



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Artisan Group Member Is the first in Houston to Achieve the Coveted Marble Institute of America Accreditation**

*Stone Store has become the First Stone Fabrication Shop in Houston to be Accredited Through the (MIA).*

HOUSTON (July 20, 2010) — Artisan Group member Stone Store is the first stone fabricator in Houston to be Marble Institute of America Accredited. Accredited Natural Stone Fabricators represent the best companies that work on residential and commercial stone projects. Stone Store specializes in residential remodels as well as custom residences. Stone Store is a member of The Marble Institute of America, The Better Business Bureau, Greater Houston Builders Association, The Artisan Group, National Association of Home Builders and The National Kitchen and Bath Association.

Currently, only 40 Natural Stone Fabricators have achieved accreditation in the United States Stone Store is second in Texas and the first fabricator in Houston to achieve this recognition. Garen Distelhorst, the Special Initiatives Director at the MIA said, “Stone Store is now able to proudly display the accreditation logo, which symbolizes that they are among the finest in the natural stone industry with respect to craftsmanship, safety, and business practices.”

To become an Accredited Natural Stone Fabricator by the MIA, a company must have successfully completed three phases of application. Phase one was the completion of a lengthy application that required the applicant company to provide various documents and references which ensure that the company is in compliance with the 10 standards of accreditation as laid out by the MIA Accreditation Commission. Phase two required the company’s qualifying agent (the designated company representative responsible for filing and maintaining accreditation records for the applicant company) to pass a 200 question multiple choice test. The exam tested the applicant’s knowledge and application of material usage, installation, fabrication, restoration, care and maintenance, administration, legal/contracts, and jobsite and shop safety. The third phase was a comprehensive site visit, which included a facility review, document review, and one or more installation site visits.

For over 60 years the Marble Institute of America has been the world's leading information resource and advocate for the natural dimension stone industry. MIA members include marble, granite, limestone, sandstone, and other natural stone producers and quarriers, fabricators, installers, distributors, and contractors around the world. The purpose of the MIA’s accreditation program is to provide excellence in the natural stone industry and recognize companies demonstrating compliance with quality standards, so that the public values, has access to, and benefits from consistent, competent, and safe fabrication, installation and maintenance of natural stone.

### **Stone Store**

Established in 2004, Stone Store is the premier countertop fabrication facility in Houston, and the only area fabricator offering Artisan Stone Collection granite with a lifetime warranty. From residential remodels to high end custom homes, Stone Store has partnered with Houston’s most respectable clients and finest home builders. Stone Store’s 20,000-square-foot fabrication facility and showroom employs true stone artisans who fabricate natural stone products, quartz surfacing and recycled Vetrazzo and IceStone. Stone Store only uses in-house installation teams, guaranteeing a great countertop installation experience. For more information, visit the showroom at 11850 Hempstead Rd. Suite no. 230, in Houston, call 713-476-9006 or visit [www.stonestore.net](http://www.stonestore.net).

## **Artisan Group™**

Artisan Group is the premier network of stone fabricators in North America. All Artisan Group members have achieved, or have begun the process to achieve full accreditation with the Marble Institute of America. The group is among the first granite fabricators in the world to be working towards this distinction. The Artisan Group's extensive network allows the organization to offer the world's best granite from the best sources around the globe. Utilizing the most technically advanced, automated shops in the industry, highly skilled craftsmen ensure that each and every installation meets exacting standards. From classic to exotic, it offers the most extensive array of color choices in the industry, and with short lead times and competitive pricing, Artisan Group granite countertops are closer than one might expect. For more information, visit [www.artisan-collection.com](http://www.artisan-collection.com).

## **About the MIA**

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