

# Rock Solid *Solutions*

Summer 2007 Edition



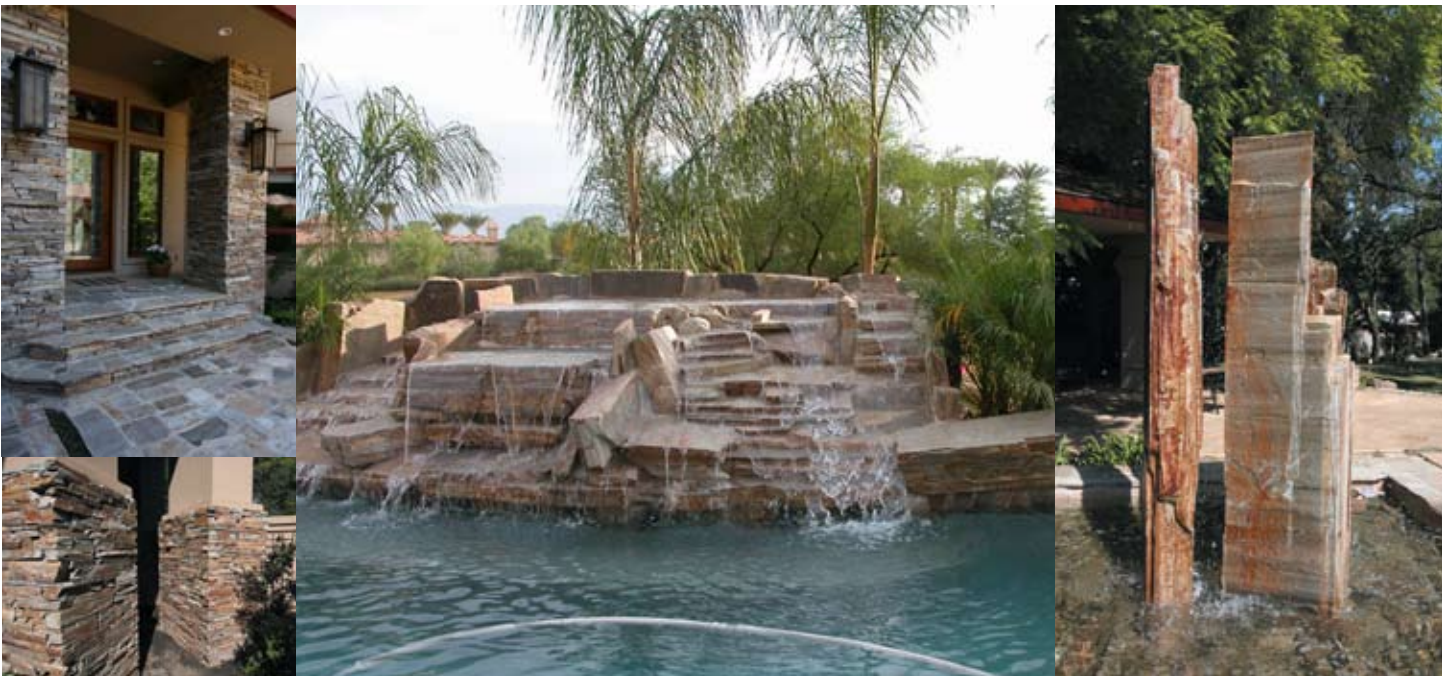
New Crystal Ridge Quartzite exclusively at Sturgis Materials.  
FLAGSTONE - NATURAL THIN VENEER - BOULDERS



# Do You Want Unique?

Sturgis Materials is the only place you will find the NEW Crystal Ridge Quartzite. Imagine a stunning stone virtually maintenance free; imagine a material impervious to the fading effects of the sun, to the devastating damage of freezing and staining, to the wear of repeated footfalls. Imagine impressive stone work patterned in a breathtaking array of color, shimmering with iridescent highlights. Imagine this, and you will experience Crystal Ridge Quartzite, a natural stone so striking, so durable, so beautiful - in a word extraordinary. The stone of choice for discriminating architects, contractors, landscapers, decorators, and masons.

## FLAGSTONE - NATURAL THIN VENEER - BOULDERS



## Outdoor Living Idea: *Fire Pits are great for gatherings.*



(Above) Fire Pit shown using Bluestone Flagstone.

Chimineas took off in 2005/2006. Manufactured Fire Pits are the craze of 2007. But for the true outdoorsman, custom made, hand-crafted fire pits are safer, more functional and have the natural beauty that fit perfectly in any space. Both 42" Round & Square pits (shown here) are available only at Sturgis.





## Making Cents Out of Stone

Common Sense Solutions by Marc Lonesk

# *Apples to Apples or Stone to Stone?*

It's been said, "Buying something that's cheap to save money is like stopping the clock to save time" and "The bitterness of low quality long outlasts the sweetness of low price." Natural stone is certainly no exception to these axioms. Today's consumers are given more choices than ever before when it comes to choosing materials for landscaping and stone veneers. After three decades in the natural stone business, let me add to those proverbial statements, "All stone is not created equal - there is a difference."

As a product of nature, stone will have variations in color, texture, shape and thickness. Different stone reacts differently to the environment. All stone will absorb water to a certain degree. These are a few of the reasons I say that not all stone is created equal. Only through research, testing and experience can we be certain that a stone is suitable for particular application.

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**"All stone is not created equal - there is a difference."**

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When choosing natural stone for a project, an experienced landscaper will tell you that consistency is the key to a trouble-free installation. The two pallets of flagstone pictured below provide a great example. Pallet A is extremely consistent in thickness and in overall average size of each piece. Installation of this product will involve minimal leveling of each piece since they are relatively uniform in thickness. The similar sized stones on this pallet will simplify fitting pieces together to create a beautiful flagstone patio. Look carefully at Pallet B. Not only is the average thickness greater than Pallet A, the variation in thickness is easily  $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Note the unevenness in the layers: this is a good indication that buried in this pallet is virtually worthless rubble. Inconsistent sizing means time, effort and frustration in trying to lay pieces of stone that vary in size from "platter" to "palm."

Finally, choose a natural stone product that has a service team attached to it. At Sturgis Materials, we have sought out the absolute highest quality materials available, but more importantly, we offer quality people with extensive knowledge and training to help you. When you buy stone from Sturgis, you're also getting professional service that the rest of the industry just can't match.

Pallet A (Sturgis Materials)



Pallet B (other supplier)



Summer Feature:

# Outdoor Fireplaces

gain popularity in Kansas City (Midwest)

If you've heard our local radio ads on KMBZ 980am, you know that we make reference to "Escaping" ...not landscaping. That's because Kansas City is catching on to the phenomena that has been sweeping the coastal states, "Outdoor Living".

In addition to the curb appeal and landscape competition between your neighbors, there is a better reason to perform a "green" makeover. It's not about outside influences, but your own personal needs to relax in your own yard with a private getaway. Families are spending much more time at home these days so they are working on ways to extend their internal living space to the outdoors. The popular trend covers sunrooms, beautiful patios, furniture, outdoor kitchens and even fireplaces.

With this landscape renaissance, comes the need for a designer's versatility in all the above, plus plants, trees, retaining walls and more. But especially Outdoor Fireplaces. Why? Because these beautiful creations are the focal point for many new "Outdoor living spaces". Plus, by adding a fireplace, you extend the outdoor seasons.



*(Above) Outdoor Fireplace using **Trailhead Natural Thin Veneer**. Designer: **Maverick Landscaping, Stillwell, KS. (913)915-2905**. More from this designer at [www.mavericklandscaping.com](http://www.mavericklandscaping.com).*



*(Above) Outdoor Fireplace using **Westcliffe Natural Thin Veneer (Robinson Rock)**. Designer: **Hisco Design/Build of Merriam, KS. (913)362-8862***

Visualize the family sitting around the fireplace pictured above in late October. You're all wrapped in blankets next to the fire roasting marshmallows to make s'mores. The ambiance of the fire relaxes you from the day's trials. You can now have these experiences any night you choose, right in your own backyard. This sounds much better than watching reruns on television!

There are other homeowners who love being the host of backyard socials. The Outdoor Fireplaces all of a sudden take the place of the kitchen in any indoor party. It's where people gather in conversation and the party really takes off.

Recently there was a story in the New York Times about an Ohio couple who built a 16 foot tall chimney in their backyard. A remote control turned on their gas fireplace that can be seen from inside the home. In San Francisco, a homeowner spent \$80,000 on a fireplace that complimented his \$750,000 patio and outdoor kitchen. In Marin County, California, a couple built a 22 foot chimney to a fireplace that you can roast a pig in. Yes, we are talking about extremes, but the point is, instead of spending on a home addition, those dollars are going towards Outdoor Living. After all, we all should spend more time outdoors getting some fresh air. These fireplaces give us a reason to do so.



(Left) Outdoor Fireplace using **Rustic Split Face Natural Thin Veneer** with **Hillsboro Limestone** hearth. (Above) **Blue River Natural Thin Veneer** with **Indiana Limestone** wall cap.  
 Designer (both): **KC Stoneworks, (913)231-4847**

In accordance with today's trends, landscape designers are receiving fewer requests for an English or Japanese Garden, or a certain look they've seen on their distant travels. Instead, they are asking how they can best use the existing "natural" landscaping features and blend in with nature. That means that the height, color and texture of the fireplace is as important as where it's placed in the yard or patio. "Outdoor Living" is about natural stone and real wood. Pre-fabricated materials do not blend in harmony with nature. Therefore they do not have a place in these created retreats and somewhat defeat the purpose of a "Backyard Escape".

Where do you start? If you are a designer, contractor or mason, get to know the construction elements of these fireplaces. Come in to Sturgis Materials (see map on back panel) and we will show you the raw structure of the fireplaces as well as the finished product in different stone veneers. Our staff will make you feel comfortable with this project and confident that you can deliver for your customers the first time. If you are a homeowner that likes all that these focal points offer, then please let one of our knowledgeable staff show you many samples and make a contractor recommendation to start the estimate process.

### **In-Stock Outdoor Fireplace Kits at Sturgis**

**Lightweight and Durable • Easy Construction • Affordable Kit • Firebox will not rust or rot out. • UL127 Test Standards**



Do you want more information about how to design and build the best outdoor fireplace for you or your customers? Contact us at (913) 371-7757.

Also see the website for more photos and step by step installation instructions (shown here).

(Above - As Shown) 48", 36", and 24" fireplace options. Finish with your choice: Stone, Natural Thin Veneer, Cultured Stone, Brick or Stucco.

**Steps for construction:**

- 1) Determine the height you want the Fire Place Kit.
- 2) Pre-assemble joints. Use step #1 provided with the kit and #2 kit and use the 2x4 brace approx. 2" off the finished grade. If that height is not desired you can increase height and build back level of concrete blocks.
- 3) Once the base is level and set, set the baseboards.
- 4) Level 2" top to back and side to side. Then install corner studs. In order to allow in the picture. Keep level about every 2'.
- 5) After #28 pieces #10 and bottom piece #9 in the main kit are in place. Use Firebox Insert. Approx. 1/2" gap from the back and front edges. If that layer comes to the back of brick and 2" outer joint around the brick.
- 6) Lay out the stone veneer from the edge of the Firebox Kit and a corner to the outside when approved with your local mason and your customer. (see company website for more information).
- 7) Complete installation of pieces #9, #10, #11, #12, #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #19, #20, #21, #22, #23, #24, #25, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, #39, #40, #41, #42, #43, #44, #45, #46, #47, #48, #49, #50, #51, #52, #53, #54, #55, #56, #57, #58, #59, #60, #61, #62, #63, #64, #65, #66, #67, #68, #69, #70, #71, #72, #73, #74, #75, #76, #77, #78, #79, #80, #81, #82, #83, #84, #85, #86, #87, #88, #89, #90, #91, #92, #93, #94, #95, #96, #97, #98, #99, #100.

	24"	36"	48"
#1 Cap	18"x24"	18"x36"	18"x48"
#2 Baseboard	24"x24"	24"x36"	24"x48"
#3 Baseboard	18"x24"	18"x36"	18"x48"
#4 Baseboard	24"x24"	24"x36"	24"x48"
#5 Baseboard	18"x24"	18"x36"	18"x48"
#6 Back Header	18"x24"	18"x36"	18"x48"
#7 Front Header	18"x24"	18"x36"	18"x48"
#8 Thermal	18"x24"	18"x36"	18"x48"
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**More great photos of fireplaces and outdoor living ideas at [www.sturgismaterials.com](http://www.sturgismaterials.com).**



# Q&A

Customer Questions by Chris Straight

## Is “Kansas Limestone” just one type of stone or are there several Kansas Limestones?

When you use the term Kansas Limestone you can be referring to any number of limestone deposits located throughout the state. Depending on your location, the color, hardness, and shape of the deposits can vary significantly making it important to know which deposits are the best suited for your needs. Whether it be crushed aggregate for driveway use, landscaping walls and boulders, or cut stone for fireplaces and countertops the experts at Sturgis can help you choose your Kansas Limestone solution.

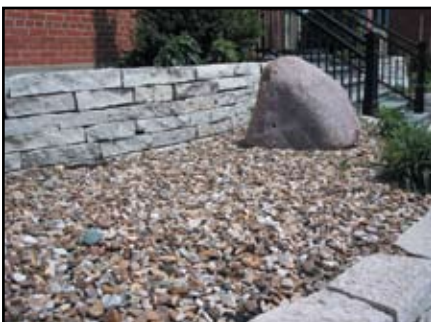


## How hot is too hot for granite countertops?

Normally, if the pot contains liquid other than cooking oil (fat, butter, etc.), it may be placed on the stone without causing heat damage. Frying pans that have accumulated large quantities of cooking oil along with other liquid, or pans used for frying should be allowed to cool away from the granite counter top. Hot oil is of low viscosity and may stain the stone, as well as the pot or pan being too hot for the stone.

## Is Limestone too soft to use for kitchen countertops?

Limestone is perfectly suitable for countertops, both inside and out. Remember that all stone is porous to a degree, so a penetrating sealer is especially important on a limestone countertop. Its warm neutral color, coupled with the fact that it ages gracefully and naturally, makes Limestone the ideal choice for all types of projects, including countertops.



## Does the term “River Rock” refer to a particular kind, and color of stone?

River rock is a generic term that refers to any rock taken out of any river. There are over 250,000 rivers in the United States alone and each one has some type of rock in it. The rock can be smooth or sharp, neutral or brilliantly colored, pea-sized to head-sized. Most common to this area are Kansas, Missouri or Ozark river rock. Each has their own characteristics, and a helpful Sturgis Materials employee will be happy to show you samples of these or any of the dozens of decorative gravels we carry.

**Ask the Experts: e-mail [chris@sturgismaterials.com](mailto:chris@sturgismaterials.com) or or call (913) 371-7757**



Sturgis' Craftsmanship

# Stacks Up

at The Kansas City Star by Ed Walsh

Our "Cut Stone" story is about a creative and functional idea for The Kansas City Star. Designers Kay Young and Chris Dring of Young + Dring Landscape Architecture, Randy Waters and Monroe Dodd from The Kansas City Star, and Bob Long of Sturgis Materials all collaborated on the featured project. The challenge for the team was to produce pedestrian benches with an artistic flair to be located in and around the Star's property.

The first version of this bench was a very abstract design in limestone wrapped with stainless steel, but was really not recognizable as the bundle of newspapers it represented. Subsequent versions moved from limestone to Green County granite, which looks remarkably like newsprint. The thirteen individually stacked pieces of stone that make up each bundle were randomly offset to further imitate the real look of stacked newspapers.



Etching the Star's front page banner and some abstract columns and photo squares completed a look that left no doubt what the stone

benches had been created to represent. These five hundred pound seats will be carefully installed in two outdoor locations at the Star's new facility. Three of the fifty bundles will be fountains and will have flowing water bubbling from a hole in the center of the page. Helping this client find a "Sturgis Rock-Solid Solution" to a most challenging fabrication and design problem was a year and a half of idea exchange and testing. In the end, the client was very satisfied with the outcome.

Custom design and fabrication, regardless of project size, has always been a strong suit for our cut stone operation here at Sturgis Materials. We can do just about anything you can imagine if it involves stone. Please call Pam @ 913-371-2930 to find out how we can make your idea into reality.



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We can do just about anything you can imagine if it involves stone.

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Call (913) 371-2930  
to talk custom!