

The Kingsway

Winter 2024

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STONE COLD

By Designer *Jessica Cinnamon*



Materials are the foundation of every great home design. Stone has been a popular choice for centuries for its timeless beauty and versatility, and it continues to be one of the most requested home design materials today. With an abundance of options available, choosing the right type of stone is key.

Understand Your Design Goals

The first step in selecting the right stone for your space is understanding your aesthetic goals. Each stone type has its characteristics and can complement different design styles. If you're leaning toward a classic, elegant look, consider marble or travertine. The natural veining and timeless appeal of marble adds subtle sophistication. For a sleek more contemporary look, quartz offers a clean and polished finish that complements modern design elements. If a rustic, look is your goal, look at slate or sandstone as an option which offers a natural warm texture.

Evaluate Colour and Pattern

Every piece of natural stone has the uniqueness of a fingerprint—truly, no two are alike – hailing from a physical structure and chemical composition shaped by millions of years of geological processes. This endless complexity translates to an incredible variation in colour and pattern. Within my designs, I often use a light-colored marble to help reflect light and create a sense of brightness within an interior. On the other hand, I adore adding rich black and brown marble to bring warmth, and drama to key areas. Think about how you are using the stone. If you have a strong bold vein we typically like to use these where we can

showcase in larger applications where we can appreciate the full slab.

Tip: Finishes of the stone, such as polished, honed, and “leathered,” all yield very different looks considered in the selection process. Honed marble offers a subdued look-while leathered marble gives more depth and textural interest.

Consider Durability

Different stones have varying levels of durability and require different maintenance routines, so research your options. If a high level of durability is desired, granite and quartz are resistant to scratches, and stains, ideal for high-traffic areas such as kitchens and bathrooms. Where durability is less of a concern, limestone and travertine offer moderate durability and are suitable in lighter-use areas such as living rooms or bedrooms. While inherently marble is softer and can stain and/or etch, with sealant products you can now protect the stone, increasing its durability.

Factor in Cost and Budget

Lastly, consider the cost. Stones vary in price based on their rarity, source, and quality. Today you've got plenty of options. Think about your space, from its foundational elements to the finishing touches. The right option is...just a stone's throw away!

Jessica Cinnamon is the award-winning Principal Designer of Toronto-based Jessica Cinnamon Design Inc. They provide complete bespoke residential design services throughout Toronto, GTA, Ontario
jessicacinnamondesign.com



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