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Latest News

Quarra helps build green

Madison, WI -- Quarra Stone of Madison, WI, a company that supplies and fabricates natural stone for signature architectural and restoration projects throughout the country, has launched a comprehensive database that identifies dimensional stone quarries throughout the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The database is designed to enable architects who are specifying natural stone in their projects to earn points towards LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. Current guidelines call for the award of one point towards LEED certification for builders who use dimensional stone that is quarried within 500 miles of construction.

The NTCA launches "Tile-TV"

JACKSON, MS -- The National Tile Contractors Association (NTCA), the largest professional tile contractors association in the world, has introduced "Tile-TV" as another creative tool to enhance the experience of its active tile and stone contractor members and other industry professionals with this monthly news and information-sharing vehicle available on line at www.tileletter.com.

Alcalagres creates MTA mural to honor Sol Le Witt



NEW YORK, NY -- At the beginning of 2005, the Metropolitan Transport Authority (MTA) presented a challenge for Spanish tile manufacturer Alcalagres via its "Art For Transit" department: to capture on porcelain tile the works of one of the fathers of conceptual art and minimalism from the past century, Sol LeWitt.

Ceramic Tiles of Italy Design Competition call for entries

Now in its 17th year, the Ceramic Tiles of Italy Design Competition celebrates the outstanding residential, commercial and institutional work of North American architects and designers who use Italian ceramic tile in their products.

Tile of Spain invites architects and designers to "Reign in Spain"

VALENCIA, SPAIN -- Currently, Tile of Spain is looking for architects and designers to participate in its annual trip to Spain. Ideal candidates would be architects or interior designers who have an affinity for ceramic tile and can travel from February 5 to 13, 2010.

Bionic Tile® by Ceracasa, nitrous oxide ceramic decontaminant, now available to U.S. market

ALCORA, CASTELLÓN, SPAIN -- Ceracasa, a Tile of Spain branded manufacturer, has produced an innovative

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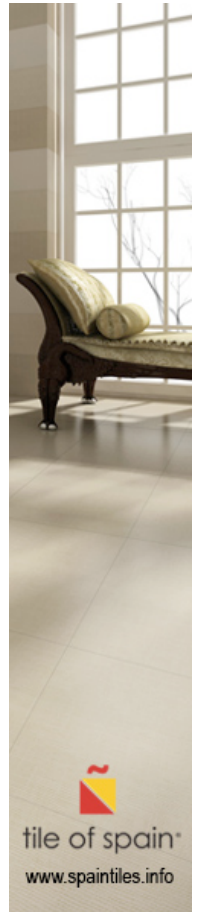
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ceramic product that removes harmful nitrous oxide (NOx) pollution from the air through a process of photocatalysis, with the help of sunlight and humidity. The product, known as Bionic Tile® by Ceracasa, was developed in collaboration with the Universidad Politécnic de Valencia in Spain and FMC-Foret. The product will make its U.S. debut at the HEALTHCAREDESIGN.09 tradeshow, booth #1724, which will be held from October 31 to November 3 in Orlando, FL.

Boston GranitiFiandre resource center announces full-scale remodel



BOSTON, MA -- Italian tile manufacturer GranitiFiandre announces Boston-area architects and designers now have an updated and full-service showroom in which to peruse the company's vast product line. Geologica by Best Tile, a GranitiFiandre resource center, located at the Boston Design Center, One Design Center Place, Suite 618, has recently completed a full-scale remodeling project utilizing GranitiFiandre's latest porcelain tile innovations.

Laticrete introduces LEED Project Certification Assistant Tool



BETHANY, CT -- Laticrete International, a leading manufacturing of innovative systems for the installation of tile and stone, has launched a groundbreaking online Internet tool for projects seeking LEED certification. For architects, builders, developers, installers or anyone working to compile points and credits for projects seeking LEED certification, Laticrete has developed a free online tool that reduces what could take weeks of work and time down to just a matter of seconds.

COVERINGS RETURNING TO ORLANDO IN 2010; HEADING TO LOS ANGELES IN 2011 . . .

The planning has begun for Coverings 2010, which will take place next April 27 to 30, when the international show of ceramic tile and natural stone returns to Orlando, FL, and the Orange County Convention Center. Then in 2011, the show will be making a strategic move westward, heading to the Los Angeles Convention Center in California.

FREE ADMISSION TO MARMOMACC IN VERONA, ITALY (WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2009)

Marmomacc, a leading international stone industry trade show in Verona, Italy, is offering free admission to trade visitors who pre-register online. By pre-registering before September 25 at www.marmomacc.com/freebadge2009 visitors will be able to immediately print their own entry badge -- thereby saving \$50.

Cosentino® sponsors the "Ugly Kitchen" contest



Cosentino® North America, a nationwide leader in natural stone and one of the world's largest producers of quartz surfacing, is sponsoring the "Ugly Kitchen" contest to correspond with Cosentino's recent addition of seven new designer colors to its Silestone® offering.

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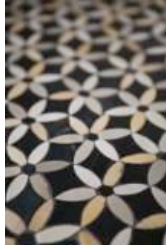


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Tile of Spain Awards of Architecture and Interior Design competition call for entries

The Spanish Ceramic Tile Manufacturers' Association (ASCER) is launching the eighth edition of the Tile of Spain Awards of Architecture and Interior Design competition. The awards are made in recognition of projects that best reflect the development of Spanish ceramic tiles in cutting edge architecture. The deadline for project submissions is October 30, 2009.



Walker Zanger recognized for design excellence

SYLMAR, CA -- Walker Zanger, a comprehensive stone and tile company with locations throughout the U.S., has announced its acceptance of a 2009 Silver ADEX Award for the hand-crafted designs featured in the Sonja Mosaics Collection. Sponsored by Design Journal magazine, ADEX -- Awards for Design Excellence -- is one of the largest and most prestigious product design award programs in the U.S.

Ceramic Tiles of Italy 2009 Design Competition Winners

The call for entries for this year's 2009 Ceramic Tiles of Italy Design Competition read, "*Great design deserves to be recognized.*" And the North American architectural and design community responded loud and clear. This year, Confindustria Ceramica, the Association of Italian Ceramics and the Italian Trade Commission received the highest number of submissions in the competition's 16-year history. Aside from the high quantity, it was the quality of the projects that particularly impressed the international jury. From entire residences to multi-floored shopping centers, Italian tile played a major role in every project, as it provided a surface solution that was design-forward, durable and dependable.

Walker Zanger acquires Cerámica Antique

SYLMAR, CA -- Walker Zanger, a large distributor of stone and tile with locations throughout the U.S., recently announced its acquisition of one of the world's largest artisan ceramic tile manufacturing facilities, Cerámica Antique. WZ Holdings, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Walker & Zanger, Inc. has acquired majority ownership in Cerámica Antique. As the distributor, and now, majority owner of the manufacturer of some of the most sought-after designs in ceramic tile, Walker Zanger is taking steps to further solidify its place as an industry leader, according to the company. With the purchase of the state-of-the-art facility, Walker Zanger gains the premier manufacturer of hand-crafted ceramic tiles, controls the production of some of its most complex products and obtains engineering knowledge, patents and flexibility.

Tile of Spain (ASCER) delivers first in series of seminars for ASID chapters

CORAL GABLES, FL -- Tile of Spain recently registered a full-day program for ASID, consisting of five distinct modules as part of an educational program customized for the needs of the U.S. market. ASCER, the Spanish Ceramic Tile Manufacturer's Association, has for more than 10 years devoted a significant amount of energy and resources to continuing education within the U.S. ceramic tile industry.

MIA accepting entries for 2009 Pinnacle and Grande Pinnacle Awards

CLEVELAND, OH -- The Marble Institute of America (MIA) has issued a call for entries for the prestigious 2009 Pinnacle Awards Competition, which includes the recently added Grande Pinnacle Award. The Grande Pinnacle Award will be awarded to the best winning entry across all categories.



Advertisement:

A blue horizontal banner for the 'coverings' trade show. The word 'coverings' is written in a large, white, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below it, in a smaller white font, is the tagline 'THE ULTIMATE TILE + STONE EXPERIENCE'. To the right of the logo, the event details are listed in white, uppercase, sans-serif font: 'APRIL 27-30, 2010', 'ORLANDO, FLORIDA, USA', and 'WWW.COVERINGS.COM'.

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