



THE SOAPSTONE DESIGN INSPIRATION GALLERY



POLYCOR



RUSTIC MODERN

Treatment: natural

Finish: honed

When Chef Arnaud Marchand of Chez Boulay in Quebec set out to build a home kitchen for his young family, it needed to be warm, functional, dynamic and beautiful – and resonate with the scenic environment of the Canadian woods.

For the island he chose an extra large slab of honed Alberene Soapstone with white veining as both a practical and aesthetic choice. The chef wanted a strong surface that could handle a hot cast iron pot, but at the same time he didn't want a uniform engineered surface. Marchand left it untreated for a natural look and says he appreciates the patina it develops like an old world European kitchen. "We have a story in the stone," he said.





DRAMATIC MONOCHROMATIC

Treatment: wax

Finish: honed

Simple materials and a monochromatic palette ground all Kirsten Grove designs. For her own kitchen the interior stylist, blogger and author said she was wanted her space to be “dark and moody”. She opted to wax her soapstone countertops to a deep black as the foundation for her design and highlighted a dramatic vein in the waterfall feature.

“The colors and textures are just so intriguing to me,” Grove said. “And the cabinets and counters give it that dramatic look that I wanted.”





EUROPEAN VIBES

Treatment: wax

Finish: antiqued

For her personal kitchen interior stylist and blogger Anissa Zajac wanted to feel like she was in the heart of a European home with warm, touchable surfaces that would wear over time.

The focal point of her space is a soapstone backsplash waxed to a rich, deep blue black color. Soapstone countertops flanking the cooktop top feature delicate white veining revealed upon waxing. The black stone is a dramatic backdrop to the island in the center of the kitchen topped with White Cherokee Marble quarried in Georgia.

“I really wanted soapstone in our new kitchen because the color along with the veining is so different than your similar black materials,” Zajac said.





INDUSTRIAL CHIC

Treatment: natural

Finish: honed

This Manhattan loft gets its character from industrial details like exposed beams, solid timber, wrought iron and welded steel. But it's soul comes from the warm, organic characteristics of the marble backsplashes and untreated soapstone countertops. The soft blue grey color and touchable, velvety feel of the honed countertops are a welcome relief from the hard edges of the urban elements in the space. The design also incorporates varying stone thicknesses for enhanced interest. The island is 5 cm thick and perimeters are 3 cm.





CARVED DETAILS

Applications: carved sink, built-in drainboard

Soapstone is non-porous, stain resistant and soft enough to be carved allowing the designer of this country kitchen (above photo) to add modern farmhouse details like a sink carved from a single block of soapstone. The natural, honed soapstone countertop also features a low profile carved drainboard.

Here (photo right) a carved drain board maintains the minimalist look of this waxed soapstone kitchen with white apron sink. The designer integrated a soapstone backsplash and window sill for a continuous look. Porcelain accents on the fixtures and the black and white color scheme give this space a retro vibe.





Handmade Home

TWO TONE TRANSITIONAL

Treatment: wax

Finish: antiqued

Designer and homeowners Jamin and Ashley of The Handmade Home waited years to get the “big kid” soapstone kitchen they always wanted. Their dream space needed to have classic details, timeless materials and contrast to keep it interesting.

A prominent white vein runs the length of this massive, full slab soapstone island and ties the black stone to the contrasting white cabinetry. Perimeter counters feature White Cherokee Marble.

“These stones bring in a contrast and provide balance in the space. I love the way that the real stones come together to create something inviting and warm and natural. It makes the kitchen interesting and personal. The contrast just ups the anté and truly enhances the beauty,” Jamin said.





EDGES

Options for contemporary and traditional designs

All edge treatments are possible with soapstone, but round overs are the most popular for their durability.

Previous image

Edge: straight eased edge

Finish: honed and waxed

Thickness: 3 cm

The crisp edge gives a modern update to the simple clean design of this black and white kitchen.

This page

Edge: $\frac{3}{8}$ " round over

Finish: honed and waxed

Thickness: 3 cm

Look: The softer rounded edge works well with the traditional cup hardware on this cabinetry.





WARM RETREAT

Treatment: wax and natural Application: cut to size tiles

This modern bathroom incorporates reclaimed woods in the ceiling, shelving, and cabinetry, which is topped with an enhanced soapstone countertop and sink. Extra long tiles create a modern linear contrast to the rustic elements.





A traditional bathroom keeps a crisp tuxedo palette with white paneling and enhanced soapstone tub surround, floor and wall tiles. Prominent veining brings interest and character to the small vanity.

Soapstone is an ideal material for bathrooms because it remains the temperature of the room and it conducts heat so it's great for heated floors. (It's naturally slip resistant too.) Tiles are cut to size so any dimension is possible for floors and walls.

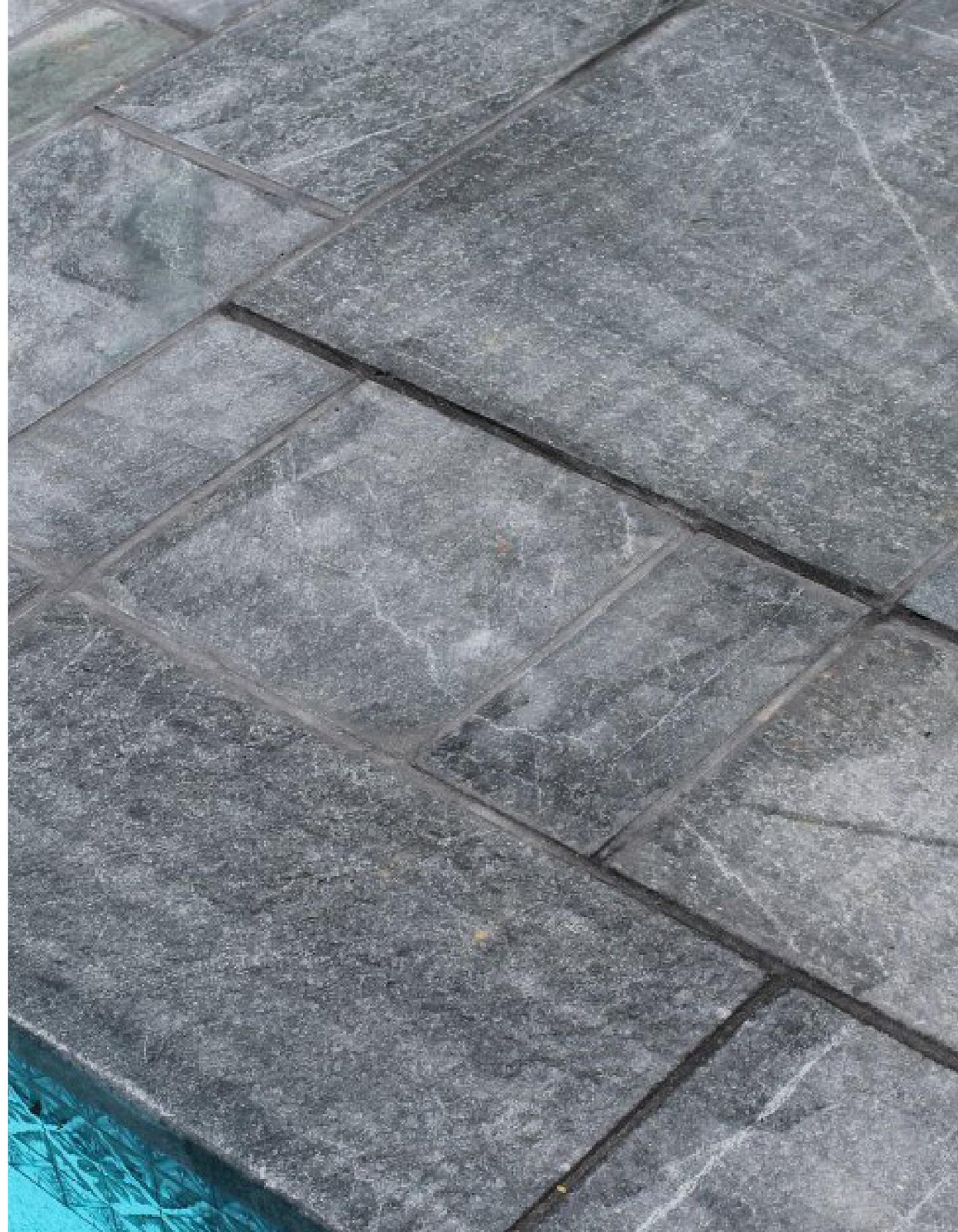




POOLSIDE PATIO

Treatment: natural Application: cut to size pattern pavers

This pool surround combines natural elements and classical design to create a sophisticated and serene outdoor space. Irregular sized natural soapstone pavers elevate the look further. The untreated stone has a soft gray appearance and is naturally slip resistant. These pavers have an antiqued finish (also known as brushed or leathered) for enhanced underfoot texture.



Soapstone is an historic building material that's making a comeback in interiors from country to contemporary. The appeal seems to be its unique ability to take on different looks with treatment and its tendency to wear like a great pair of jeans.

And if the look doesn't get you the velvety smooth texture will.

It's hard to understand how this stone that feels like baby powder could be so durable, but soapstone is actually dense and never absorbs.

If you work with granite or marble counters you know that sealing is essential for stain resistance.

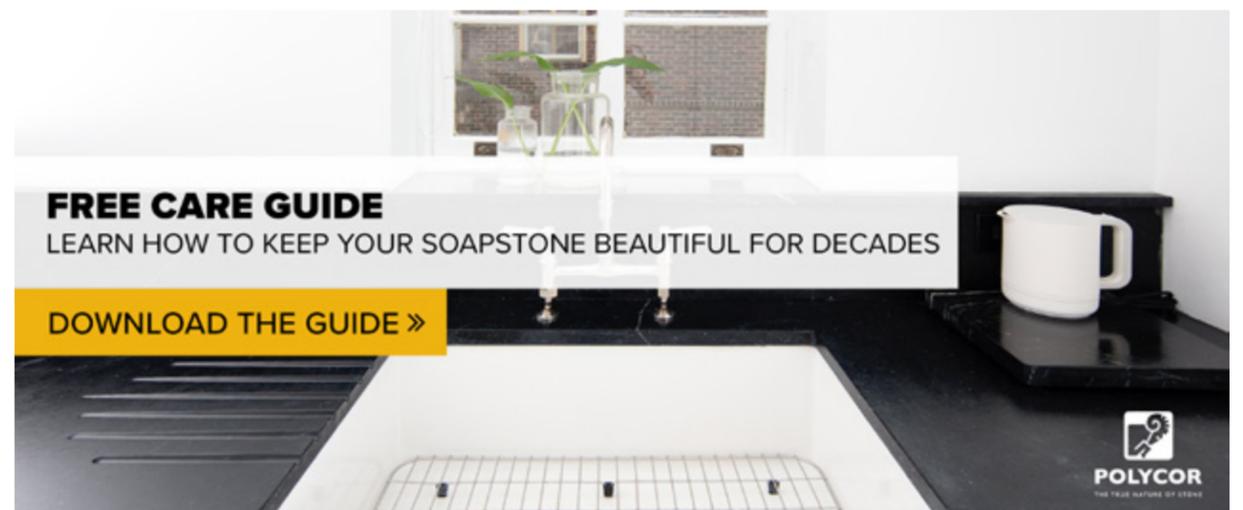
Not true for soapstone.

Even in its natural state soapstone doesn't stain and never needs a sealer. You can't hurt it with things like lemon juice (can't do that with marble) and even oil doesn't leave a permanent mark.

Leave it natural if you enjoy its neutral blue grey tonality or wax it for a more dramatic look.

Either way your clients won't be able to keep their hands off of it.

You've designed with soapstone. Now learn how to care for it.





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