

# ASAA launch *Natural Stone Design Manual*

A new 400+ page manual provides comprehensive information for specifiers, fixers and stone merchants

*The content of the ASAA Natural Stone Design Manual is largely based on an extensive publication produced by the Marble Institute of America. The content has been modified and amended for local consumption, and several new chapters have been added.*

Architects, builders, designers, developers and stone industry personnel have lamented the lack of a comprehensive guide to the specification, installation, protection and restoration of natural stone.

Architects seeking advice on standards have invariably turned to ASTM (American Society for Testing and Material) for guidance.

Given the absence of available funding for development of similar Australian Standards, the Australian Stone Advisory Association determined that the best, and most effective way forward, lay in development of a comprehensive manual which references the ASTM recommendations, and provides a contemporary snapshot of local and international industry practices.

The Marble Institute of America (MIA) produce a comprehensive manual, which covers all the bases. ASAA contacted MIA CEO Gary Distelhorst in relation to ASAA reproducing MIA materials under license.

The ASAA board met with Gary at the Full Frontal Tile and Stone Exhibition in Sydney in 2008. Gary gave permission for ASAA to produce Australian versions of MIA guides, on the proviso that ASAA clearly referenced the MIA as the copyright holder.

In 2009 ASAA produced its version of the 'Residential Stone Countertop Guide'.

Over the past two years the number of calls received at ASAA head office have increased steadily, as a growing number of architects, building owners, stonemasons and homeowners seek advice and assistance. As the number and complexity of the calls increased, callers were asked to formally submit their request via email. Increasingly callers are seeking advice prior to selecting a suitable product. Many of the problems outlined in subsequent emails could have been avoided if access to a suitable reference guide to stone selection, testing, installation and maintenance was widely available.

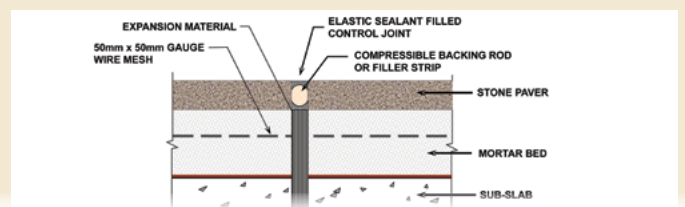
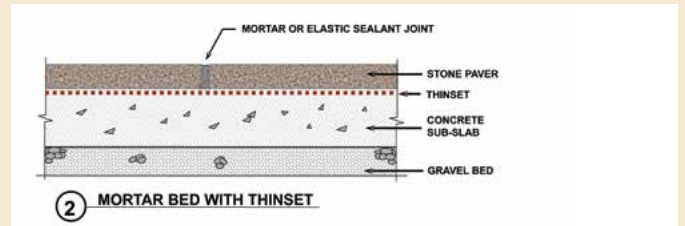
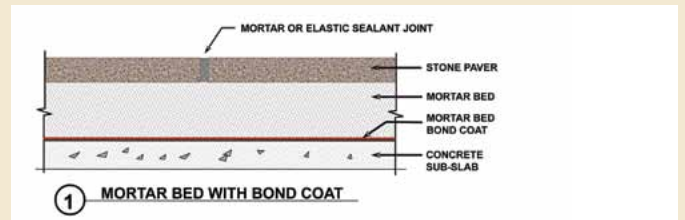
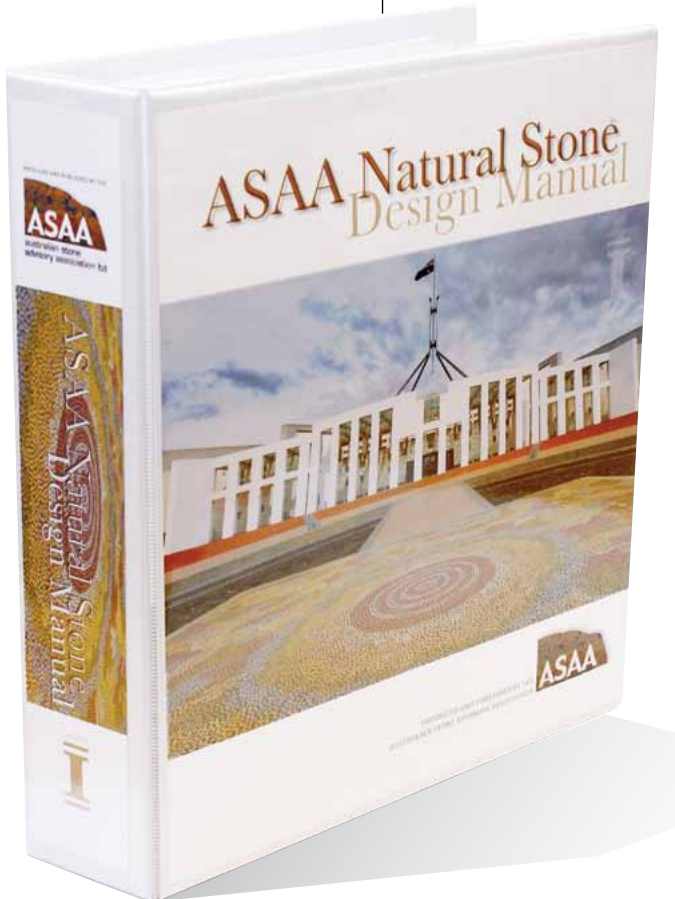
## Content and availability

The number of calls received by ASAA indicated that the availability of a suitable standard or guide was long overdue; consequently the ASAA board asked the MIA for permission to produce an Australian version of their 400 plus page manual, which would contain appropriately modified text and drawings.

The MIA responded positively and an agreement has been reached in principle, which provides both parties with joint copyright of the contents of the ASAA Natural Stone Design Manual, and an appropriate share of the net proceeds of sales of the manual.

The ASAA board acted quickly by assigning production of various sections of the manual to individuals who possess appropriate knowledge.

A decision was made to add some new sections, which fully reflect the local use of stone, and the



problems which regularly arise. Many of the chapters listed opposite are supported by comprehensive drawings

**The manual will be available for purchase by mid November. Most of the chapters have been completed, however it will take time to conduct peer reviews of each section, edit and finalise the layout.**

**The entire manual exceeds 400 pages. Each purchaser will receive a licensed hardback copy which will be delivered, wherever possible via courier. A CD containing the entire manual will be included.**

It is anticipated that each section will be subjected to regular reviews. New versions of the manual will be produced as and when required. Where appropriate purchasers will be invited to purchase new chapters, which will enable them to update the content of their manual.

**Cost of the Manual:**

ASAA Members \$132  
 Architects \$165  
 Non-members \$330 } + GST  
 Includes CD, courier delivery and GST. Weight 3 kgs.

**Order in Advance:**

To order your copy of the ASAA Natural Stone Design Manual simply call (03) 9888 3587 or email Rowena Cooke at rowenac@infotile.com.au.

Pre-payment can be made by credit card over the telephone, or by cheque. Alternatively, an invoice will be shipped with the manual. Allow a maximum of 10 days for delivery from date of order. The first batch of manuals will be shipped in November.

**Benefits of Joining ASAA**

In addition to providing advice regarding matters related to the successful use of natural stone in commercial and residential environments, the ASAA provide a dispute resolution service. The association is recognised by State and Federal government as the stone industries peer body. ASAA membership is open to quarry owners, stone processors, stone wholesalers and resellers, allied product suppliers, stonemasons, geologists, architects, designers, builders and developers.

By joining ASAA stone industry suppliers and personnel can reduce the cost of the manual by \$200. To gain a greater appreciation of why it makes sense for industry members to join ASAA read the ASAA news on page 6.

**Content sample**

- Chapter 1: The Geology of Stone
- Chapter 2: Standards & Specifications for Stone Products
- Chapter 3: Stone Selection
- Chapter 4: Stone Testing
- Chapter 5: Granite
- Chapter 6: Limestone
- Chapter 7: Marble & Onyx
- Chapter 8: Sandstone
- Chapter 9: Travertine
- Chapter 10: Slate
- Chapter 11: Basalt
- Chapter 12: Installation
- Chapter 13: Horizontal Surfaces
- Chapter 14: Vertical Surfaces
- Chapter 15: Wet Areas
- Chapter 16: Fixing Natural Stone Tiles
- Chapter 17: Residential Stone Countertops
- Chapter 18: Capping & Sills
- Chapter 19: Stone Furniture
- Chapter 20: Stone Faced Veneer / Pre-cast Concrete
- Chapter 21: Cleaning & Maintenance
- Chapter 22: Restoration/Refinishing
- Chapter 23: Slip Resistance Guide
- Chapter 24: List of Active Australian Quarries
- Chapter 25: Images of Natural Stones of Australia
- Chapter 26: Glossary of Stone Industry Terms
- Chapter 27: Appendix
- Chapter 28: Index

**The main contributors to the manual are:**

- Colin Cass  
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CDK Stone
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- Jim Mann – Stone Initiatives  
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- Emina Micevski  
RMS Natural Stone
- Rolf Offerhaus  
Ardex Australia
- Anthony Stock  
Australian Tile Publications
- Carl Strautins  
Safe Environments
- Jasper Swann  
Jasper Swann Stonemasonry

*Sample drawings. The ASAA's Natural Stone Manual contains numerous drawings, and comprehensive advice on the geology, selection, installation, care and maintenance of stone.*

