

Category: 8 – Best Building Project – Specialty Contractor Non-MEP (Under \$2 Million)

Contractor: The Gallegos Corporation

Project Name: Private Residence, Aspen, CO

We were contacted by one of our top clients about a new project in Aspen, Colorado, where one of the main design features and aesthetic focus was to be the stone veneer, both interior and exterior. Stone was not just to be an accent material, but the main visual and perceived structural element to create a timeless architectural composition. And to further the endeavor, the client was very specific in their requests: all veneers and dimensional stone must be locally sourced and sustainably quarried. They contacted us because we have a fabrication facility and have the capabilities of sourcing materials that would fit the owner's requests. They also requested we look globally just in case the local material was unacceptable, something we do as a normal part of our pursuit of stone.

The design called for a moss rock veneer with stone trim around all openings. Sourcing the moss rock was fairly simple; we have several local quarries we could use; the problem was with the trim pieces. Moss rock is not a material that lends itself to any sort of fabrication, so we needed a dimensional material for the trim.

We selected Colorado Buff sandstone for the trim, the buff body was a good contrast to the moss rock and it is a stone that can be cut to size. We have worked with this stone for over 50 years and know the issues around the fabrication process and let the client know. One main concern with any sedimentary stones is the fear of getting close to completing the fabrication process on a piece of stone and hitting what is known as a "dry" layer in the stone. This is an area in the stone between sedimentary layers that has not solidified, or cemented, it is still granular and causes the stone to fail during fabrication. The dry can also lead to future stone failure as water penetrates these dries and leads to freeze/thaw issues.

To address these concerns, we use an epoxy injection into the cracks to help solidify the material and avoid any future failures as we come across these dries during fabrication.

In addition to sourcing local materials for the stone veneer, the client also wanted sustainable materials for their countertops and bathrooms. Many of the interior stones were either reclaimed materials or were sourced from Colorado quarries – Colorado Yule was used extensively.

We sourced tiles from reclamation projects in Europe and Asia for use in the Master Bath and Front entry areas. For many of the countertops, the owner's Interior Designer spent many hours looking through our remnants and used several remnants in the residence.

The residence is a spectacular and dramatic nod to stone masonry, something the owner, architect, and builder can be proud of and, for the most part, was built with the environment in mind.









