamic architecture.

The builder constructed the home to showcase the spectacular ocean and forest views. Copious glazing tempers glare without inhibiting views of the amazing scenery. "We simply had to frame the windows with elegant window coverings to keep the room timeless and allow the changing seasons to be the focal point," O'Meara explains. "We certainly put some emphasis on keeping main finishes neutral in color so that they didn't compete with the beautiful arbutus trees."

To achieve an enduringly elegant interior, O'Meara employed white oak floors and extensive millwork that integrated well with other natural materials used throughout. For example, on the staircase, travertine risers mix with white oak treads. She suggests they will "stand the test of time both from a practicality standpoint and visually."

Although O'Meara says she felt very inspired by a European palette of natural stones and wood, she also strategically added pops of color. "Pattern and color had their place in small doses. We kept the colors in tones that my client gravitated towards—earthy, rich autumn tones," she adds. Additional notes of a coastal blue—in the kitchen backsplash, for example—connect to the surrounding waterfront landscape.

The predominantly natural and neutral palette translates seamlessly to the exterior, and it was essential to create this indoor-outdoor connection for clients who love the outdoors. Doors fold away from the great room to create a link to the outside area—with its outdoor kitchen and seating area, gas fire pit, and infinity pool. Covered cedar soffits help protect the patio from the elements.

"Our goal was to make the outdoors as comfortable and functional as the interiors," explains Johal, who calls the home's aesthetic timeless farmhouse blended with Boho styling. He used custom arches "to bring a softness to the home's rectilinear design."

Sogomonian says he used Buechel product on exterior elements including the stone veneer, capping for the edge of the pool, and stair risers. For him, applying stone veneer to the ceiling was a challenge. Due to the weight of the materials involved, it required complex labor lest improper installation lead to catastrophic failures such as detachment or damage to the underlying structure. But he was able to make it work, and the result enhances the home's West Coast architectural feel—embodied by elements including clean linear massing, smooth stucco, and composite slate along the high-pitched roofline.

According to Sogomonian, the beauty of the stone was a standout element of the project. He noted that it was exquisite quality, even featuring some fossils and a shark tooth picked up on its journey through time. He appreciates the sense of unity created by the expansive use of the stone. "I love how all the exterior materials came together to create a timeless, natural aesthetic," he says. "We wanted to achieve exceptional workmanship and durability, and create a beautiful, visually appealing finished look that matches the client's vision." Mission accomplished.

Architect: Hoyt Design. Designer: Mari Kushino Design. Developer: Terry Johal. Mason: DS Masonry. The stone used in this project is White Marigold Tailored Blend.



ABOVE *Mason David Sogomonian worked exclusively with Buechel Stone on the exterior of the home to create stone veneer, capping for the edge of the pool, and stair risers. The columns supporting the patio feature White Marigold Tailored Blend from Buechel Stone.*

"I love how all the exterior materials came together to create a timeless, natural aesthetic."

— David Sogomonian

Romancing the Stone

In Southern California, a home engages the desert landscape, using irregular stone, shifting volumes, and native planting to blur boundaries.

Text Shannon Sharpe Photography Lance Gerber Studios



PREVIOUS SPREAD *Clad in Buechel's Barnwood Blue Webwall, the home is designed to sit within—rather than apart from—its surroundings. The irregular mosaic stone echoes the boulders and terrain beyond the site.*

THIS SPREAD *From the approach to the entry (above) to the backyard (right), the landscape remains intentionally consistent. Native desert plantings—such as Saguaro and barrel cacti, creosote, and sage grass—extend across the property to visually connect the house to its setting.*

"We wanted to celebrate the labor in the application of the stone. The slight imperfections are what make it feel authentic."



ABOVE *The progression from the entry is intentional, with a tighter, sheltered hallway giving a moment of orientation before moving into the rest of the home.*

LEFT *Stepping into the great room from the hallway, higher ceilings and open sliding glass doors create an airy indoor-outdoor feeling.*



ABOVE *As architect Sean Lockyer explains, the Barnwood Blue Webwall has "a very organic edge detail—very raw, similar to what you find native in the exterior landscape," giving the façade a natural presence against the desert backdrop.*

RIGHT *In the living room, a wall clad in Barnwood Blue Webwall extends directly through to the courtyard beyond, reinforcing the home's desert connection.*



"By using the stone indoors and outdoors, we continue the material conversation."



The home's stone façade was drystacked, without grout to highlight its handcrafted character. The irregular pattern creates a sense of "controlled chaos," reflecting the firm's philosophy that architecture should feel natural, tactile, and enduring.

"The more things feel authentic and real, the more successful the project is."

For many architects, designing a home in the desert is an exercise in resisting it—attempting to soften the rough landscape using sleek materials and green grass. But for architect Sean Lockyer of Studio AR&D, the goal is the opposite. Rather than shield occupants from the environment, the homes he designs are conceived to be in conversation with it.

Case in point: a modern rustic home within Southern California's Echo Rancho Mirage community. "We really wanted to pencil this house within that desert setting," Lockyer explains, noting the surrounding dark boulders and native vegetation. That connection began with wrapping the exterior in Buechel's Barnwood Blue Webwall, an irregular stone that the team drystacked with no grout joints. Lockyer even instructed masons to avoid aligning the stone too perfectly; the installation needed to feel imperfect, a controlled chaos that mirrored nature. "We wanted to celebrate the labor in the application of the stone," he explains. "The slight imperfections are what make it feel authentic."

The team carried the Barnwood Blue Webwall beyond the façade, allowing the same stone to move uninterrupted from exterior walls through the foyer and into the open living space. On a wall in the great room, the stone runs perpendicular to the sliding glass doors, visually merging the exterior courtyard and indoor living area into one continuous environment. "By using the stone indoors and outdoors, we continue the material conversation," Lockyer explains, noting that the approach "really helps blur the lines between the landscape and the interior architectural environment."

While the Barnwood Blue Webwall's continued material thread defines the architecture, so does the spatial experience, which is shaped less by decoration than by volume. Ceiling heights expand and contract as occupants move through the house, subtly guiding circulation. The foyer feels compressed and sheltered, encouraging a pause. However, as one proceeds toward shared areas, the ceilings widen and rise. "As you enter a home, it should feel tighter and more refined," Lockyer notes. "Then, as it opens in width, it should open in height".

The ceilings of more intimate rooms—such as the scullery, media room, and laundry room—are lower again, creating what the architect describes as "a gentle hug." These secondary spaces are intentionally cozy, designed for separation from the larger open plan. "People can't be on top of each other 24 hours a day," Lockyer says with a laugh. "We need some breaks."

The firm also served as the landscape architect, allowing the exterior spaces to develop simultaneously with the home. Outdoor living and dining areas extend directly from the house, encouraging movement between interior spaces and the landscape. Native desert vegetation—sage and creosote bushes—was preserved and supplemented rather than replaced, allowing the terrain to remain visually consistent with the surrounding environment. The pool sits within this natural setting, reflecting light back toward the house while maintaining clear views to the boulders beyond.

This ongoing dialogue with the desert makes an extension of its surroundings rather than a mere standalone building. The mosaic stone, natural wood, abundant light, and shifting spatial volume guide movement while keeping occupants engaged with the desert beyond the glass. By resisting smooth minimalism in favor of texture and handcrafted elements, the house finds its identity not in contrast to the environment but in harmony with it. As Lockyer puts it, "The more things feel authentic and real, the more successful the project is."

Architecture: Studio AR&D. Mason: AA Masonry. The stone used in this project is Buechel's Barnwood Blue Webwall.

Home Artful



In this showhouse with a twist, beautiful natural stone paved the way to a place where art and design met in scintillating conversation.

Text Paul Hagen. Photography by Tim Cree, Pratya Jankong, Ryan Tiscareno, and Mike van Tassel

This art-centric showhouse contains spaces infused not only with the energy of their designers but also of art pieces that were specifically sourced to complement each vision. Silvery statuary by the Haas Brothers takes a seat in Patrice Nichole's whimsical reading room. A graceful figure by Richard DuPont greets visitors in a Garden of Eden-inspired entry from Elizabeth Ego. And Didier William's impactful painting *BedRest: New Arrival* adds electric energy to one of Leyden Lewis' introspective spaces. The result is a testament to how strikingly different styles of art and design can exist in conversation when layered with intention.















1. *Patrice Nichole*
2. *Leyden Lewis*
3. *Steven Walsh*
4. *Elizabeth Ego*
5. *Leyden Lewis*
6. *Terri Fiori*
7. *Leyden Lewis*

LEFT *Inspired by luxury hotel living, this primary suite by Andre Hilton features a restrained palette enriched by texture and includes the ultimate cozy bedroom touch: a fireplace clad in Buechel's new Ivory Sand Tailored Blend.*

RIGHT *Making its world premiere, Buechel's Fond du Lac Planking—with its light grays, tans, and buffs—is installed here with a running bond.*



Showhouses defy the classic wisdom: "Too many cooks spoil the soup." Though they are well stocked with voices used to calling the shots, somehow their individual flavors come together to form a delightful buffet. "What I always find fascinating—and I've probably been involved in about 25 showhouses now—is that even though all of these designers are working independently, and we give them very little direction, the house almost always ends up feeling cohesive in the end," says Steven Mandel, who was instrumental in bringing together the many creative forces that shaped this project.

Certain designers are eager to take on the challenge. "Showhouses are one of the few places where designers really get to stretch," Mandel says. "In a normal client project, there are always practical limits, but in a showhouse people can push ideas further and take a few risks. That's what makes them fun to walk through."

This particular house, located in picturesque Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, also boasted a uniquely artful twist. Donald Christiansen, founder of Chelsea Art Group, participated in curating an expansive collection of art, with each room showcasing multiple pieces in a variety of media. "The design and art were really in conversation," says Mandel. "In a lot of showhouses, the art is there to complement the room, but here it felt like the art and the interiors were part of the same story."

Outside, the showhouse gleamed in welcoming white—perfectly complemented by stonework featuring Buechel's White Country Squire with Indiana limestone sills. "The exterior is your opening moment," says Mandel. "If the outside feels thoughtful and well crafted, it immediately sets expectations for what's inside."

Buechel also helped greet guests via an exterior walkway that featured the premiere of new Fond du Lac Planking—installed in a classic running bond pattern. "Buechel Stone helped give the house that sense of authenticity right away," adds Mandel. "Natural stone has a weight and permanence to it that you just feel when you approach a home. It makes the house feel grounded and timeless, which is a great way to welcome visitors before they start exploring the interiors."

And what interiors awaited: designer Steven Walsh delivered a Moire Bedroom in vivid teal and gold with a massive piece of art positioned like a maximalist headboard. In an expansive Wine and Games Lounge by Leyden Lewis, a glass-top coffee table became like a frame—reflecting different pieces of art from each angle. Terri Fiori's meditative sitting room was inspired by the AppleTV+ series *Severance* but enlivened by large, impactful canvases. And Andre Hilton crafted a Primary Suite fit for a luxury jet-setter that boasted more beautiful natural stone: a fireplace clad in Ivory Sand Tailored Blend, also new from Buechel.

In addition to the joy of bringing together beloved designers and brands, the showhouse sought to do good by partnering with the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, which supports members of the military, first responders, and their families—providing mortgage-free homes, building smart homes for the catastrophically injured, and addressing veteran homelessness. "When the design community rallies around a cause," says Mandel, "it's creative, but it's also generous. That combination makes the whole experience feel more purposeful."

The stones used in this project include White Country Squire with Indiana limestone sills, new Fond du Lac Planking, and new Ivory Sand Tailored Blend.

"One room feels like it's on Venus; another feels like Mars. But somehow it still works together."

IN & OUT

Texture, color, natural materials, and organic shapes all take center stage in selections that prove form and function work together, both indoors and out.

RUBELLI

Club Med

Rubelli introduces Luce, a collection of indoor and outdoor textiles and 10 new wallcovering designs. The collection includes Outdoor Mediterraneo, designed to withstand sun, humidity, and temperature changes.



SUNBRELLA

Establishing Patterns

The JOY collection from **CW Stockwell x Sunbrella** is rooted in design history but made for modern life. The collection features reimagined patterns from CW Stockwell's 115-year history, including the Martinique banana leaf, plus modern stripes, plaids, and solids.



ETHIMO

Lounge Life

The Lodge collection, designed by Christophe Pillet for **Ethimo**, employs sophisticated yet simple materials and lines for a refined, timeless elegance. Weather-resistant fabrics, natural surfaces, and balanced proportions create an invitation to unwind and take it easy.



WEITZNER

Around the World

Blithe is part of the Mementos collection from **Weitzner**, inspired by Lori Weitzner's travels to Europe, Africa, and beyond. Blithe features a subtle linear texture, is suitable for indoor or outdoor use, and comes in four colorways.



TUUCI

Made in the Shade

Tuuci introduces their Softscapes collection, featuring screen-printed patterns, in six themes: Tropical, Florals, Maritime, Wildlife, Whimsical, and Abstract. The fabrics can be custom printed in a range of colors and can be used both inside and outside of their single and double canopies. Shown here: Tamarin from the Whimsical collection on the inside canopy of the Ocean Master Max Bolero.

SENSE+VISION

Night Light

Sense+Vision, founded by LA designer James Houston, has launched a line of durable, hand-woven rattan lanterns, perfect for evenings in the great outdoors. The lanterns are woven from synthetic rattan, and are large enough to sit on the ground, but light enough to hang overhead.

B&B ITALIA

Italian Style

B&B Italia's Erica outdoor modular sofa, designed by Antonio Citterio, adapts to different environments with ease. Central, terminal, and corner elements come in different sizes and configurations, allowing for maximum flexibility. Erica comes in a range of finishes and a full array of colors and patterns.





ARTERIORS

Full Circle

The Florian outdoor swivel lounge chair by **Arteriors** employs a sculpture-like form that invites you to linger outdoors in style. Meticulously crafted and inspired by desert flora, Florian is upholstered in performance bouclé.

FERMOB

Solar Flair

The iconic French lifestyle brand, **Fermob**, introduces Yunos, their first solar floor lamp. The statement-making piece delivers soft, glowing light at 800 lumens, and has fully automatic night activation



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INSPIRATION IN THE WILD



Bass Harbor Head Light Station keeps watch over Acadia National Park, where water, forest, and stone await the break of day. Text by Paul Hagen and Deborah L. Martin

Even the surf can't sand down the

TEXTURES of Acadia



Despite the persistent drumbeat of waves at its shores, Acadia National Park endures: a shining jewel of the Atlantic Coast. Though it is one of the smaller national parks, it is among the 10 most visited. And for over a century, Acadia has stood like a sentinel guarding irreplaceable shorelines, mountains, and forests.

Of course, we couldn't take in all this beauty without recommending some ways to help bring some of this park's charm to your next project. Alkemis paint colors that catch the park's essence include Gran Canaria, which echoes the hues of the sun-soaked stones, and Arboreal, which captures some of the water's complex blues. As for stone, there are several selections from among Buechel's expansive offerings that fit the bill. Granite Cobbles echo the shape and palette of ones found in the bridges that help connect the park's 45 miles of carriage roads, which were originally financed by John D. Rockefeller and remain motor-vehicle free today. Meanwhile, Full Color Castle Rock celebrates the sight of sunrise dawning on Cadillac Mountain with an exuberant color range including purples, mauves, blues, buffs, and beyond.

ABOVE ***Buechel****'s Granite Cobbles echoes the weathered palette found in the cobblestone bridges of Acadia's carriage trails.*





LEFT ***Alkemis*** *paints are formulated using sustainable raw materials and clear quartz with proprietary mixes of artist-quality pigments and earthen minerals to create a high performing interior paint that supports a holistic lifestyle. Colors, from top to bottom: Nopales, Dark Entries, Adobe Walls, Gran Canaria, and Arame.*



ABOVE ***Zinc Textile****'s newest collaboration, with Antwerp-based architecture studio Dieter Vander Velpen, fuses rich and tactile fabrics with spatial, architectural forms. The collection includes a rich mix of velvet, chenille, linen, leather, as well as a mix of outdoor performance weaves. The fabrics are conceived as an architectural surface, layering visual and textural appeal to complement the natural materials with which they are paired. Through ROMO.*

LEFT ***Innovations*** *introduces Balboa, highlighting the artistry of traditional handweaving with natural raffia. Space-dyed yarns create gentle tonal variation, giving the surface a softly weathered effect and a subtle plaid-like impression, adding depth without overwhelming the wall. Offered in eleven earthy colorways, including Sonoma, shown here.*

TONE

Light and dark dance where water mirrors sky.

BELOW ***Anduba***, *founded in 2025 by Flavia Pereira, partners with Indigenous artists to create sustainable wallcoverings that bring a unique way of seeing and relating to the world into the home and workplace. The artists retain the full copyright for their work and earn royalties on every yard sold. The first collection, The Brave Ones, includes the Ganado Tapestry Storm, shown here, by JayCee Beyale from the Diné/Navajo Nation, and is inspired by traditional Navajo weaving techniques reimagined through a contemporary lens.*

RIGHT ***Alkemis*** *specializes in paint colors that echo the colors of nature. From top to bottom: Talisman, Baroque Floorshow, Sorceress, Ghost Dance, and Arboreal.*







ABOVE *The* ***Emberhaus*** *Fire Oven is a charcoal-powered live-fire cooking system that can grill, roast, and bake, combining the versatility of a traditional grill with the controlled heat of a restaurant-style charcoal oven. Built in Athens, GA from marine-grade 316 stainless steel with clean, architectural lines, the Fire Oven can be customized with a range of finishes and design options.*



RIGHT ***Buechel****'s Full Color Castle Rock celebrates the natural gradations of color found in the granite of Acadia's mountain ranges.*

Interested in reasons to visit Acadia National Park in addition to its stony splendor?

Day Breaks
From October to March, the tilt and orbit of the Earth make the summit of Cadillac Mountain, the first location in the United States to see the sunrise.

Big Boom
Visitors love heading to an inlet called Thunder Hole, where water forcing air out of a cave creates a trademark sonic smash—especially just after a strong storm and around two hours before high tide.

Cameras Rolling
See where Hollywood's magic makers shot *Shutter Island* at Otter Cliffs, *The Cider House Rules* on Sand Beach, and the spooky woods of the Stephen King adaptation *Pet Sematary*.

Fresh water still finds its place even in the midst of this salt-sprayed landscape; Mount Desert Island alone boasts more than 25 lakes and ponds.



Stone is our medium, but it’s our artisans who give it purpose, revealing the shape, character, and story hidden within.

PHOTO BY JACOB HAND

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