

Contemporary Stone & Tile Design

A Sense of Luxury

For the design of a 4,500 square foot private residence in Rittenhouse Square in Center City, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, JK Roller Architects incorporated the use of marble and granite to fulfill the homeowner's request to add a sense of luxury to the apartment.

"The owner recommended the use of porcelain tile, but we suggested marble and granite instead." said Matt Koenig, AIA, a principal of the Philadelphia based firm, which worked in collaboration with Gary Ruff Interiors of Moorestown, NJ. "He relied on us for direction for developing the specific style of old traditional Philadelphia architecture. He was looking for sensible colors in a nice soft palette. We showed him samples, and he fell in love with the colors green and tan."

United State Stone Co. of East Norriton, PA, supplied nearly 500 square feet of granite countertops and 2,500 square feet of stone tile, including Black Absolute granite, White Mist granite, Crema Marfil marble and Jade Green marble for the project, and they were used in varying applications throughout the residence.



Chinese Jade Green marble and Crema Marfil were selected for the 18 foot long master bathroom of the private residence. The shower floor is comprised of 1 x 1 inch tiles of jumbled Jade green marble in a mosaic pattern, while 12 x 12 inch pieces were selected for the wall and ceiling. The floor of the master bath features 12 x 12 inch Crema Marfil tiles accented by diamond shaped accent pieces of Black absolute granite. Moreover, Jade Green marble forms the jacuzzi tub surround and the two steps leading up to it. A thin ribbon strip of the marble also runs around the Crema Marfil marble wainscot.

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The use of stone continues into the hallway, with Black Absolute granite pieces accented by Crema Marfil marble creating an alternating pattern on the walls. In the entry foyer, Black Absolute granite tiles are complemented by an interior square border of Crema Marfil. Marble is also used to decorate the windowsills in the master bedroom, while granite is used on the windowsills in the living room. The kitchen countertops are fabricated from White Mist granite, which has burgandy flecks.

Another key feature in the apartment is a 3 1/2 x 7 foot Paradiso granite customized waterfall. "The owner wanted to use a granite with interest, so we went on a number of trips to factoroes to find something with a unique patter," said Koenig. "The owner was inspired by a waterfall he saw on a trip to Martha's Vineyard. We designed the waterfall as a thin film of water running down a stone. It serves as a piece of artwork and creates a nice termination to the end of the dining room table."



According to Koenig, the owner is extremely happy with the finished result, especially the use of marble in the bathroom. "I was recently at the house, and the stone has aged extremely well," he said. "We selected the appropriate choice of materials and timeless colors that won't go out of style. It's a showplace; the owner entertains a lot."

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