

IN ASSOCIATION WITH STONE FEDERATION GREAT BRITAIN

Natural Stone Journal

ISSUE 1

INSIDE

Stone Tapestry

By James Halliday, associate director at Squire & Partners

Stone: The sustainable solution to decarbonisation?


By Steve Webb, director at Webb Yates Engineers

COVER STORY

School of Rock

Natural Stone Journal hears from **Juliet Haysom**, studio tutor at the Architectural Association, about the recent 'Working Stone' Visiting School

Stone Tapestry

A photograph showing a person's hand, wearing a plaid shirt and a metal watch, touching a large, dark, textured stone sample. The stone has a complex, organic pattern. In the background, other people and a trade show environment are visible but blurred. The text 'Stone Tapestry' is written vertically on the left side of the image. The main title 'The Sustainability of Natural Stone, a Case Study: Stone Tapestry' is overlaid in large white font at the bottom of the image.

The Sustainability of Natural Stone, a Case Study: Stone Tapestry

By **James Halliday**, associate director at Squire & Partners



As designers and architects, we are always on the lookout for new and innovative materials with sustainability at their heart. At a time when the environmental impact of the buildings and spaces we craft is at the forefront of our minds, we have the opportunity to create a lasting, positive impression through the materials we select. At Squire & Partners, we have long championed the use of natural stone in our projects – both for interiors and exteriors. We are charmed by its natural ability to play the leading role as a grand feature, or be elegantly understated when called for. The specification process of natural stone,

however, can sometimes feel shrouded in mystery. With very little information available on extraction methods and the consequences for local ecosystems, it becomes extremely difficult to monitor the effects that these choices can have on the environment.

Over the past four years, we have enjoyed working alongside Stone Federation Great Britain, discovering some of the incredible natural stone resources available right here on our doorstep in the British Isles. Through a series of headline installations at the Surface Design Show, we have been able to showcase not only the beauty and versatility of these stones, but also the remarkable benefits of sourcing this material locally.

With greater transparency from quarries and suppliers, real engagement can be made throughout the process, from extraction of the raw material through to fabrication and installation on site. Conversations between designers and quarries can allow for careful early consideration on both standardising formats to minimise material wastage, and how installation techniques can extend the already exceptional lifespan of the material.

As well as an awareness of the impact of extraction on the local environment, we can better understand the long term management strategies of the quarries. Projects such as the Honister Slate Mine demonstrate how these sites can be transformed into beautiful nature

reserves which continue to give back to local communities.

As part of the research for our 2022 Stone Tapestry installation at Surface Design Show, we considered how natural stone can go on to have a second life over being discarded. By re-imagining a single piece of stone carved into a number of different objects, we began to see the possibilities and versatility beyond its initial intended use.

In a world where we can't afford to stand still, designers and their clients are continually challenged to create buildings and spaces that are new and unique – offering memorable experiences for end users. At the same time, to be truly sustainable we mustn't be led by the latest fashions, but instead should seek to create buildings that are timeless. As Oscar Wilde once said, *'A fashion is merely a form of ugliness so absolutely unbearable that we have to alter it every six months!'*

As arguably one of the most timeless materials, natural stone offers not only fantastic longevity and durability, but also the ability to transcend trends. An undoubted solution to reducing waste lies in design that can be enjoyed for many generations to come – whether that is a piece of beautifully crafted stone furniture in a residential setting or a raw stone block reception desk in a commercial building. In natural stone we can enjoy a

Continued on page 32...



connection with a material that enriches our experience of a space in a way that will never go out of fashion.

As we launch our fourth collaboration with Stone Federation Great Britain, this time in partnership with The Stonemasonry Company and Webb Yates Engineers, the aim of our 2024 installation – Stone Tapestry: Beyond the Surface – has been to spotlight the wonderful properties and potential of natural stone in all design applications, not just as a surface material. By combining artisanal craftsmanship with cutting edge engineering, utilising reclaimed stone fragments in a way that optimises weight distribution and ease of disassembly, we begin to see the true possibilities of this age-old sustainable material.



CASE STUDY

Honister Slate Mine

The mine that's giving back

LOCATED at the head of the iconic Honister Pass, in the centre of the Lake District and in the heart of the Lake District National Park, Cumbria, Honister is also the guardian of the famous Westmorland Green Slate. This magnificent 450 million-year-old stone carries with it stories from aeons past, having been hewn from this very mountain for many a generation.

The site remains to this day home to England's last working slate mine, with the slate having been taken from the mountain for centuries.

There's more to Honister than just slate, however. Lush greenery and tourism may not be the first things

you'd expect of a working mine, but thanks to the kind of consideration and engagement we've just heard about, the site has become a much-loved spot for visitors from far and wide.

Alongside the matter of extraction of its millenia-old treasures, Honister offers some of the most exhilarating adventures in the Lake District under the dazzling blue skies, or more likely the soft drizzle that the Lakes are famed for.

Every twist and turn of the dramatic landscape has a tale to tell, of age-old traditions, daring escapades, adventure and, yes, mining ancient stone in the most beautiful North Western countryside.

From guided mine tours, where you can explore deep underground and learn about the fascinating world of slate mining, to heart-racing adrenaline activities like Via Ferrata aerial walkway, Cliff Camping, Climb the Mine and Canyoning, Honister offers much more than most mines.

In case you forget, however, once you're done with the tours and high octane activities, you can even pack your boot up with as much locally mined slate as you can fit in to take home for £30, which actually compares quite favourably to the price of a postcard in London or Paris.

(Images courtesy Squire and Partners, Honister Slate Mine image courtesy VisitLakeDistrict.com)



Every twist and turn of the dramatic landscape has a tale to tell, of age-old traditions, daring escapades, adventure and, yes, mining ancient stone in the most beautiful North Western countryside.



Stone Tapestry

RSK
MATERIALS AND STRUCTURES

Providing a comprehensive inspection and testing service for the selection, use and performance of natural stone and slate products in the built environment.

- Over 30 years' consulting experience in traditional and innovative materials
- Multidisciplinary skills including specification, assessment, failure investigation, resource evaluation, material suitability and expert witness services
- UKAS-accredited facilities providing laboratory testing to CE certification requirements

For more information, please contact us
Email: info2@rsk.co.uk
Phone: +44 (0)1442 437500
www.rskgroup.com

Distributors for:

Drill Store UK Ltd

MONARK
ROCK DRILL TOOLS

BOART LONGYEAR

- Toku Pneumatic Rockdrills
- Integral drill steels
- R25 drill steels
- 7° Taper drill rods
- R25 and 7° Taper drill bits
- Plugs and Feathers
- Breaker Steels and Points

Drillstore UK LTD
Unit 7 Wilson Business Park
Harper Way, Markham Vale
Chesterfield
Derbyshire S44 5JX

tel: +44 (0) 1246 810457
fax: +44 (0) 1246 810580
email: sales@drillstoreukltd.com

www.drillstoreukltd.com