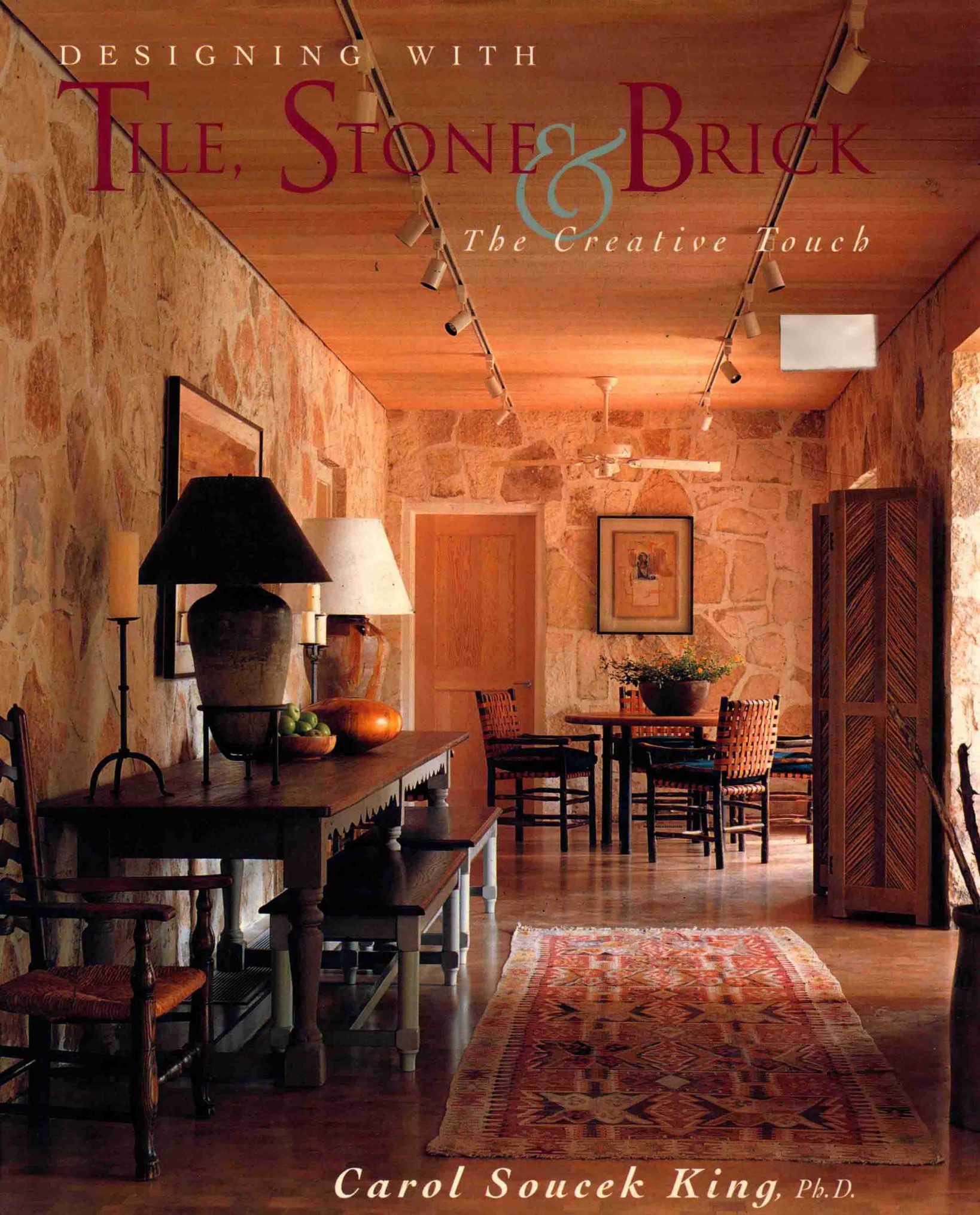


DESIGNING WITH

TILE, STONE & BRICK

The Creative Touch



Carol Soucek King, Ph.D.

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Foreword by Stanley Abercrombie, FAIA



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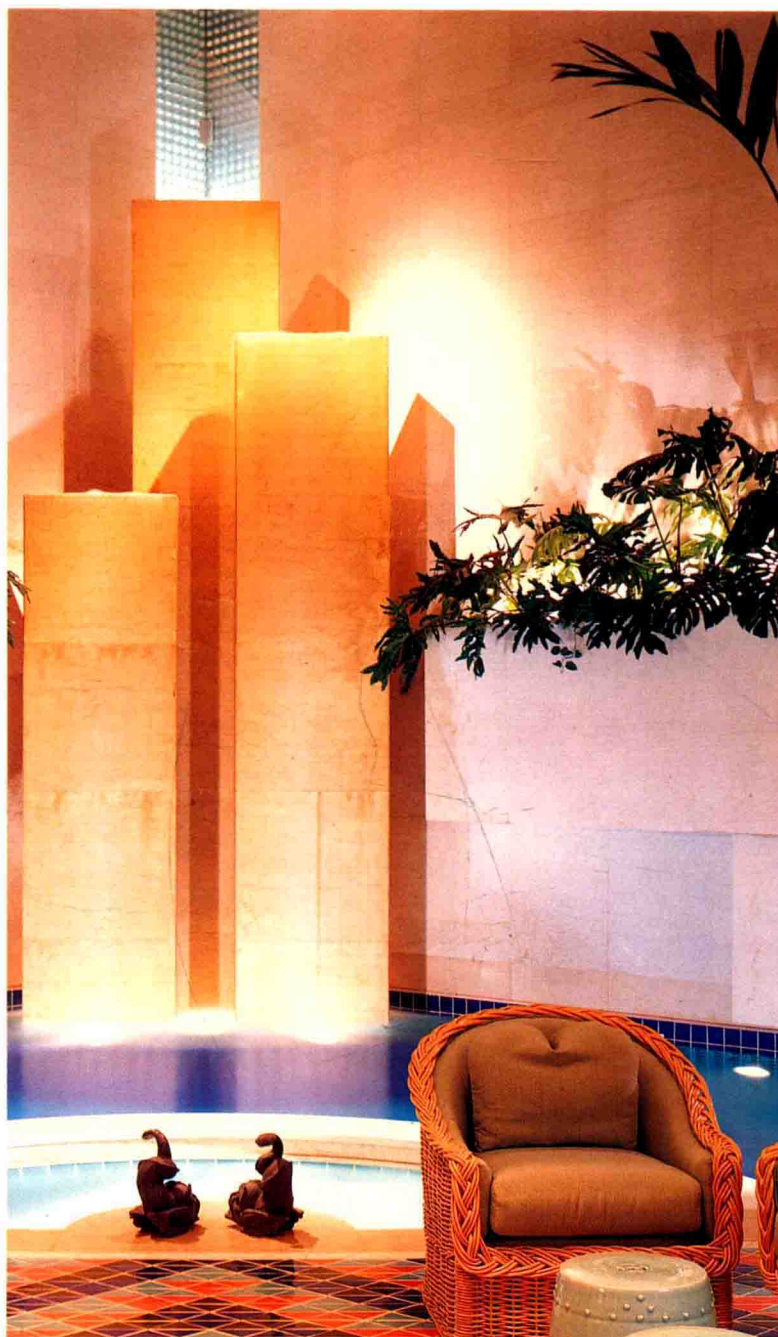
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To Creativity at Home ...

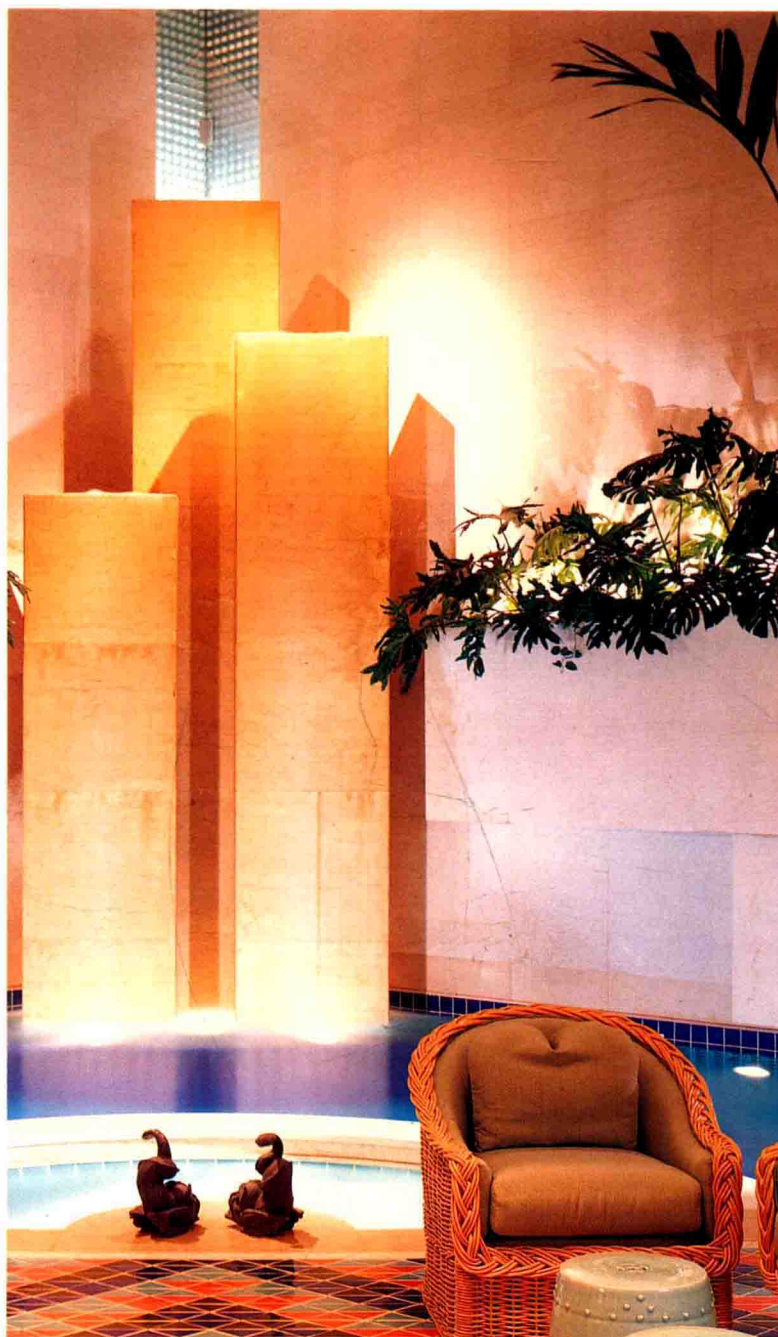
and Being at Home with Creativity!

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FOREWORD

Stanley Abercrombie, FAIA

Chief Editor, Interior Design



Sorry to repeat myself, but in the last sentence of a book titled *A Philosophy of Interior Design*, I wrote that interiors constitute “our most personal art.”

Carol Soucek King, I’m glad to see, seems to share the same view, for the admirable series of books Dr. King has planned promises to focus on just those aspects of interior design that make it personal.

The grand concept is not to be neglected, of course. Like any other art, interior design depends for its success on the encompassing vision that relates its many elements in a meaningful whole. But such vision, in interiors, becomes manifest and comprehensible through the medium of myriad details with which we are in intimate contact: the feel of a drawer-pull, the profile of a cornice, the polish and grain of wood, the “hand” of fabric.

This contact involves all our senses. We see our interiors, certainly, but we also smell the materials in them, we hear their acoustic properties, we brush up against their walls, step on their floors, open their casegoods, sit on their chairs. More than any other, interior design is the art we use. In that sense, it is not only our most personal art, but also the one most responsible for our well-being. In the context of increasingly brutalized urban environments, this is increasingly true and increasingly important. Interior design is often our refuge.

It is therefore a very welcome prospect that Dr. King is turning her experienced editorial eye to the details and materials on which the art of interior design depends. I’m sure we will all benefit from her discoveries.



P R E F A C E



PHOTOGRAPHY © ANTHONY PERES

Welcome to the world of tile, stone and brick as used by some of the world's leading designers to define and empower the spaces in which we live. The vast array of sizes, textures, colors and patterns available today enables these age-old materials to inspire creative ideas as well as to help their users turn those ideas into reality.

From the front gate to the back door and everywhere in between, uncut stone, cut stone, slate, granite, marble, ceramic, terra cotta, newly introduced composites and age-old alternatives...the list continues!...are making the design of one's home a more exciting experience than ever before.

Given the task of searching the world for some of the best uses of tile, stone and brick in homes today, I asked more than fifty architects and interior designers throughout the world to share their recent projects. The result is a collection of styles and applications as diverse as the materials themselves.

Through these projects we can see how new color and design trends, new techniques and new technologies available through tile, stone and brick can be used to create better homes for better living. More important, these designers show how, whether in a newly built home, a remodel, a high-rise apartment or a "home away from home" vacation spot, the beauty and quality available through tile, stone and brick can be part of everyone's daily life.

Carol Soucek King Ph.D.

INTRODUCTION

Tile



Peter C. Johnson, Jr.

Vice Chairman of the Board, Summitville Tiles, Inc.

1994 Chairman of the Board of Governors, International Tile & Stone Exposition

Past Chairman, Tile Promotion Board

Past President, Tile Council of America

For thousands of years, ceramic tile, natural stones and brick have been the surfacing choice for royalty, the rich, the church and the government. Throughout the world you can see beautiful installations of yesteryear still intact in cathedrals, monasteries, castles and government buildings.

Today, with the improvements in manufacturing and installation, what was once only affordable to the elite is now available and affordable to the average working citizen.

There was a time not long ago when tile could only be mud-set in a thick mortar bed. Wall tiles were soaked in fifty-five-gallon drums for twenty-four hours before installation. Special construction techniques had to be adhered to so buildings could accept tile. Masonry buildings were more tile-friendly than buildings of wood frame construction. Thus, the cost of ceramic tile in the home was very expensive.

Today tile can be set directly over a multitude of surfaces — including tile over tile. The thin-set method of tile installation has literally revolutionized the hard surface industries of ceramic tile and natural stone. “Do-it-yourself” installations are quite common for the handyman of today.

It wasn’t that long ago when clay was dug by hand, crushed by stone grinding wheels, mixed with water and hand formed, dried and fired for a couple of weeks in a crude kiln fired by wood or coal. Decorative tiles were made by artisans and were quite expensive. Today, raw materials are mined by huge earth-moving machinery before being crushed and atomized in state-of-the-art spray driers. Computer-driven production lines and robotic equipment have replaced the artisans of yesteryear in many factories today, and firing time has been reduced from a couple of weeks to under an hour.

The result has been a virtual explosion of new techniques, new sizes, new colors, new textures and new ideas — all at affordable prices.



It is especially important for any consumer to obtain the proper installation instructions from a qualified expert before starting a weekend tile job. Some jobs are still best left to the professionals. It is very important to always follow recognized industry standards for the installation and selection of ceramic tile, natural stones and brick. What may perform well in a home may not work around a pool deck. Glaze wear, freeze-thaw resistance, acid resistance and stain resistance are a few examples of physical properties consumers need to be aware of. When in doubt, check your yellow pages and get recommendations in writing.



Dr. King has illustrated just a few of the millions of beautiful installations of natural stone, ceramic tile, brick and related products in this book. A properly installed product will add value to your home and provide you and your heirs with years of aesthetic beauty with minimal upkeep. With all of the great advantages offered by natural stone, ceramic tile and brick, I hope this book inspires you to turn your home into a castle.

Stone

Robert Hund

Managing Director,
Marble Institute of America

How did man discover the beauty hidden in stone? Probably curiosity. Someone saw unusual markings on an exposed ledge of rock. Breaking a piece off, smoothing it and cleaning it, rubbing it with pumice and wetting it revealed colors, veining, texture and graining. Obviously, the person who could transform raw materials into valuable assets could become an advisor to the king, if not the king himself.

How long has man used stone to symbolize permanence? Who knows? To work with stone is to work with the basic rhythms of the earth. We do know that by the time the pyramids were built, man had learned how to work with stone, to shape and place it according to his needs. The need for building materials in which beauty and permanence are prerequisites is greater now than ever before. To meet this increasing demand (a new "stone age," so to speak), machines that can cut and polish stone more precisely, thinner and faster than ever before have been produced. New materials which allow thick or thin stone to be installed at less cost have been developed.

This book shows how stone can be used. All it takes is the imagination of the designer drawing upon the world's resources. And best of all, as the earth ages, it renews itself in terms of stone resources.

