

Gulf Coast Countertops Scores at Superdome

Going into the first phase of enhancements at the Louisiana Superdome Gulf Coast Countertops knew that a demanding project timeline left no margin for errors. With a major event scheduled four days after the proposed completion date, the timeline had to be met, without exception. With a firm grasp of the timeline, Gulf Coast Countertops partnered with VT Stone Surfaces to fabricate the granite and quartz surfaces for the project.

Having worked with VT Stone Surfaces on many quartz and granite jobs over the course of 3 years, Gulf Coast Countertops knew they could rely on VT for accurate and timely fabrication. The first phase of the Superdome project encompassed three areas; Private Suites, Restrooms, and the New Orleans Saints Locker Rooms. Gulf Coast Countertops furnished VT Industries with extremely accurate digital templates for the job, ensuring a perfect fit.

PRIVATE SUITES

Sixteen new private suites were furnished with custom cabinets on which Absolute Black granite countertops were installed. The tops were detailed with a 2cm eased edge, 8 inch backsplash, 9 inch trash ring and under-mount sink applications. The countertops totaled 260 linear feet. The suites were also equipped with 175 linear feet of Absolute Black granite drink rails with a 2 cm eased edge and 1-3/4 inch backsplash.

RESTROOMS

Installed in a total of twenty men's and women's restrooms adjacent to the suites were Silestone® Grey



Private suites furnished with custom cabinets on which Absolute Black 2cm granite countertops were installed with an eased edge.

Expo vanity tops. The tops had a 4 inch backsplash, 4 3/4 inch front apron, and were all fitted with under-mount sinks. The vanities in the restrooms totaled 80 linear feet.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS LOCKER ROOM

Installed in the locker room of the New Orleans Saints was a Zodiac® Galaxy Black vanity tops measuring 20 linear feet with a 2 cm eased edge, a 4 inch backsplash, and 4-3/4 inch front apron. There were seven under-mount sinks. Additionally, there was a 15 linear foot cabinet top in the same material.

Throughout the entire process, Gulf Coast Countertops were frequently singled out at weekly progress meetings for being on top of their game. "Gulf Coast Countertops and VT Stone Surfaces worked as a team to seamlessly fabricate and install the Superdome job," explains Jody Blanchard of Gulf Coast Countertops.



Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana



New Orleans Saints locker room, featuring the Zodiac® Galaxy Black vanity and countertops.

Facing Faucet Facts, Part II



By Jason Nottestad
National Customer Service
Manager, VT Stone Surfaces

Another issue is to be keenly aware of where the water flow from the faucet hits the bottom of the sink. If the stream of water hits right on top of the drain, it's possible for the homeowner to experience "splash up" whenever they turn on the spout. And, water hitting a flat surface can bounce up and makes a mess on the counter every time.

This can be particularly frustrating with a bathroom vanity Ms. Jones uses to get ready in the morning. Water splashing everywhere at the flip of a handle it not going to give your customer a warm and fuzzy feeling about her counter. This is particularly important when you are dealing with taller faucets, as the falling water is particularly prone to splashing up when it has a nice head start.

When you've got the faucet at the jobsite when templating, it's much easier to figure out how to make the water hit slightly in front of or behind the flat of the drain. You'll run into the same situation with faucets that come out of the wall instead of the countertop.

Don't let the plumber give you a PDF drawing of the faucet and wish you good luck on correctly positioning the bowl underneath his roughed-in pipes. With the wall-mounted faucet in place, it's pretty easy to get a good bowl placement.

Here's one trick for good faucet placement that doesn't get anyone wet: Use a laser. A laser next to a perfectly vertical spout allows you to position the light slightly behind or in front of the drain. A laser next to an angled spout allows you to pick a spot slightly in front of where you want the water to hit and let the gravita-



Make sure you know all the accessories of a faucet set so you can arrange them properly.

tional force of flowing water do the rest. No splash up equals a successful faucet and drain system.

Most standard faucets are not tall enough to fit with a vessel bowl sitting at its standard height. I've had to modify openings to lower vessel sinks into the surface of the countertop, and I've also had to place faucet spouts and handles on stone pedestals to raise them up off the surface of the stone.

These alterations aren't any big deal as long as the homeowner is willing to pay for the extra effort and is happy with the end result. The most-important thing in a situation like this is to make sure your solution looks planned, and not as an afterthought.

Don't hack up a larger opening for a bowl. Make sure it's chip-free, and seal the opening to the bowl with a color-matched caulk. A pedestal for a faucet is going to need to flow gracefully around the back of a bowl to look good, so don't just slap a square piece of stone under the faucet.

And remember that you'll probably have to make a larger hole underneath the pedestal in order to hook up the plumbing. It's a workable system; complicated, but workable.

Last, but not least, there's the dreaded "widespread" vanity faucet. For some reason, this has given me more grief than any other plumbing scenario over the years.

Recent Stone Surfaces Product & Service Updates

With two new exciting product lines, VT Stone Surfaces is now offering customers in the Southeast a wider range of quartz surfacing products at great price points. The Zodiaq and Hanstone product lines are two established brands in the quartz surfacing industry. "We are proud to be able to offer our customers a wider variety of quartz surfacing with the Hanstone and Zodiaq product lines," explains Jason Nottestad, VT Stone Surfaces Customer Service Manager.

VT STONE SURFACES PERMITS OUR CUSTOMERS TO CHOOSE THE BRANDS THAT ARE BEST SUITED TO COMPETE IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL MARKETS AND SEGMENTS.

VT Stone Surfaces will stock 12 Zodiaq colors and the remaining 42 colors will be available as non-stocking items. Hanstone will be available in 16 colors for VT's stocking program and the remaining 27 colors will also be available as non-stocking items. VT Stone Surfaces National Sales Manager, Russ Cereola explains, "The variety of quartz brands and natural stones now available from VT Stone Surfaces permits our customers to choose the brands that are best suited to compete in their individual markets and segments. Where one brand may lead, our customer is confident they have a competitive price on nearly all of the leading brands. They can introduce strong, competitive alternatives as well. The cost effective variety, coupled with our commitment to quality and customer service, defines VT Stone Surfaces the premier provider of fabricated quartz surfaces."

The stocking inventory for all of VT's Stone Surfaces products can be viewed online at www.vtindustries.com/stone. Non-stocking inventory and pricing information can be found in the September 2010 Price Book. For additional information please contact your VT Stone Surfaces customer service representative.

INNOVATIVE QUOTE TOOL

VT Industries has recently introduced an innovative new quote tool that allows customers to generate their own quote for all thicknesses of stocking and non-stocking products from VT Stone Surfaces. The

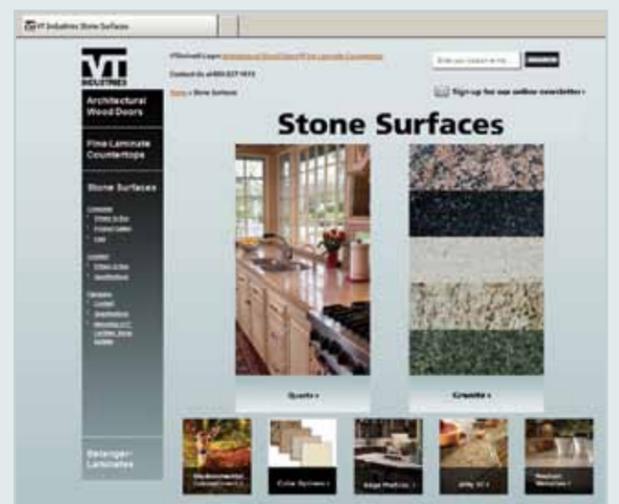


Zodiaq® Smokey Topaz with a 3cm eased edge.

process is straightforward, simply put in your dimensions and select your product and thickness and a few other variables and it will generate an accurate quote that will allow you to provide customers with timely estimates. For more information about VT's innovative quote tool, please contact your Customer Service Representative.

CLOSE OUT/ REMNANT PROGRAM

VT Stone Surfaces is now offering a Close out and Remnant program in the Southeast that offers incredible value on remnant slabs or close out inventory. We've made it easy to know what's available, too! Just visit www.vtindustries.com/stone. In the bottom right corner click the close out/remnants tab. You can then search by supplier or material or size of slab (in millimeters). Once you select a product you will be able to see the name of the supplier, the name of the material, the quality, the surface dimensions in millimeters, and the ability to view the actual slab of material. This allows you to



VT Stone Surfaces website home page; vtindustries.com/stonesurfaces

narrow your search in several different ways, ensuring you are able to find the remnant or close out item you've been looking for.

Introducing "Faces of VT"



Russ Cereola, Product Manager of VT Stone Surfaces

Each quarter, VT will introduce a fresh "face", explain their role with VT Industries, and give you an inside look at the people that make VT Industries a dynamic, customer- service driven, and industry-leading company!

Introducing Mr. Russ Cereola

As Product Manager of VT Stone Surfaces I am responsible for the planning and execution throughout the product lifecycle including defining the product vision, gathering and prioritizing product and customer requirements, and working closely with Ryan Clausen the Vice President of Stone Surfaces, customer service, sales, marketing, and production. In addition, I assess partnerships and licensing opportunities for both new and existing product lines; develop the core product positioning and messaging; perform product demos

and Continuing Architectural / Design Education Courses; set pricing to meet revenue and profitability goals; develop sales tools such as our new Customer Quote Tool and associated sales collateral such as product material presentations; brief and train the sales force; develop products from both existing and new ideas that focus on product positioning, key benefits, and target customers. I am constantly striving to ensure that our product line supports the overall company strategy, increases profitability, and supports the company's goal.

When asked what the most rewarding part of his job was, Russ responded, "It's my ability to work closely with customers, vendors and other VTI Team members. No day is ever the same, and I truly enjoy the challenge of making VT Industries and VT Stone Surfaces a best-in-class vendor to our present and future customers."

Facing Faucet Facts

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It starts with the definition: "The holes are 4" on center." This can either mean that the two outside holes are 4" on center, or that the distance between the center hole and each of the outside holes is 4" on center – making the outside- hole placement 8" on center (depending on who you're talking to). Always clarify this in writing. Guess wrong and you may be buying a new faucet.

For the 8" spread, there's also the choice of running the faucet and handles in a straight line, or offsetting the handles forward to match the curve of the bowl. If the customer wants to match the curve, always determine how far forward the handles will be set by measuring the curve of the bowl at the chosen faucet spacing.

It's usually pretty small – around 1/2" for an 8" spread. Push the handles too far forward, and you may not leave the plumber enough room to connect them behind the back of the bowl. Not a workable system.

Faucets need to work well within the countertop project as a whole in order to call the entire job a success. Remember that before you start to drill holes, and you'll save yourself a lot of grief.