

## BUILDING HARMONY WITH STONE

AN OUTDOOR DESIGN BLENDS COLORS AND TEXTURES WITH GRANITE, LIMESTONE AND MARBLE

# SPACES AND CURVES

The backyard of interior stylist Sara Raak's Virginia home was ripe for renovation. She wanted to replace old and uninspired brick pavers that dominated her outdoor space with a patio that would be a representation of her "out of the box" approach to design.

This project includes a fascinating use of four natural stones from Polycor Hardscapes and Masonry's portfolio to visually layer the patio, — a concept that spoke to her love of color and texture. A curved layout creates a series of outdoor living zones highlighted by the different combinations of stones, sizes and patterns.









The separate zones are for the fire pit, dining room and kitchen. Two connecting pergolas cover the dining and outdoor kitchen areas.

CAROLINA CORAL™ granite was used for the pavers; INDIANA LIMESTONE
- FULL COLOR BLEND™ Berkshire™
thin-veneer with split face for the fire pit wall, pergola walls and outdoor kitchen;
WOODBURY GRAY™ granite for the all of the caps; and GEORGIA MARBLE - PEARL GREY™ for the countertops.

#### HISTORY RIGHT AT HOME

It was important to Raak that her backyard display a sense of history — her home, after all, is in Mount Vernon on George Washington's original farm. Raak's proximity to Washington, D.C., with its many stone monuments and the history of her own property, would be the starting point for the project.

All of the Polycor stones used for the project come from domestic quarries that built American history such as the U.S. Capitol Building, the Lincoln Memorial, National Cathedral and so many more buildings that play a part in our American history.

Download the Polycor Hardscapes & Masonry Brochure.

DOWNLOAD THE BROCHURE >





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"When people think of outdoor spaces they think of the obvious brick, concrete pavers and stamped cement. I don't think everyone thinks of natural stones. They think those are options for things you see in a museum or monument — but as you can see here, they certainly go beyond that."

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**SARA RAAK** 

## A MIX OF COLOR AND TEXTURE

Raak uses color and texture, deftly layered, in all her projects. When she embarked on a redo of her backyard patio, she envisioned an extension of her colorful living room inside the home.

She beautifully harmonized the stones with furniture and accessories that also spoke to the color and sustainability which are so important to her. Locally quarried Polycor natural stone is a truly sustainable building material. It is made by the earth and for the earth, with no added chemicals or artificial ingredients — just as nature intended.





#### BREAKING THE NORMS

Raak's whimsical vision of soft, curved spaces was ambitious, with its own set of challenges. It required a contractor who was equally as visionary, and who possessed a skill set that went beyond dry-setting pavers.

CSM Design, headed by Luis Figueroa, brought the vision to life, from plan to final installation. Forms were carefully set up for poured concrete slabs as a base for the stonework.





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"The radial space, and the curved delineations change the way people are moved through the space. It's much more organic, more relaxed and yet the sense of separate spaces is fully achieved."

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**LUIS FIGUEROA** 

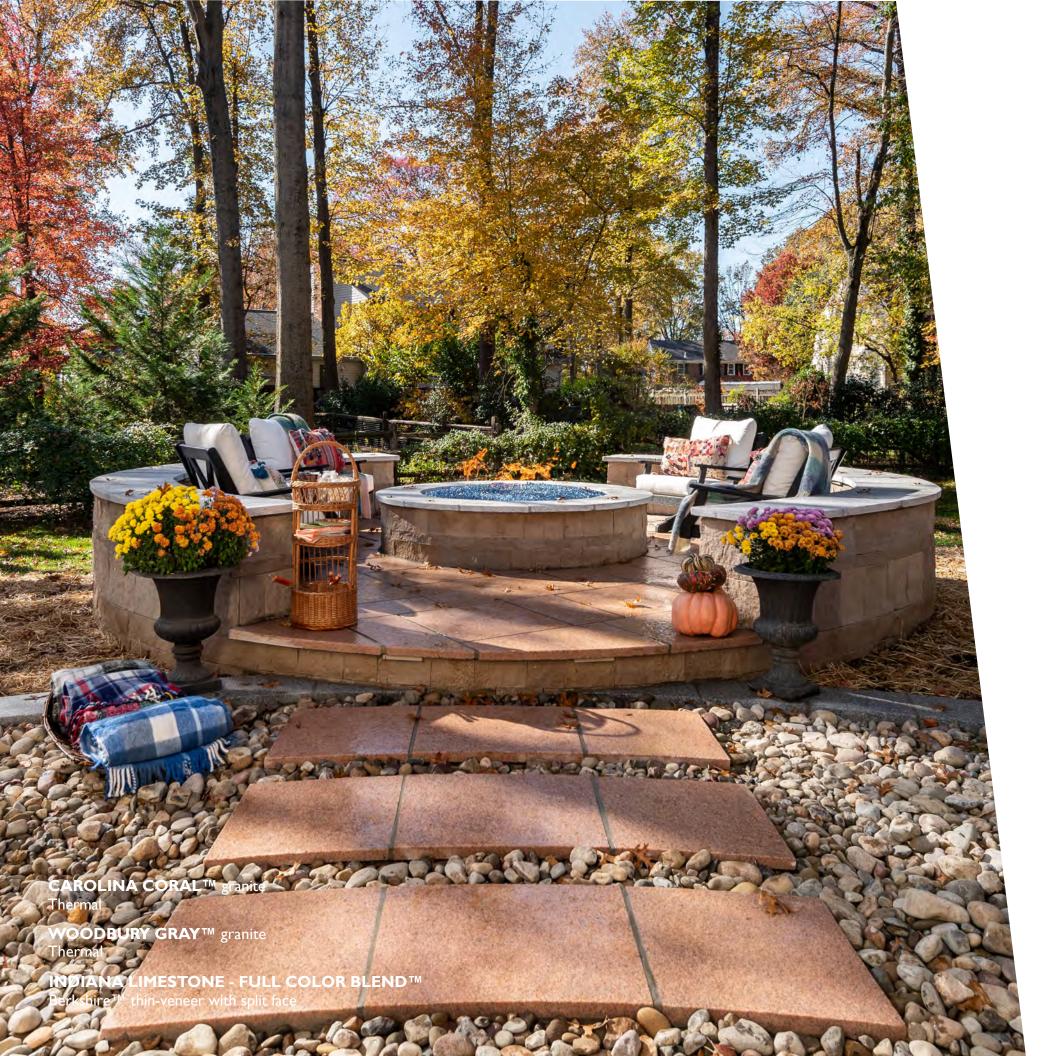
Figueroa worked with Raak to come up with the circular, clock-inspired plan using drones to visualize the curves.

CSM Design did all the masonry work, constructed the pergolas, installed the gas line fire pit, did the electrical, and built the kitchen.

The interlocking pergolas enhance the outdoor room concept, lending a sense of enclosure to the kitchen and bar area. Like walking through the interior of a home, the different living zones unfold as you move through spaces.







Like ripples in water, intersecting bands of granite pavers, edging and curved walls radiate outwards from the gas fire pit centerpoint creating a zen-like effect.

Raak says she and her husband can admire the beautiful stonework design from a magnificent aerial view of the patio from their master bedroom windows.

### SET THE STAGE

From the organic look of winding walkways to the clean lines of formal patios, natural stone sets the stage for outdoor living designs.

Download the paver installation guide to see how you can use Polycor's pavers for your next project.

GET THE INSTALLATION GUIDE >



### STONES INTHE PROJECT



INDIANA LIMESTONE - FULL COLOR BLEND™

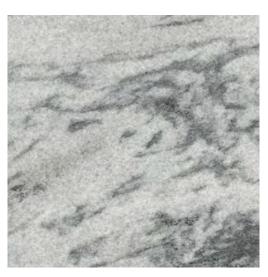
Berkshire™ thin-veneer with split face





**WOODBURY GRAY™** granite Thermal

O Woodbury, VT, USA



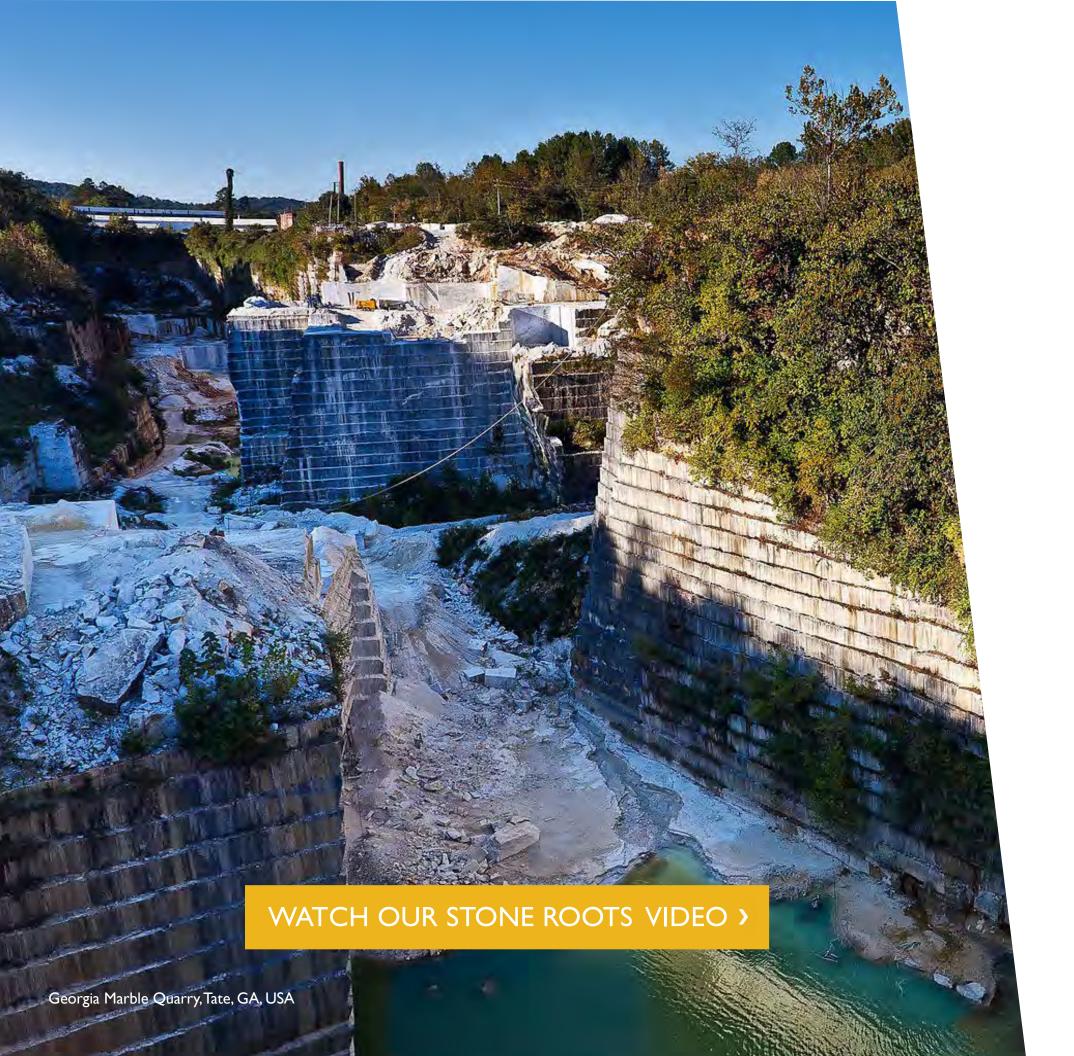
GEORGIA MARBLE - PEARL GREY™
Honed

Tate, GA, USA



**CAROLINA CORAL™** granite Thermal

Salisbury, NC, USA



### OUR STONE ROOTS

Natural stone from our iconic North
American quarries have been used to build
American history for over a century. From
the National Cathedral to the Empire State
Building, the Pentagon and your own backyard
where you gather with friends and family, our
communities were built with Polycor's local
stone that we continue to benefit from today.

### MAKE IT YOURS

Captivated by this outdoor living space and inspired for your next project?

See how you can use Polycor stone in other applications — inside as well as outside.

Download the Residential Brochure for more inspiration and ideas from Polycor.

GET THE RESIDENTIAL BROCHURE >



# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

#### **HOW-TO VIDEOS**



HOW TO INSTALL A GRANITE SLAB PAVER PATIO IN HALF THE TIME WITH EZ BASE



HOW TO BUILD A DRY-STACK LOOK STONE WALL USING POLYCOR GARDEN WALL PRODUCTS



UPGRADE YOUR OUTDOOR LIGHTING: HOW TO INSTALL A GRANITE LAMP POST



HOW TO BUILD A NATURAL STONE PILLAR ONTO A GARDEN WALL

#### **PRODUCT SHEETS**



#### **INSTALLATION GUIDE**





OUR STONE.
YOUR IDEAS.

