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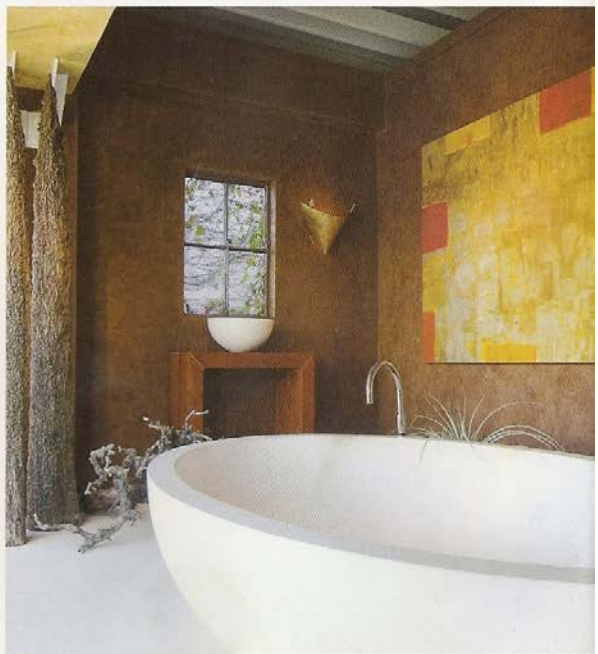


spaceshops

"Sustainability matters to me. I create with a minimum amount of materials because I believe it's fundamental to save our natural resources."



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PUTTING IT IN STONE

OLIVIER MORANGE'S
STONE CREATIONS MELD
CONTEMPORARY LIVING
WITH THE BOUNTIFUL
INTEGRITY OF NATURE

By Anna Curtis

If you've recently lived through a well-planned and supremely executed interior renovation, you're not going to want to see the organic designs created by LivinStone. The square stone basins and modern half-egg bathtubs will have you seriously rethinking your months-long search for the perfect furniture to highlight natural form in a modern setting. Perhaps it's because owner Olivier Morange's dexterous use of rare limestone from Italy and slate from quarries in Brazil, Africa and India breathes function into earthen form, bringing an uncomplicated harmony to nature and design. ▷



The French-born Morange didn't know he wanted to work with stone when he began designing interiors 20 years ago, but he was inexorably drawn to it. "Nature is my inspirational source," he says simply. "Organic is the essence of everything—every sculpture, form or material I choose, as well as every idea for use of space, brings me back to the organic." After spending the better part of the last two decades roaming the globe, remodeling 14th-century manors and leading lavish interior design projects throughout Paris, Tokyo and Sydney, he went on to conquer commercial design with notable restaurants like 14th Wall Street Club in Manhattan and Les Foudres in Brussels.

Much of Morange's work pays homage, he says, to the "history and myth of Australia and California cultures" in all of their nature-loving, architecturally prolific ways of life. "I lived and worked in Australia, because when they build they put a lot of thought into design in relation to their environments—topography, ecology, working with nature not against it," says Morange. "There was a new wave of architects emerging during the '80s in Australia, so I was able to work with talented minds willing to stretch the boundaries of conventional design."



When he was ready to reemerge from down under, he thought California—Los Angeles, to be exact—would have a similar architectural climate along with a social set that represented the best in design from a host of countries he loved. In 2005, Morange and his wife, Anne Marteville, opened LivinStone in Los Angeles with business partners Dominique and Christian De Rivel. The palatial showroom, with its unique waterfall fountains, low-sitting furniture and Zen garden masterpieces, has very naturally attracted a steady stream of clientele ever since.

"People come here with a desire to transform their living space," Morange says. "Stone has such a sense of permanence and history to it. I like knowing my designs will endure time and add beauty to someone's home for possibly generations to come." □

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