

# SJ

ISSUE 2

STONE JOURNAL



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Find Design Equilibrium  
When Old Meets New

Make the Climb  
to a Mountain Marvel

Capture the Colors  
of Canyonlands



STONE JOURNAL  
chronicles excellence in the  
use of natural stone  
and the artisans whose work  
brings projects to life.

Unique in every facet,  
natural stone carries the artistry of time—  
touched by nature's paintbrush,  
and finished by the hand of a craftsman.

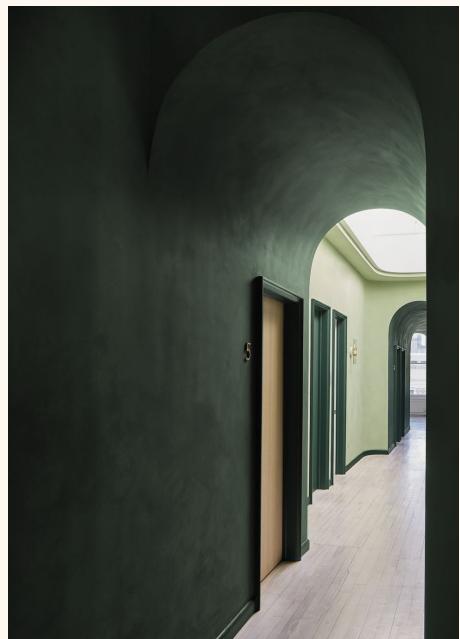




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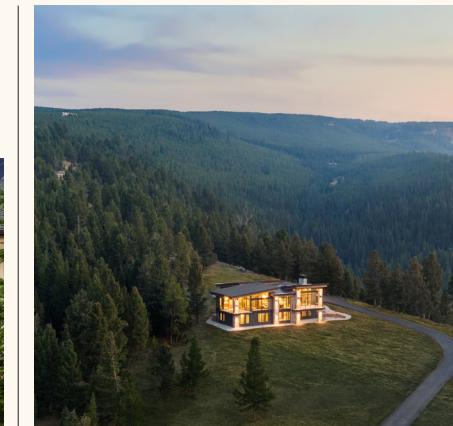
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*This wall owes its striking visual impact to a custom blend of 70 percent Black Frost Ashlar and 30 percent Barnwood Blue Ashlar—offering color notes from cooler charcoals and blues through warmer whites and tans.*

Mike Buechel  
President & CEO



## The Stone that Shapes Our Lives, The People Who Shape Our Stone

### WHAT LED THESE HOMEOWNERS, ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS, AND MASONS TO CHOOSE BUECHEL STONE? THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE: PEACE OF MIND.

When we launched *Stone Journal*, we knew some would see it as just another piece of marketing. But our vision was always much bigger. We wanted to create a bridge between the often-unknown world of natural stone and the many other elements that bring design to life. That's why, in every issue, you'll find features that go beyond stone—exploring topics from linens and limewash paints to lighting and lounging in our *Facets* and *In & Out* sections. Because while each design decision matters on its own, true beauty comes when all aspects are considered together. That idea is the heart and soul of *Stone Journal*.

At Buechel Stone, we also believe in honoring the people behind the craft. The role of women in the workplace is often discussed nowadays, but it's something we've been considering since the beginning. Stories of "Ma Buechel" are legendary—packaging stone straight from the splitter, even full veneer pieces weighing close to 200 pounds. Her grit and determination were the start of a legacy that continues—with women today making up 25 percent of our workforce across both

office and operations.

This issue also highlights four remarkable projects featuring Buechel Stone. Interestingly, you'll find three of these homes nestled in the Rocky Mountains—a region synonymous with natural stone. With so many stone choices available, what led the owners, architects, designers, and masons of these homes to choose Buechel Stone? The answer is simple: peace of mind. We offer one of the largest selections of domestic natural stone for masonry and landscaping, and once clients find us, we help their projects come together seamlessly.

We close by finding *Inspiration in the Wild*—this time at Canyonlands National Park. Its dramatic landscapes, carved by the raw forces of wind and water, remind us of the timeless beauty of nature—a beauty that can never be replicated.

Thank you for reading this latest issue of *Stone Journal*. I hope you find inspiration throughout these pages. Be sure to follow us online or sign up to receive future editions—we'd love to continue the journey with you.

# Buechel to the Future

If you've made assumptions about what kind of people work at Buechel Stone, the variety among our vibrant family of employees may surprise you.

TEXT BY APRIL DOWLAND PHOTOS BY JACOB HAND

**Some people have preconceived notions** about what it is like to work in stone. It is almost as though they expect every quarry, processing facility and building site to be staffed by only the burliest macho men around. The truth is: there are many kinds of jobs at Buechel that could be a fit for a man or a woman. But it's also important to note that those physical jobs that require folks to get dusty and work up a sweat? Women are doing those, too.

We have seen phenomenal growth—not only in the number of women on our staff but also in the variety of positions they hold—since I began working at Buechel over ten years ago. At the time, I think I could have

counted on one hand the number of women working in production. Today, we have many more women throughout the company—from handling the heavy machinery to taking on leadership roles. But we didn't set some sort of quota or hire less qualified people to prove a point. We believed that if we were open to the possibility of women filling those positions, the right ones would show up and show us they were a fit. And they did.

Of course, physical work is only a part of the many tasks involved in sourcing and delivering the best stone for our customers. Much of the work benefits from an artistic eye—watching out for consistency of color

**BELOW LEFT**  
Cristina Lopez  
Jimenez, Packager

**BELOW**  
April Dowland, COO

**BOTTOM**  
Orenia Portillo  
Laines, Packager



**TOP TO BOTTOM**  
Marisol Murillo Orellana,  
Shift Lead/Material  
Handler;  
Lorely Sanchez,  
Material Handler

**RIGHT**  
Kristin Armitage,  
Marketing Manager

WE HAVE BEEN  
OPENING THE DOORS  
OF OPPORTUNITY  
FOR WOMEN TO ACHIEVE  
SUCCESS AT BUECHEL  
STONE FOR DECADES.



and design throughout the process. We also value employees who excel at communication and organization, ensuring people have great experiences working with us, from considering designs through delivery and installation. These are skills on which men surely have no monopoly.

Plus, so many people are just waiting to surprise you by showing off talents you might not assume they have. One of my fa-

vorite memories is the day that I got in one of our biggest loaders and worked production. I may have gotten some surprised looks from colleagues, but the team cheered me for taking a chance.

That's one of the reasons why we were so glad to take the time recently to have a photographer visit and take pictures of employees that some people might be surprised to see behind the scenes at our company—

**BELOW**  
Maria Sosa Castro,  
Packager

**RIGHT**  
Erika Ortega, Quarry  
Ground Crew

**BOTTOM LEFT**  
Mindy Richard, Inside  
Sales Coordinator

**BOTTOM RIGHT**  
Mandy Yohnk, Marketing  
Content Coordinator



in roles from the manual to the managerial. Mindy Richards has been with us through multiple promotions—never held back by the fact that some of the contractors and masons with whom she interacts may consider what they do "men's work." Kim Meredith regularly shows the Buechel team that she can talk to anyone in our industry—not only making the sales but also making lasting connections. There's Stephanie Brocker, who makes sure our workflow is optimized and ensures quality throughout our production area. And then there are people like Erika Ortega, who tells us she loves that her job is physical and gives her the chance to move and dance throughout the day. And she sure can rock a construction helmet.

One of the reasons success has been achievable for women at Buechel is the mindset of our owners, who have been opening the doors of opportunity for decades. They shaped

an environment where women's opinions are heard and respected, where no woman in leadership sits back and waits for a man to second-guess her decision. And, yes, in some cases it meant trusting some of the people in these pictures to regularly heft loads of 30 to 40 pounds to get their jobs done.

It's funny that people can be pretty quick to understand how a woman can "build a home" in traditional ways, like cooking meals and raising children. But because of old attitudes, it doesn't occur to them that many women may have been involved in the literal crafting of their homes. So the next time you find yourself stopping to admire some beautiful stonework as you pass a home, don't make any assumptions about the kind of people who helped put it there. Some of them could be very much like you. ▶

April Dowland is the COO of Buechel Stone.



**BOTTOM LEFT**  
Kim Meredith, Territory  
Sales Specialist

**BELOW**  
Adalgiza Rosario  
Portorreal, Benefits  
Coordinator

**BOTTOM RIGHT**  
Irma Loya Cruz, Packager



# FACETS



## Facets<sup>1</sup> Old-World, New Life

Designer Galey Alix wanted a showstopping kitchen, and she got it, courtesy of a stone wall finished in German schmear, a masonry technique where a thin coat of mortar is applied to stone and then partially wiped off, creating an old-world look. The kitchen, says Alix, is her favorite room in the house. She explains, "Stone was the obvious choice here because I really wanted something natural, raw, and organic to complement my cabinetry and natural cement sink. I also love the texture and how the ridges catch the soft lighting at night. It feels both elegant and elevated without being pretentious." She chose Buechel's Oiled Nubuck Siena for the project for several reasons, the main one being trust. "I was searching for stone walls and natural stone material online, and everything I found not only looked cheap, but it was all artificial. Truly, the only stone I found where I loved the look and also trusted it was real stone was from Buechel. I felt even better when I found out it was a family-owned business." The designer, who is known for her love of texture and natural elements, says, "I can't think of a more textured or natural material than real stone, which is why discovering Buechel and their stone options was a dream for me."



## Facets<sup>2</sup> Recalling History

**In the late 19th century**, decorative plasterwork was something that only the upper classes had in their homes. But in the 1880s, tin ceilings rose to prominence as an affordable way to decorate, and insulate, urban dwellings and commercial spaces. Made originally from steel and later tin, the panels were stamped with classical architectural patterns and could be easily installed anywhere. Waves of new immigrants in cities like New York, Chicago, and Detroit embraced them, and soon they were ubiquitous, from grand hotels to small tenement apartments. Designer Clodagh remembers tin ceilings in the pubs of her native Ireland, and in this new collaboration with American Tin Ceilings, she has created the Tara collection, shown here on the walls of her office. The patterns are evocative of the terraced hills of the ancient high kings of Tara in Ireland, and they are modern while still evoking a bygone era. The panels can be painted, patinated, or used in their natural state, on walls and ceilings alike. [americantinceilings.com](http://americantinceilings.com)

## Facets<sup>3</sup> Fashion Forward

Jacqueline Rousseau launched her line of hand-dyed pillows, table linens, and throws after more than a decade designing womenswear in London and New York. Her inspiration comes from dressmaking fabrics, vintage paint charts, and cloud patterns. Each piece is custom-produced in small batches, and all are locally produced. The Rousseau design

philosophy is to develop a collection that evolves rather than starting with a clean slate each season. The micro-batch textiles are designed to last a lifetime, and new additions to the line always work with existing pieces. These hand-dyed table runners come in a range of colors with indigo as the base and accent colors such as rose and gold. [RousseauNYC.com](http://RousseauNYC.com)





## Facets<sup>4</sup> Inside the Hill

Drawing inspiration from the rolling hills in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin, Grasshopper Hill, designed and built by Distinctive Design Studio, embraces a mountain-modern aesthetic adapted for the Midwest. Its clean architecture is softened by authentic natural materials. The team utilized stone to enhance this vision, anchoring the design while complementing the surrounding fields and wooded landscape. They selected Buechel Stone's Chilton Rustic No Reds from their Ashlar collection to harmonize with the

interior finishes and highlight the connection to the outdoors. In the main entry sequence, stone was chosen to anchor the modern architecture in the Midwestern landscape. The natural stone wall acts as a natural divider between the expansive windows and the wood ceiling, adding strength, warmth, and texture while directing guests into the open living room beyond. The Chilton Rustic No Reds became a defining feature, bridging exterior and interior in a way that feels cohesive, bold, and enduring.

## Facets<sup>5</sup> Japanese Style

Area is a Japanese furniture brand founded by Go Noda in 2003. Noda was born in Chigasaki, Japan, and after graduating from Tokai University, he studied architecture and furniture design. After gaining popularity in Japan, he expanded his brand and opened a showroom in Saint-Germain-des-Prés, Paris, and eventually New York City, in 2023. Using his unique approach to Japanese design and incorporating influences such as the Arts and Crafts movement and the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, he has created a design portfolio of already iconic artisanal furnishings for the home. The Umebon cocktail table shown here has a geometric design inspired by plum blossoms in late winter, demonstrating the abundance of life and the spirit of renewal.





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## Facets<sup>6</sup> A Dose of Color

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For a Modern Craftsman-style home in Park Ridge, Illinois, Mandy Madsen of Madsen Home & Garden was working with a predetermined black and white exterior. To counteract the modern scheme, she introduced color and historically influenced exterior design elements like natural stone on the fireplace, bluestone and limestone pavers, and traditionally inspired lighting and decorative details to give the home a vintage feel. Madsen shares, “Because of the modern Craftsman design of the home, color is called for on the exterior, without a doubt. We wanted to add an eye-catching stone that was not overly used on new builds, one that has an architecturally historic reference. The stone would serve as the centerpiece for the back of this home, given the fireplace placement, so we wanted it to be as interesting and artistic as possible. Buechel Stone’s Whispering Pines Fieldstone was our top pick for this application. Pairing it with a black and white exterior is a perfect example of our style. We love to create strategic risks that really pay off.”

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Facets<sup>7</sup>

## Geometry Underfoot

**Jaipur Living's latest collaboration** is with interior designer Bradley Odom, founder of Atlanta-based Dixon Rye. The new collection includes six handmade rugs in two patterns, Avis and Solum. True to Bradley's design philosophy of finding beauty in contrasts, the collection reflects his approach to "conceptual livability"—design that tells a story through craftsmanship while feeling both soulful and effortlessly modern. Crafted entirely from wool, each piece aligns with Jaipur Living's commitment to quality, timeless design, and artisanry. Avis features a delicate, abstracted avian motif in nature-inspired tones, while Solum, shown here, explores grounding geometry with earthy palettes. Both designs showcase thoughtful textural contrasts and are designed to patina beautifully with time—meant to be lived with rather than just admired. The rugs will be available through [dixonye.com](http://dixonye.com) and [jaipurliving.com](http://jaipurliving.com) (to the trade).

Facets<sup>8</sup>

## Timeless Walls

**Color Atelier's Limewash paint** has a matte, velvety finish and softly textured appearance, and a timeless, natural beauty. Breathable, humidity-regulating, and mold-resistant, its durable, mineral-based formula is also ideal for outdoor use, adding depth and character to facades, brick, and stone

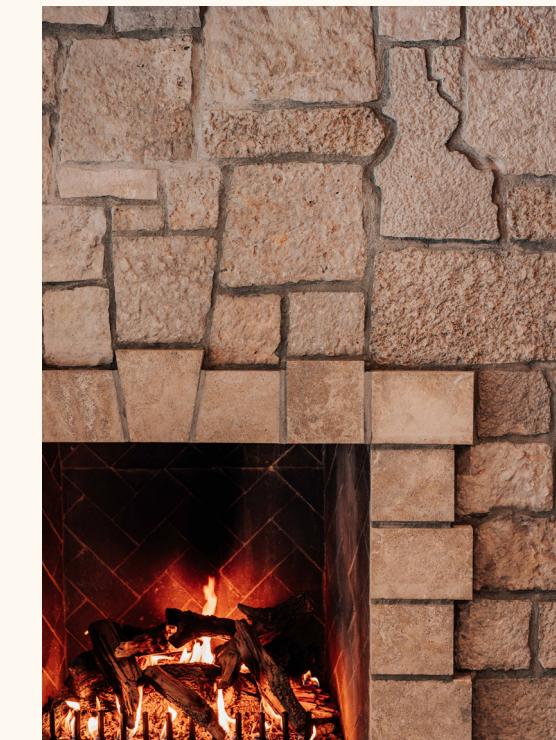
surfaces. Limewash ages gracefully, bringing elegant charm to fireplaces, accent walls, and entryways. Frederick Tang, of Frederick Tang Architecture, used Color Atelier's limewash paint in Cypress Ink, a muted sage green, for the walls of Moxi, a wellness spa in New York's SoHo neighborhood. The Limewash

collection is available in a curated palette complementing modern interiors and historic renovations alike, offering depth and sophistication. Most importantly, it is a natural mineral-based paint without any harmful fumes or substances. [coloratelierpaint.com](http://coloratelierpaint.com)





# FRENCH



# CONNECTION

Limestone, woodwork, and old-world charm come together to create a retreat with historic appeal.

Text: Veronica McClean  
Photography: Accel Media

The stone was also used to fabricate fireplace surrounds and mantels throughout the home—some of which stand nearly seven feet tall.

**PREVIOUS SPREAD**  
Buechel Stone plays a starring role in this home's impressive facade—working in concert with the Aged Parchment columns, dormers, and other decorative flourishes.

**RIGHT** The homeowners discussed keeping the home's exterior color palette fairly neutral, which helped lead them to the right stone selections.





**FACING PAGE**  
Designer Kristina Schreiner liked the scale of this stone—concerned that smaller pieces would have looked too much like cobblestone.

**ABOVE** Stone walls help delineate the exterior space, while also reinforcing a visual link with the impressive main house.

THIS SPREAD  
*Though a former owner got as far as an abandoned foundation, no one had previously built a home on this idyllic lakeside property.*



The homeowners requested that the French country-inspired home be designed to live in harmony with its natural surroundings.

Ultimately, it was about creating a house that feels timeless: a home that could have been here for centuries.



**TOP** Harlequin floors lead to a kitchen where cabinetry with an antique finish, arched doorways, and a fireplace surround in Buechel Aged Parchment Cut Stone reinforce the French country feeling.



**LEFT** Some of the project's last elements to arrive were outdoor furniture pieces that provide perfect vantages from which to enjoy a stone-framed view.

**MIDDLE** With roughly 40 miles of shoreline, Hayden Lake beckons citizens of the Spokane metro area for swimming, boating, and other activities.

**There are two types of design clients:** those who have some vague idea of how they want their home to look, and those who know exactly what they want. It was the latter kind who approached designer Kristina Schreiner after purchasing a property on the north side of Idaho's Hayden Lake. The couple's request? A French country-inspired home rooted in natural stone, carved-wood elements, and old-world detail that also embraced its natural surroundings.

The owners had turned to Schreiner's firm, Nest Designs + Build, on the recommendation of Tim Wilson of Momentum Architecture. Wilson was confident that Schreiner could bring the clients' vision to life. And while Schreiner hadn't designed a home in this particular style before, she was excited at the opportunity. "The homeowners and I hit it off right away," she recalls. "I love when a client comes to me with a new idea—it's a chance to stretch. For me, this was the project of a lifetime."

When it came to achieving old-world style, Schreiner followed several guiding principles. "Natural stone throughout was important to incorporate," she says. "As were tall baseboards, carved woodwork, arched casings and doors, and a kitchen in a French blue hue."

For the stone, Schreiner sourced Buechel selections such as Fond du Lac Castle Rock and Aged Parchment Cut Stone—both

of which have the appropriate geological roots in limestone. "Old French homes all have limestone," the designer says. "So, using that for the custom surrounds fit the theme of the house." Thus, the stone was used to fabricate fireplace surrounds and mantels throughout the home—some of which stand nearly seven feet tall. The stone also went on to play a key role on the home's exterior, giving the façade a neutral, European palette that blends with the lakefront setting.

Whether considering the interior or exterior, Schreiner felt it was important to opt for natural stone rather than the alternative. "It's so common for people to use manmade materials," she says. "But really, to keep the theme of the house, we had to adhere to those more natural stones that felt more period."

With limestone anchoring the home, Schreiner was also able to experiment with dramatic gestures. For example, upon arriving, visitors are greeted with a graphic, black-and-white floor in a harlequin pattern—a motif that continues from the entry through to the butler's pantry and kitchen. "It sets the tone," Schreiner says.

Meanwhile, beautiful woodwork adds a decorative touch. In the kitchen, carved cabinetry arches, detailed moldings, and oversized bolts reference antique joinery. Painted in a muted French blue with an antique finish, the cabinets feel aged yet elegant. "Little details

like that really hone in on the older feel," Schreiner muses.

The furniture followed suit. Many pieces came from the homeowners' previous Colorado estate. Reupholstered and refreshed, they find new life in the lakehouse. Custom additions—a cherry wood coffee table made by a local craftsman, bespoke seating, and a mix of colors and patterns—add another layer of old-world French charm. "Ultimately, it was about creating a house that feels timeless," Schreiner says. "A home that could have been here for centuries."

In the end, Schreiner shares, both she and her clients were happy with the results. "It was really nice because they were clients who trusted me from the start," she recalls. "They weren't living here full time, and they trusted me to make decisions on their behalf, and hardly ever gave me any pushback or balked at any ideas that I brought to them." Schreiner also seems proud to have so successfully tackled a project of this size and scope. "They had a large budget—you don't get those clients every day. This was the largest project I had done to date. Since then, I've done some larger, but it was my first experience of having that client where there's really no budget—how fun it was to have free rein."

**Masonry** by Damon Kistler of Rathdrum, ID. The stones used in the project are Fond du Lac Castle Rock and Aged Parchment Cut Stone.



# TIME AFTER TIME

In Park City, Utah, designer Tonya Olsen used Buechel Stone's Fond du Lac Webwall to give a new build timeless character.



**ABOVE**  
Designer Tonya Olsen's goal with this new construction home in Park City, Utah, was to instill the feeling of it having been there for generations.

**PREVIOUS SPREAD**  
*In the kitchen, Buechel Stone's Fond du Lac Webwall takes center stage on the walls, while wood-beamed ceilings and soapstone-inspired quartz countertops move the rustic vibe forward.*

"I didn't know exactly what I wanted. But when I saw Buechel Stone's Fond du Lac Webwall, I knew that was it. I envisioned pioneers picking this stone from a field."

—Tonya Olsen





**ABOVE**  
For both the interior and exterior furnishings, Olsen used muted tones to allow the materials to shine.

**OPPOSITE**  
The designer wove in metal accents throughout, upping the farmhouse vibe established by the stone and cedar.

**When people say they're looking for a** home with character, one assumes they mean the house should be old, timeworn—maybe a little creaky. But designer Tonya Olsen knows that with the right materials, even a brand-new build can emanate authentic, classic charm. That was her goal when she joined architect Clayton Vance and builder H2 Homes on a project in Park City, Utah's Whitaker Farms development. "I took Clayton's plans and turned to the local vernacular for material inspiration," Olsen explains. "I literally drove around the area looking at the old barns and homesteads. I wanted the house to seem like it had been standing there for a hundred years."

After many hours of immersing herself in the landscape and history, the designer began a search for an exterior material that felt rustic and at one with the land. "I didn't know exactly what I wanted," Olsen says. "But when I saw Buechel Stone's Fond du Lac Webwall, I knew that was it. I envisioned pioneers picking this stone from a field."

The stone's irregular shape made it ideal for the rustic farmhouse style she was looking for—and for the build itself. "You can't really mess it up," she laughs. "We had the luxury

to play with how muddy and how messy we wanted the grout line. It looks like someone dug it up and stuck it on the house—that was the look I wanted."

Playing off the uneven lines and organic palette of the stone, Olsen paired it with a rich tobacco-colored cedar siding on the exterior. "I was inspired by a nearby cottage," the designer says of how she chose the wood. "It was important for the exterior to be rough, textural, and authentic, so it would feel like the surrounding barns."

A cohesive, seamless flow from outside to in was especially pertinent. "In all of my projects, I bring my exteriors in and my interiors out," Olsen notes. She incorporated the Webwall in the primary bedroom's fireplace, the pantry, and—perhaps most notably—in the kitchen, where she used it prominently on the walls as a strong anchor to the natural wood-beamed ceilings. To keep visual focus on the Webwall, she selected a soapstone-inspired, charcoal-colored quartz for the countertops. "I didn't want marbles or heavy veining competing with it," she says.

That sense of thoughtful balance also defines the rest of the home. Olsen kept the

"Whether it's the stone, the wood, or the colors, I just naturally pull from what's around me. I don't overthink it."

—Tonya Olsen

paint, cabinetry, flooring, and tile quiet and neutral, letting the Webwall set the overall tone. "Then I introduced color and texture with rugs, furniture, and art," she explains. "We brought in those exterior hues with soft greens, browns, taupes, and muted gray-blues."

Warm wood cabinetry nods to the farmstead inspiration—as do the many iron furnishings and accents, such as the kitchen's range and island lighting, the guest room bed, and the steel-and-glass doors off the dining area. Touches of rattan and wicker bring warmth, depth, and an added layer of natural texture. "Whether it's the stone, the wood, or the colors, I just naturally pull from what's around me," Olsen muses. "I don't overthink it."

The sum of these layered material choices is a home that feels generations old and firmly rooted in its natural setting, yet is still thoughtfully designed for modern life. "I wanted this house to feel like part of the local story," Olsen reflects. "It may be a new build, but it looks as though it's always been there." ▶

Building by H2 Homes of Orem, UT. The stones used in the project are Fond du Lac Webwall and Indiana Limestone Cut Stone.



# Mountain Marvel

A wide-angle, aerial photograph of a modern mountain home nestled in a forested valley. The house, with its dark exterior and large glass windows, is illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. It sits on a grassy hillside, with a paved driveway leading up to it. The surrounding landscape is a mix of dense evergreen forests and rolling green hills under a vast, colorful sky at sunset or sunrise.

Rustic materials and modern lines come together in a warm Montana retreat.  
Text: Shannon Sharpe   Photography: PRSPCTV Media

“Buechel Stone’s Silver Patina Castle Rock was the very first exterior element that I chose. It was love at first sight, and I built the house finishes around that.”

—Julie Speer

**PREVIOUS SPREAD**  
A modern mountain home in Big Sky, Montana, nestles into its hillside perch, offering sweeping views of the Spanish Peaks and Gallatin Canyon, with warm materials and expansive glass creating a seamless connection to the surrounding wilderness.



**THIS SPREAD**  
The great room’s floor-to-ceiling fireplace showcases Buechel Stone’s Silver Patina Castle Rock, which Speer carried in from the exterior, creating a seamless connection to the surrounding landscape.



**Contemporary architecture can bring to** mind cold, soulless design. But that's not how Mike Hartman and Julie Speer—CEO and Design Director of Hartman Homes, respectively—see it. "The clean-lined modern mountain style can be cozy when you use materials such as stone in organic colors and warm woods," Speer explains.

This homey vibe was Hartman's goal when he purchased a 20-parcel piece of land in Big Sky, Montana, to build an expansive mountainside house not far from his own home. Drawn to the land for its stunning views—"It's a *Sound of Music* view," he quips—the builder saw an opportunity to create an abode that reflected the rugged surroundings. "There are no trees blocking the vistas," he notes. "So you can see the Spanish Peaks as well as Gallatin Canyon."

Speer took Hartman's vision and ran with it, using Buechel Stone's Silver Patina Castle Rock as the jumping-off point. "It was the very first exterior element that I chose," she says. "It was love at first sight, and I built the house finishes around that." Speer found herself drawn to the stone's warm tone—with hints of green and a subtle shimmer. She liked that it felt different from other, more orange options she had previously encountered in her search. "I drilled into that hue when choosing the siding colors that we paired it with, such as smoky and carmellic browns with bronze accents."

To create a visual connection between the interior and exterior, Speer carried the Castle Rock inside as a waterfall feature on the lower-level fireplace, as an accent wall for the staircase, and—most notably—on the great room's floor-to-ceiling fireplace. "If you can see a fireplace from outside, I want it to match the exterior stone," she says. "In this home, the columns on the balcony push through the corners, so from the great room you're seeing the same material inside and out."

It is an architectural moment meant to draw one in, something that was pertinent to Hartman. "I was once told that architecture should create curiosity," he says. "People should drive by and think, 'What's going on beyond that?' Inside, you should want to see what's around the next corner."

Another thoughtful architectural touch was placing staircases in front of the windows, making for an indoor-outdoor connection even when doing something as simple as heading upstairs. Hartman also wanted varying ceiling heights to create distinct moods. "In my own home, the expansive vaulted ceilings can feel a little cold," he admits. So he and Speer decided that while some of the spaces would have grand ceilings to create drama, they dropped them to nine feet in the kitchen and dining room. "We really hit the mark on giving you that grandiose feel, but then making it warm and livable," Hartman muses. "Combined with the materials Julie chose, it's a place you want to spend time in."

The layout also maximizes both the dramatic views and the flow of natural light. A mono-vault roofline and upper clerestory windows pull in sky and sunlight, while the orientation ensures that the mountain vistas are front and center from the main living spaces. It is designed, Speer notes, for those who want a very close relationship with nature. "It's a little more remote," she says. "It's going to appeal to hunters, people who have horses—those who want a more wilderness-oriented lifestyle."

From the shimmering stone to the carefully framed views, the home is all about connection to place. "The materials ground it in the landscape," Julie notes. "It feels like it grew out of the mountain." ▶

Masonry on the project was done by C&J Stoneworks. The stone is Buechel Stone's Silver Patina Castle Rock.

**"We really hit the mark on giving you that grandiose feel, but then making it feel warm and livable."**

—Mike Hartman



**THIS SPREAD**  
Speer captured Mike Hartman's vision of an inviting modern mountain home that maximizes the dramatic vistas and is at one with its rugged setting.

# MATERIAL

In Kansas, a smart blend of steel and stone makes for a home that is both chic and grounded.  
Text: Shannon Sharpe Photography: Craig Keene



# BALANCE





**PREVIOUS SPREAD**  
Curved steel beams form a distinctive barrel roof, giving this Kansas home a modern silhouette. Buechel Stone's Chilton Rustic Ledgestone adds warmth and color, grounding the black metal trim and walnut-colored siding and tying the abode to its surroundings.

**LEFT** Chilton Weatheredge Outcrops were placed to feel almost accidental, as if rubble had spilled down the slope. Their reds and oranges brighten the home's steel accents, while prairie grass ties the stone seamlessly into the Kansas setting.

When clients turn to the luxury design-build firm Extraordinary Homes, it's because they're drawn to the company's distinct modern style. Some have discovered their work online; others have noted the striking exteriors when driving past. A certain number arrive having already had the opportunity to step inside one of the company's custom homes. But this home's owner—a structural steel subcontractor who has collaborated with the Extraordinary Homes team for years—arrived with a deeper understanding of the company's work than most. "He's worked on nearly every house we've done," notes president Kathleen Fogel. "We were a natural fit to design his and his wife's own home."

Fittingly, the client wanted a steel-centric abode. "That was the first thing he asked for," Fogel says. "He wanted to take his trade and capitalize on it. So we took advantage of that and had a lot of fun." This meant starting with a curved-beam steel barrel roof, which, along with dramatic black-metal trim and doors, gives the exterior its distinct profile. Walnut-colored metal siding continues the sleek style, but Fogel knew she needed a natural material to soften the dark palette and industrial edge. "The surroundings always provide inspiration for how I want a home to look," she says. "It needs to look like it grew out of the land."

Unfortunately, the muted grays found in much of the local limestone wouldn't work for Fogel's vision. "I needed an element of color," she recalls. "We wanted something to pull all of this together." That something turned out to be Buechel Stone's Chilton Rustic Ledgestone. With its reds, oranges, grays, and browns, the stone brought the warmth and vibrancy Fogel sought. Creative and well-traveled, the client couple was on board with the bolder-hued stone immediately. "They were open to some-

thing a little different," she says. "I didn't even choose any other options. I just showed them the one and they said, 'We're in.'"

But it wasn't the color alone that drew Fogel to the stone. She also loved the shape—with weathered edges that softened the streamlined exterior. "The stone was the one natural thing that grounded the house," she muses. "When you have a lot of cold materials, you need something organic and warm to offset the harshness."

As one of their goals was for the house to feel at one with the surroundings, Fogel was thoughtful in her approach to the landscaping. "There was a lot of prairie grass, which felt very appropriate since it's Kansas," she says. "We wanted to tie the exterior of the house to this."

Once again, Fogel turned to Buechel Stone, this time for their Chilton Weatheredge Outcrops. She paired them with steel landscape panels, which were sprayed to create a rusty hue echoing the stone's orange-red tones. Placement of the Outcrops was carefully considered, but that doesn't mean they were perfectly spaced. "We stacked them randomly," she explains. "I wanted it to look like they were just there naturally—like rubble that had fallen down the hill."

This earthy, organic approach sets the home apart from the many black-and-white homes in the neighborhood. "I wanted this house to be different through and through," Fogel says. "Not just in style, but material-wise." At the same time, the building feels at home on the street. "It stands out," muses Fogel, "but it doesn't feel strange in its surroundings." ▶

Masonry on the project was done by Becerra Masonry. The stones used in this project include Buechel Stone's Chilton Rustic Ledgestone and Chilton Weatheredge Outcrops.

**"The stone was the one natural thing that grounded the house. When you have a lot of cold materials, you need something organic and warm to offset the harshness."**

—Kathleen Fogel

# IN & OUT



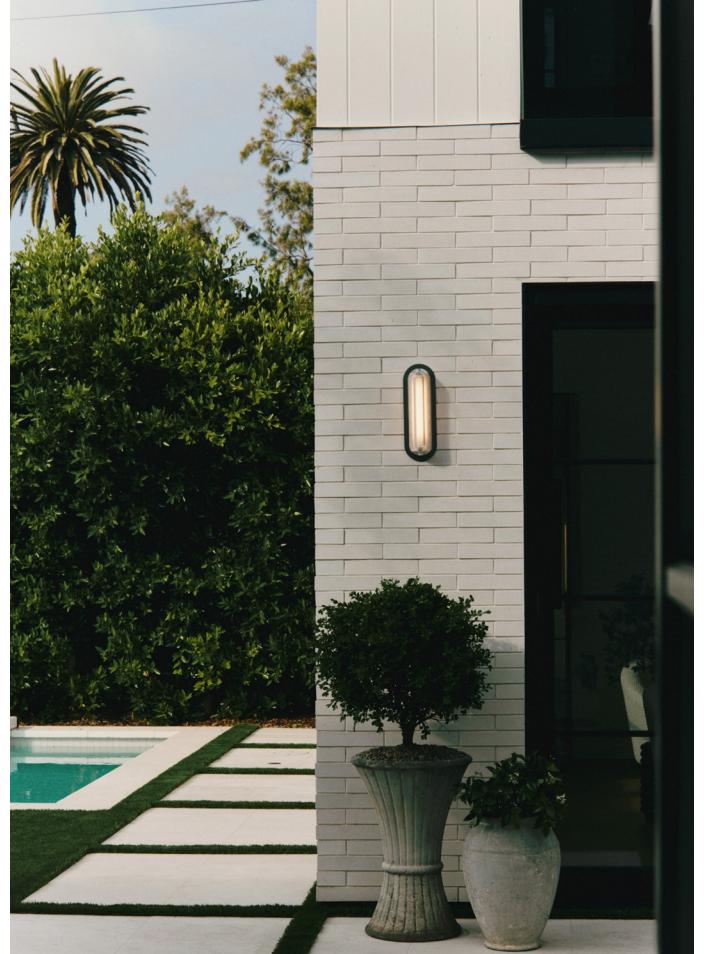
Create beautiful spaces indoors and out, with selections that celebrate texture, natural materials, and architectural shapes.

## LODES Light Fantastic

The family-owned, contemporary lighting brand **Lodes** introduces their first outdoor collection, a collaboration with designer Patrick Norguet. The collection is designed to create a fluid transition between indoor and outdoor spaces, with fixtures that are easily adaptable to a variety of settings, including terraces, pergolas, gardens, and more. Focus, shown here, is inspired by projector lights and camera lenses.

## TUUCI Lounge Life

The Marquesa Sun Lounge, designed by Dougan Clarke for **Tuuci**, embodies sophisticated craftsmanship through their trademarked Aluma-Forge Cold-Weld Construction—a cutting-edge fusion of aluminum, stainless steel, and polymer that creates a sleek, corrosion-resistant framework built to endure. Thoughtfully detailed with bespoke bezel, bar, and button trim finishes, each lounge presents a tailored aesthetic that feels both artisanal and architectural.



## HENNEPIN MADE Night Light

**Hennepin Made** introduces the Emerson sconce, named for the poet and transcendentalist Ralph Waldo Emerson. This is the first wet-rated offering from the Minneapolis-based artisanal lighting brand, and it is equally at home either indoors or outside. Perfect for a spa or an outdoor deck, the Emerson is an elegant way to shed light on any subject.



## FERMOB Made in the Shade

**Fermob** is known for their iconic bistro chairs, but that is not all that the French furniture brand has to offer. Their newest collection includes comfortable sun loungers, sofas, armchairs, and accent pieces, as well as a collection of sunshades that strike the perfect note between form and function. The Borée parasol is covered in weatherproof canvas and is fully adjustable.

## RODA/MISSONI Graphic Design

**Roda** and **Missoni** come together to create a new collection of textiles that combine graphic motifs and chromatic variants that shift between delicate neutrals and deep blues, bright reds, and intense greens. Missoni's graphic and iconic jacquard designs embellish some of Roda's most popular furniture designs, creating a whole new way to enjoy the outdoors.



## PERENNIALS AND SUTHERLAND Form and Function

**Perennials and Sutherland** by Vincent Van Duysen is the brand's newest collection, and includes outdoor furniture, luxury wallcoverings, and 100% solution-dyed acrylic fabrics and rugs. Van Duysen created six new fabrics evocative of his signature style: Parquet, Weathered Stripe, Ardennes, Waffle, Brickwork, and Antwerp, and he rounds out his Perennials debut with four new performance rugs, including Passer, Lignes, Brickwork, and Waffle.

## FRIGERIO Basket Case

Italian brand **Frigerio** introduces a new collection with designer Federica Biasi. The Sam family consists of a small table, server, and a pouf, with a closed wicker woven structure and a soft, organic silhouette. The small table and server have asymmetrical lacquered tops, making them a perfect place to rest an aperitivo.



## OFFICINE GULLO Dine Divine

**Officine Gullo** unveils their outdoor kitchen, featuring a unit with side-by-side barbeques, and a bar island with cantilevered snack counter, integrated sink, and ice bucket. The unit is designed in the brand's Whispering Waves blue in a matte finish, which contrasts with sparkling chrome details.



## DEDON Tranquility Base

**Dedon**'s Nuo armchair, by Jean-Marie Massaud, is a revival of the brand's iconic Seashell collection. The collection includes an armchair, lounge chair, barstool, and counter height barstool, and each piece is designed to gently envelop the body, invoking a sense of security and tranquility akin to a seashell's embrace.



## WOODARD Sophisticated Lady

**Woodard**'s Eve is a handcrafted blend of artistry and sophistication. Its two-tone rope weave, wrapped around a sleek aluminum frame, creates an elegant ombre effect, adding depth and texture. The angled legs nod to midcentury design while maintaining a clean, modern look. Eve is available in two finishes—oyster with ash and linen rope, or espresso with slate and umber rope—and features custom cushions in 150 fabric options.





# INSPIRATION IN THE WILD

The power of an unstoppable force meeting an immovable object results in details that appear surprisingly delicate. Text by Deborah L. Martin and Paul Hagen



Where river-carved ravines  
inspire daring decor: the

# TEXTURES

of Canyonlands

In Southeastern Utah—about a half hour from the town of Moab—is a place that is emblematic of the duality of nature's power. Canyonlands National Park is where the Colorado and Green rivers converge. It's the result of the sheer power of water over time carving a path through the solid stone. And yet, look at the ornate details that are left when these rushing waters recede: patterns have been pressed into rock, as delicate as lace. And the colors beneath the earth revealed as their own sort of shimmering rainbow.

This juxtaposition of powerful gestures and intricate details is also a recipe for stirring home design. Bomma's Fragments lighting collection could pass for solid polished stone, though it is composed of breakable glass. Fixtures from Dornbracht Atelier may appear carved from the walls of Canyonlands, but are actually encased in what was once delicate eggshell. A chair from Verellen combines a powerful pattern with a shape that offers a soft embrace. Canyonlands colors also run the gamut: translating into Alkemis paint colors from the earthy Hair of the Dog to the ephemeral Nothing but Flowers.

And, of course, the ultimate way to bring such beauty into your home is with stone. Buechel Stone's Chilton Rustic captures all the canyon colors—including rich reds and yellows, but also cooler notes of charcoal. Meanwhile, Ginger Sands Castle Rock stays more in the neutrals zone—while still offering variations from beige to blush. Natural stone's innate combination of strength and malleability makes it a material that can be beautifully incorporated with a wide swathe of styles.

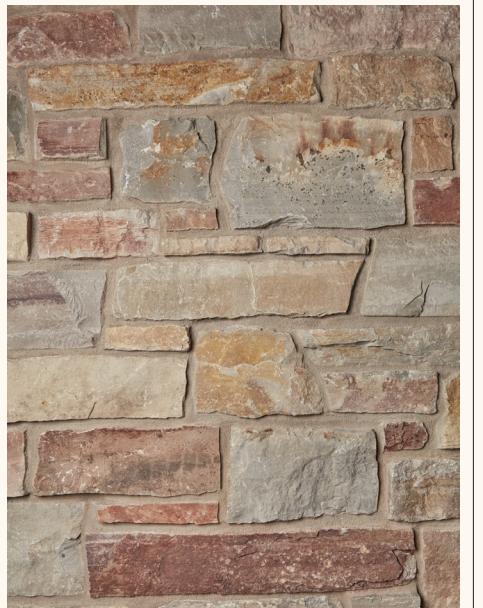


LEFT The warm embrace of Verellen's Otis Club chair is a study in nubby texture.

RIGHT Bomma's Fragments collection uses upcycled glass shards to mimic natural color and light.

MIDDLE LEFT Buechel Stone's Chilton Rustic combines neutrals with a rosy glow.

MIDDLE RIGHT The Boheme Lantern casts textural shadows. From JANUS et Cie.



RIGHT Alkemis paints are formulated using sustainable raw materials and clear quartz with proprietary mixes of artist-quality pigments and earthen minerals to create a high-performing interior paint that supports a holistic lifestyle. Colors, from left to right: Pampelmousse, Nothing but Flowers, Hortensia, Hendrix



# TONE

The rich, rusty hues of Canyonlands provide endless inspiration.

**RIGHT** Dornbracht Atelier allows the ultimate in customization, with everything from leather to velvet to natural materials like minerals and even eggshells, shown here.

**BELOW LEFT** Buechel Stone's Ginger Sands Castle Rock.

**BELOW RIGHT** Frattini Stripe, from Momentum Textiles & Wallcoverings, echoes the intense palette of Canyonlands.



**RIGHT** Alkemis specializes in paint colors that bring the natural world into any space. Colors, from left to right: Live Wire, Mesopotamia, New Kind of Kick, Hair of the Dog.



At a size of more than 170,000 football fields, Canyonlands National Park has plenty of room to offer inspiration.

## Great Divides

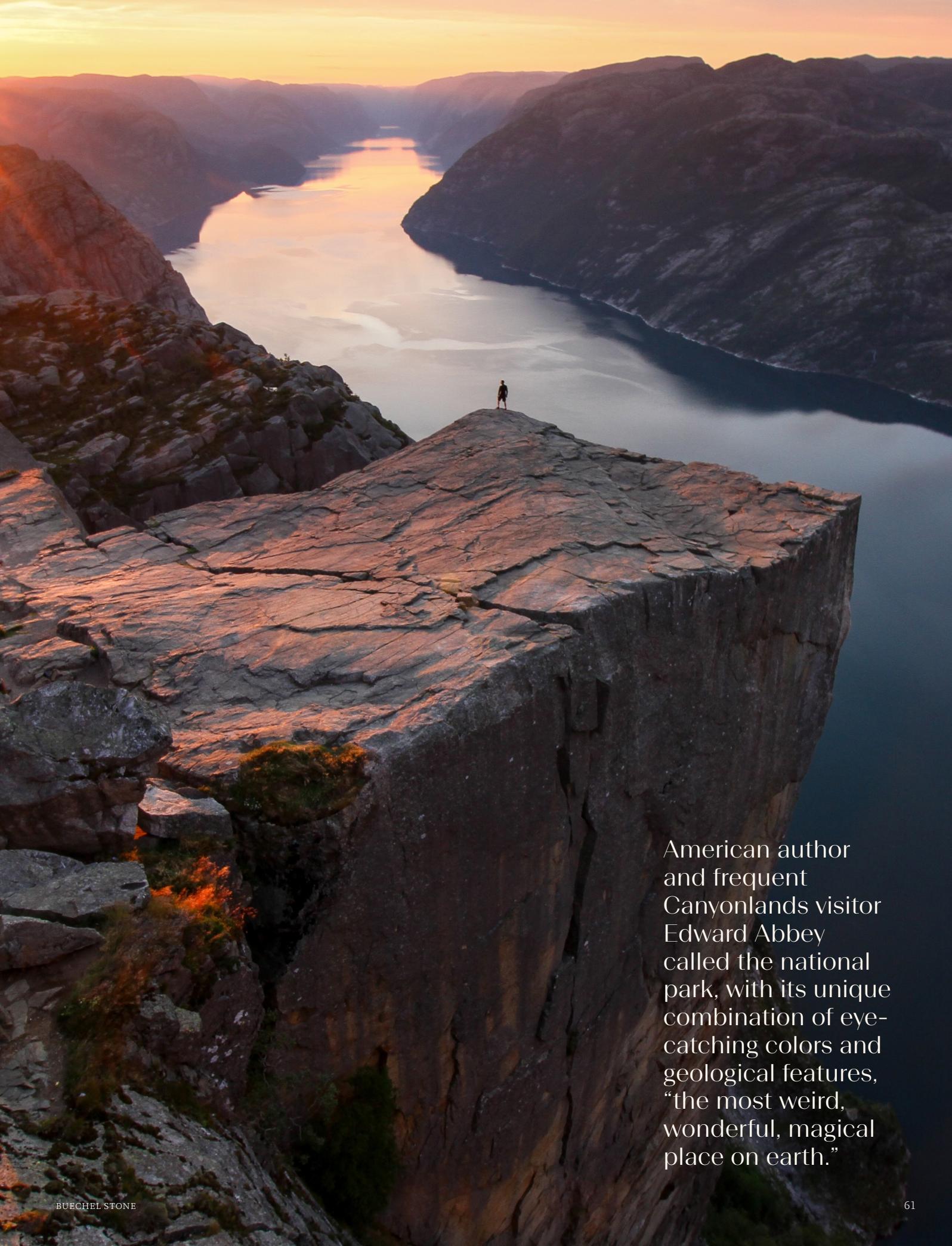
The Green and Colorado rivers divide Canyonlands into three main land areas. North is "Island in the Sky" with 1,000-foot-high clifftop views of the terrain below. Southeast is "The Needles" with its colorful spires. Meanwhile, to the west, "The Maze" is the park's most remote and challenging district to traverse.

## Movies That Rock

Canyonlands has welcomed its share of screen stars—including Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis playing the high-flying title characters of *Thelma and Louise* and James Franco as a mountaineer with a dilemma in *127 Hours*.

## Mystery Tour

There is a natural order to most of the Canyonlands topography—except for an area roughly three miles across called "Upheaval Dome". Scientists are uncertain whether it was formed by salt pushed up from under the earth or a meteorite crashing from above.



American author and frequent Canyonlands visitor Edward Abbey called the national park, with its unique combination of eye-catching colors and geological features, "the most weird, wonderful, magical place on earth."



## Our Artisans

Twelve tons of stone may hang in the air, but it is our artisans who give it direction. With each block lifted and every stone cut, these craftspeople reveal the stone's hidden beauty.

Every hand, every tool, every step forward adds value, making each project they touch more than the sum of its parts. We are creating a story in stone that will remain our legacy: bold, enduring, and unforgettable.

PHOTO BY JACOB HAND

BUECHEL  
STONE



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