ADVANTAGES OF NATURAL STONE IN HARDSCAPING AND LANDSCAPING

Thank you for attending this 2017 ASLA Expo Professional Practice Networks Presentation! We hope you found it informative and engaging.

Key Takeaways:

*Using natural stone for outdoor applications offers numerous benefits.*

**Consistency:** Indiana Limestone offers an unmatched consistency, which is unique amongst natural stone products. Lesser materials have come and gone, while Indiana Limestone has been in use for more than 160 years.

**Natural Beauty:** A one-of-a-kind building material, natural stone’s breadth of color and texture offer a unique and unmatched aesthetic.

**Complementary:** Natural products add value to everything from brick to granite to wood in both traditional and contemporary environments.

**Versatility:** Limestone offers nearly unlimited application opportunities. For example, limestone pier caps can be used as base caps for columns. Limestone sills can pitch two ends to form a mantel or act as a hearthstone for an outdoor living space. The only limit is your imagination.

**Durability:** Outdoor hardscapes need to weather the elements. Landscapes built with limestone decades ago are still in use today, including the grounds of the Biltmore Mansion in Asheville, North Carolina, and Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia.

Indiana Limestone was formed over the course of hundreds of millions of years. While this stone already graces national landmarks from coast to coast, it is available to you for your next landscaping design now.
Indiana Limestone is a highly-sustainable natural building material.

**Low Life-Cycle Costs:** Indiana Limestone is low-maintenance, requiring only the occasional re-pointing of stone joints and cleaning, if desired.

**Recyclable:** Indiana Limestone can be taken from one project and reused on another, as elements in another building, landscape stones, in perimeter walls, or even as site fill.

**High SRI Ratings:** Test results show limestone has high ratings for solar reflectance index (SRI), which measures the ability of a constructed surface to reflect solar heat. ¹ This means sustainable residential landscape design with limestone can increase environmental health as a low-impact material.

Reflective materials help reduce air temperatures in cities that deal with the urban heat island effect. ²

**Ease of design:** Your design process can be simplified by limiting specification to standard products.

**Versatile:** You can mix and match materials across products to add visual and tactile interest to your project. Whether you are using Indiana Limestone as trim with brick or other materials, or to maintain the context of the surrounding area, its natural beauty will enhance your project.

**Cost-effective:** Standard products are less expensive than full-custom products at a fraction of the lead-time. They also help to standardize installation requirements and more accurately predict labor estimates.

**Conclusion:**

*The beauty of limestone is that it offers unmatched versatility and durability to fit perfectly into the project scope of your next residential or commercial landscape.*

**Additional Resources:**

1. Solar Reflective Index (SRI) was calculated by CTLGroup, a registered d/b/a of Construction Technology Laboratories, Inc.
3. Indiana Limestone Company. www.indianalimestonecompany.com
4. Indiana Limestone Institute of America. www.iliai.com

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