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## Artisan Group Member first in New York to achieve the coveted Marble Institute of America Accreditation

*Solid Surfaces, Inc. in Rochester has just become New York's First Stone Fabrication Shop to be Accredited Through the (MIA).*

ROCHESTER – (March 8, 2010) – Solid Surfaces owner and Artisan Group member, Mark Makowski, is the first stone fabricator in New York to become Marble Institute of America (MIA) accredited. Accredited natural stone fabricators represent the finest companies in the country that work on residential and commercial stone projects. Currently, only 39 fabricators have achieved accreditation, 15 of which are Artisan Group members.

“Solid Surfaces, Inc. can now proudly display the accreditation logo, which symbolizes that it is among the finest in the natural stone industry with respect to craftsmanship, safety, and business practices,” says Garen Distelhorst, the Accreditation Manager at the MIA.

To become an Accredited Natural Stone Fabricator by the MIA, a company must have successfully completed three phases of application. Phase one requires numerous documents and references to ensure the company is in compliance with the 10 standards of accreditation as laid out by the MIA Accreditation Commission. Phase two requires the applicant to pass a five hour, 200 question exam which tests their knowledge of stone fabrication, restoration, maintenance, installation and stone material overall. The third phase is a comprehensive site visit, which includes a facility review as well as actual installations.

“Solid Surfaces’ expertise and innovative technology allows kitchen and bath designers the freedom to concentrate on the sale of their remodeling or building projects while we concentrate on the fabrication,” says Mark Makowski, President of Solid Surfaces, Inc. “In addition, our commitment to 100% customer satisfaction has made it possible for us to maintain those business relationships for over twenty five years.”

### **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 toward 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 insure 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).