

TECHNI ZONE

7T

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Interview: How Stone with a Soul is Created
Biophilic Design in an Interior
A Fresh Dose of Inspiration from Designers
(and for Designers)

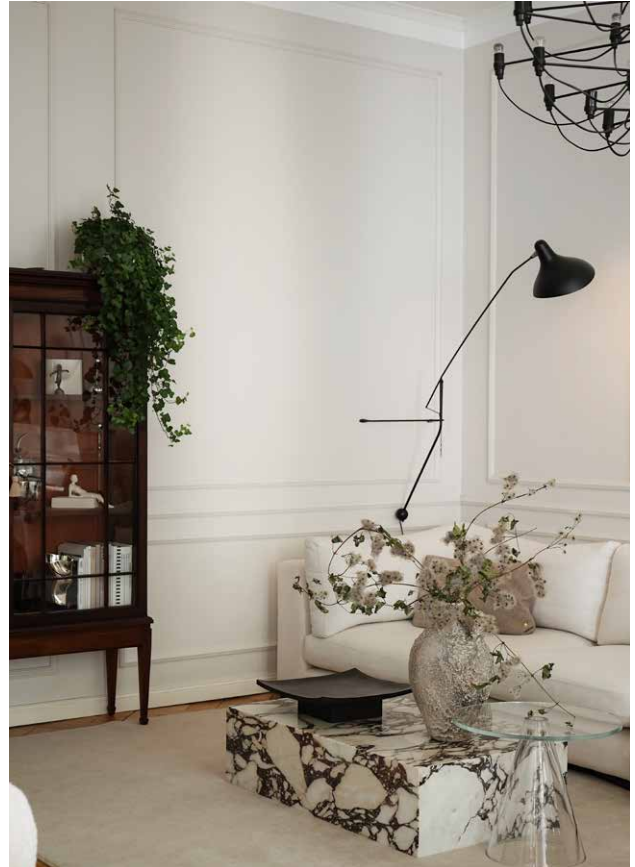
Topic

VIKTORIA ASKEROW'S APARTMENT: VINTAGE FRENCH MEETS JAPANDI

Every detail in **Viktoria Askerow's** / Germany apartment speaks of passion, creativity, and a flair for the art of interior design. It's a place where contemporary design meets the traditional, where comfort complements originality, and where Victoria's vision shines through in every design choice she makes.



Decor: Noble Arco
Photo: Viktoria Askerow



When you visit Victoria's apartment, your attention is instantly captured by the unorthodox approach she takes to design. Her combination of new and antique pieces is a harmonious blend that radiates comfort and personality. Thoughtfully curated design choices, such as the inclusion of a round glass end table by Mass Productions and iconic Series 7 and CH23 chairs from Fritz and Carl Hansen give the space a touch of sophistication.





Viktoria began her journey to interior design at a young age, when she discovered within herself a passion for creating beautiful spaces. But she really got started with the apartment in Berlin where she now lives. She regularly posts about the interior design of her apartment on her successful Instagram profile, [@these_beautiful_things](#). In her home, she weaves together threads of her favorite styles — the peace and simplicity of Japandi blends with the timeless beauty of a vintage French aesthetic.



When Viktoria looks at her kitchen, she marvels at the transformation that has taken place. The classic yet lively beauty of Technistone's Noble Arco design brings a fresh burst of vitality to the space.

For Viktoria, the kitchen is the center of gravity of her home, which she uses every day as the mother of four children. **Her choice of a TechniStone® countertop in the Noble Arco design shows her commitment to quality. Viktoria appreciates the durability and ease of maintenance that TechniStone® offers.** The elegant surface finish of the countertop and the beautiful installation work done by the stonework firm Naturstein Jäschke give her kitchen an air of modern elegance.



Tips

Engineered stone from TechniStone® offers a combination of excellent utility and beautiful aesthetics. You can use special techniques for working with our stone to create one-of-a-kind interior designs. Take advantage of the beauty and versatility of engineered stone to transform your projects into timeless masterworks. **One of our designers' favorite design techniques is the waterfall edge.**

A waterfall edge involves the vertical flow of stone from the top onto the sides of a countertop or island, reminding one of a cascading waterfall. This modern design provides not only a touch of sophistication, but also emphasizes the strength and solidity of the stone. A waterfall edge is an ideal way to create a centerpiece for an interior.



Choice of material: For the visual effect of a waterfall edge, choose a high-quality stone with consistent veining. Among the *TechniStone®* products that will work beautifully with a waterfall edge are *Imagine Grey*, *Calacatta Volegno*, and *Crystal Calacatta Silva*.



Imagine Grey



Calacatta Volegno



Crystal Calacatta Silva

Decor: *Crystal Calacatta Silva*
Realization: *Casa Moderna | Bruno Paul*

Talks

AN INTERVIEW WITH LUCIE ADOLFOVÁ: HOW STONE WITH A SOUL IS CREATED

Does engineered stone really have a soul?

Does it have a soul? They say that the kitchen is the heart of the home because it influences the energy of the entire house. You don't just cook in the kitchen, you work there, socialize, have fun, gather the family together — in short, you live there. So in a way, by incorporating all the advantages of engineered stone into a kitchen, you could say that you are adding soul and energy to it.

What goes into the design of a slab of TechniStone®?

We use various combinations of raw materials in a formula, like quartz, sand, glass, mirror fragments, granite, feldspar, and different mixes of color pigments. The original formulas we develop in R&D have a big influence on the final look of the decor, the appropriate technology for manufacturing the slab, and the final surface finish that is applied.

Your R&D department is notable for its love of geology. Could you tell us whether your knowledge of the earth sciences contributes to your work in developing engineered stone designs?

Our department is responsible not only for developing new products, but also for testing different kinds of raw materials that could possibly replace existing ingredients. A knowledge of the exact composition of a raw material is therefore very useful. Moreover, we in R&D are inspired by natural materials. Natural stone and nature in general offer us an unbelievable number of combinations of color, structures,

Today I am visiting the very heart of the Technistone / Czechia company, its R&D department, where I am welcomed by the charming **Lucie Adolfová**. Lucie has worked in the company's research and development department for more than ten years. Since 2016, she has headed the department's section for prototypes, where ideas for new TechniStone® designs are given concrete form. The whole department is bustling and we walk through the laboratories where workers are mixing pigments according to various formulas. We step into Lucie's office, which is right next to the busy section she heads, and sit down between large tables covered with samples of engineered stone. The long windowsills in her office are filled with a collection of rocks and minerals. It's clear that Lucie's main inspiration is nature itself.



and textures, which we try our best to translate into the look of our engineered stone. Our products have added value in that they are easy to maintain, have a nonporous surface, and are highly resistant to bacteria and scratching.

The demand for new engineered stone designs is highly influenced by global trends in architecture and interior design. Where do you find inspiration for new colors and patterns?

Good communication with the customer is essential and provides us with ideas to pursue. It's important to keep pace with the trends, which are constantly changing. We find inspiration at trade fairs, exhibitions, and in nature. We study regional trends in design along with our marketing department because every country has different expectations from the market. That can be seen in their local architecture.

Do you have a special attraction to some colors or textures?

I can't say that I prefer any particular color, but I do favor lighter colors and subdued tones over bold, saturated hues. For engineered stone, I prefer designs and colors that I'm sure won't become old-fashioned over the years. I'm happy to use brighter colors in an interior for accessories like flower arrangements, decorations, textiles, pillows, and paintings.

As far as surface finishes go, every one has its own charm, whether it's polished, mat, or something else. It's just a question of where you'll be installing the engineered stone and what materials you'll be combining it with. When a design receives its final finish, it suddenly takes on a whole new dimension that simply invites you to touch it.



“Natural stone and nature in general offer us an unbelievable number of combinations of color, structures, and textures, which we try our best to translate into the look of our engineered stone.”

In your work you bridge the gap between design ideas and the technical aspects of producing engineered stone. What are the greatest challenges you face in transforming design concepts into physical stone slabs?

One big challenge is taking a formula from experimental conditions to actual production. It often happens that there are major differences between a prototype and what goes into production. In the course of testing, various technical adjustments are made to the pressing machinery, raw material formulas, and pigment mixtures before the desired appearance of the slabs is attained. Testing

often takes a very long time, especially for complex and elaborate designs.

What was the most unusual product that you've tested in your department?

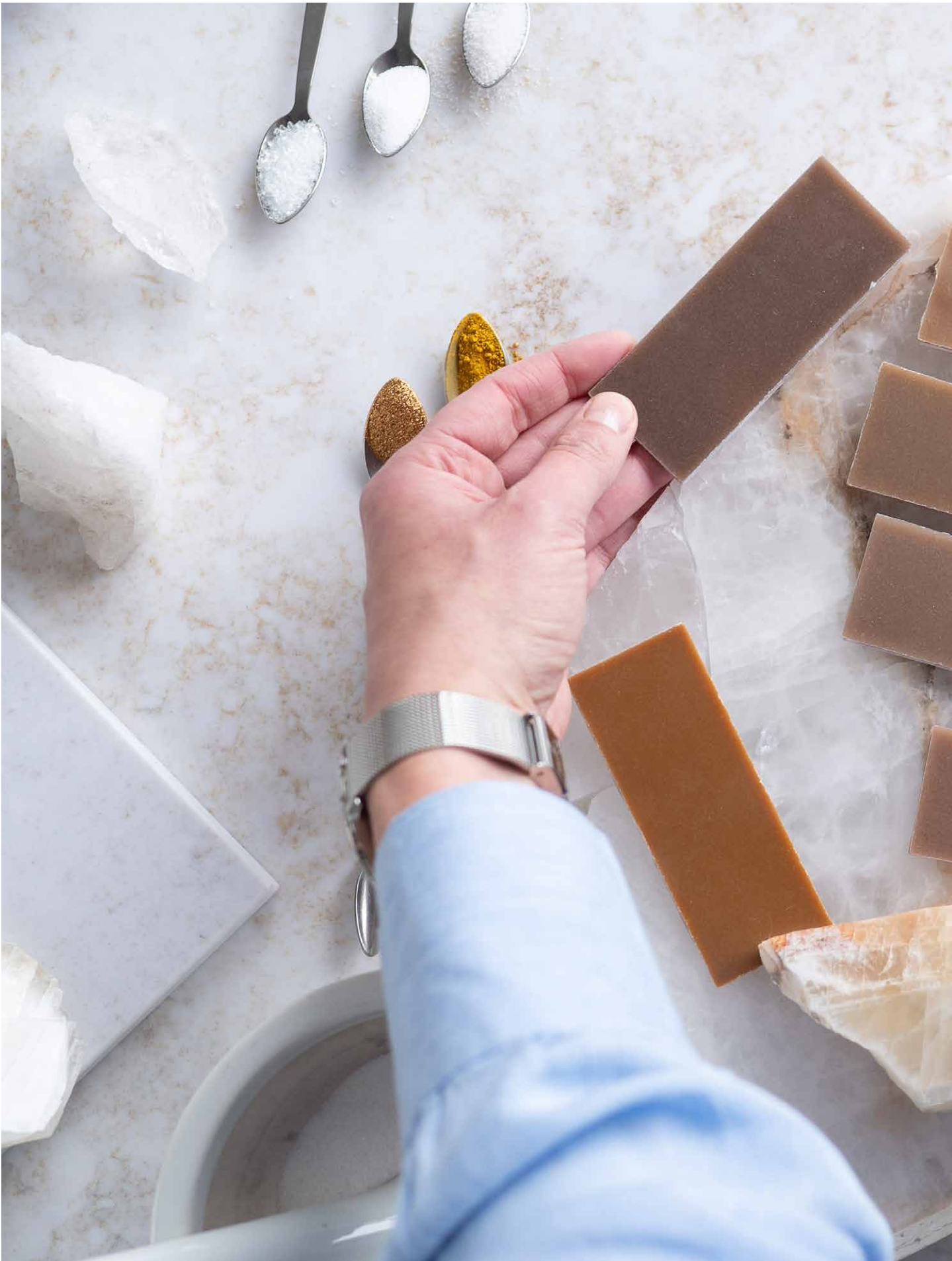
There have been a lot of experiments. I remember adding phosphorescent material, moldavite, and seashells to engineered stone. We've even pressed LED strips into the stone and I assure you, they worked!

When you look into the future, what do you most look forward to in the development of engineered stone and other innovations at Technistone?

There are a lot of possibilities for future development of engineered stone, including various combinations of raw materials of course, but mainly in the use of new technology capable of producing even more sophisticated and elaborate designs. This year for example, we're installing equipment that will give us many new design possibilities. Currently among the most highly demanded designs are slabs with thin, very natural looking veins. That's just one of the directions in which we'd like to expand our range of designs.

Sustainability is one important aspect of Technistone's company philosophy. How are you incorporating procedures that protect the natural environment into the process of developing colors and textures?

We've already been using recycled materials for years at Technistone and we prefer to use such materials to the extent that the final design permits. Not every design allows us to use recycled materials, however. A design may need a specific look or color, but to the extent we can incorporate recycled material into the specifications for a design, we do it.





Along with the R&D department, Technistone's marketing, sales, purchasing, and logistics departments participate in the development of innovative yet timeless engineered stone designs. The cooperation of all departments is crucial in the dynamic world of interior design. New designs are created in partnership with designers from Technistone's parent company, Wilsonart, as well. R&D oversees the process of developing prototype slabs, from among which the best are chosen for regular production and introduction to the market.

Tools

An extensive materials library plays an important role in the process of designing an interior. It provides designers and architects with a priceless source of information that assists them in testing, experimenting with, and choosing the most appropriate materials for their projects. In the digital age, there is a revolution under way in how architects deal with the wide range of materials available. While some of them have eagerly embraced digital platforms, others still rely on traditional libraries of materials. You can read about the libraries with which Technistone cooperates here, which will make it easier for you to choose the right engineered stone decor for your project!

PRESENTING REAWOTE / Czechia A 3D DIGITAL LIBRARY OF REAL PRODUCTS

Digital materials libraries offer architects a comprehensive online platform for virtually exploring the wide range of commercially available materials. Using high-resolution scans, detailed descriptions, and technical specifications, designers and architects can review a large collection of materials in the comfort of their studios. Reawote is the leader in its field because it is a library that brings together samples of materials from actual producers. It's a tool that builds a bridge between the materials exhibited in its visualizations and their use in completed projects.

"There are other 3D materials libraries, but right now none of them have scans of surfaces and materials from real manufacturers. That's what makes the Reawote library unique," say the library's creators.

The Slowik brothers, who are behind the Reawote project, have been developing the platform since 2019. The

first major partner of the project was the Cleem Group. The Cleem Group manufactures physical samples for materials producers throughout Europe and has assisted with the further development of the project. Other domestic and foreign producers followed and in the first two years more than 2,600 items were digitized.

Technistone has also allowed its collections of engineered stone products to be digitized.

Among the other important producers involved in the project are Baunit, Wienerberger, Organoid, and STO. Reawote has its own facilities for digitization and about twenty people currently work on the project. The Slowik brothers have big plans for the future. They want to create the first virtual trade fair, which would bring together data from many producers. "That's still just a dream for the moment," the brothers say. But they also see potential for translating the database into virtual reality and enabling clients to freely configure 3D models.



REAWOTE



Decor: Pearl Lava
Author: REAWOTE

MATÉRIO: / Czechia

A TOOL FOR EXPERIMENTING WITH INNOVATIVE MATERIALS

matériO'
PRAGUE

The MatériO library, which now has four offices, not only provides information about

materials, but physical contact with them as well. Architects, interior decorators, fashion designers, artists, academics, and researchers can find new possibilities and inspiration for their work in the MatériO libraries. The company's specialists follow developments in technology and look for materials that are of interest because of their technical qualities, appearance, production techniques, and ecological benefits. In that way, the libraries assist in orienting clients to the new materials that are constantly being brought onto the market.

The first MatériO library opened in Paris in the year 2000. Others followed, opening in Prague, Seoul, and Geneva. All of the libraries share a single vision: constantly expanding professional knowledge in the area of materials, developing a comprehensive online database, and exhibiting samples of materials in their showrooms. Moreover, the firm is active in organizing exhibitions and workshops focused on the environmental impacts of materials and the principles of the circular economy. Happy Materials, Ltd., an associated company headed by Lucie Havlová and Tomáš Hendrych, publishes a magazine, Material Times, which addresses a wide variety of related topics. MatériO offers an online database containing more than 8,000 material samples that you can access with a paid subscription.

SEVEN PRACTICAL TIPS FOR USING MATERIALS LIBRARY TO ASSIST IN DESIGN WORK

1. Set a goal for your design.

Before you start looking for materials, define a goal for your design that will guide you in the choice of materials. Establish the requirements of the project, including your aesthetic preferences, budgetary limits, and considerations of sustainability. Having a clear idea of what you want to achieve will simplify the search for materials and ensure consistency in your design choices. **Engineered stone from Technistone goes very well with gold- or silver-colored accessories, wooden elements, and soft fabrics in interiors.**

2. Take advantage of a digital library for initial research.

Begin your journey of materials research with a digital library like Reawote. Simplify the time-consuming search process by categorizing your needs for materials and filtering according to your requirements. **Even if you know that you will be using TechniStone® in your project, the choice of a particular decor will be easier if you base your search on qualities like color, thickness of the slab, and surface finish.**

3. Obtain physical samples for practical evaluation.

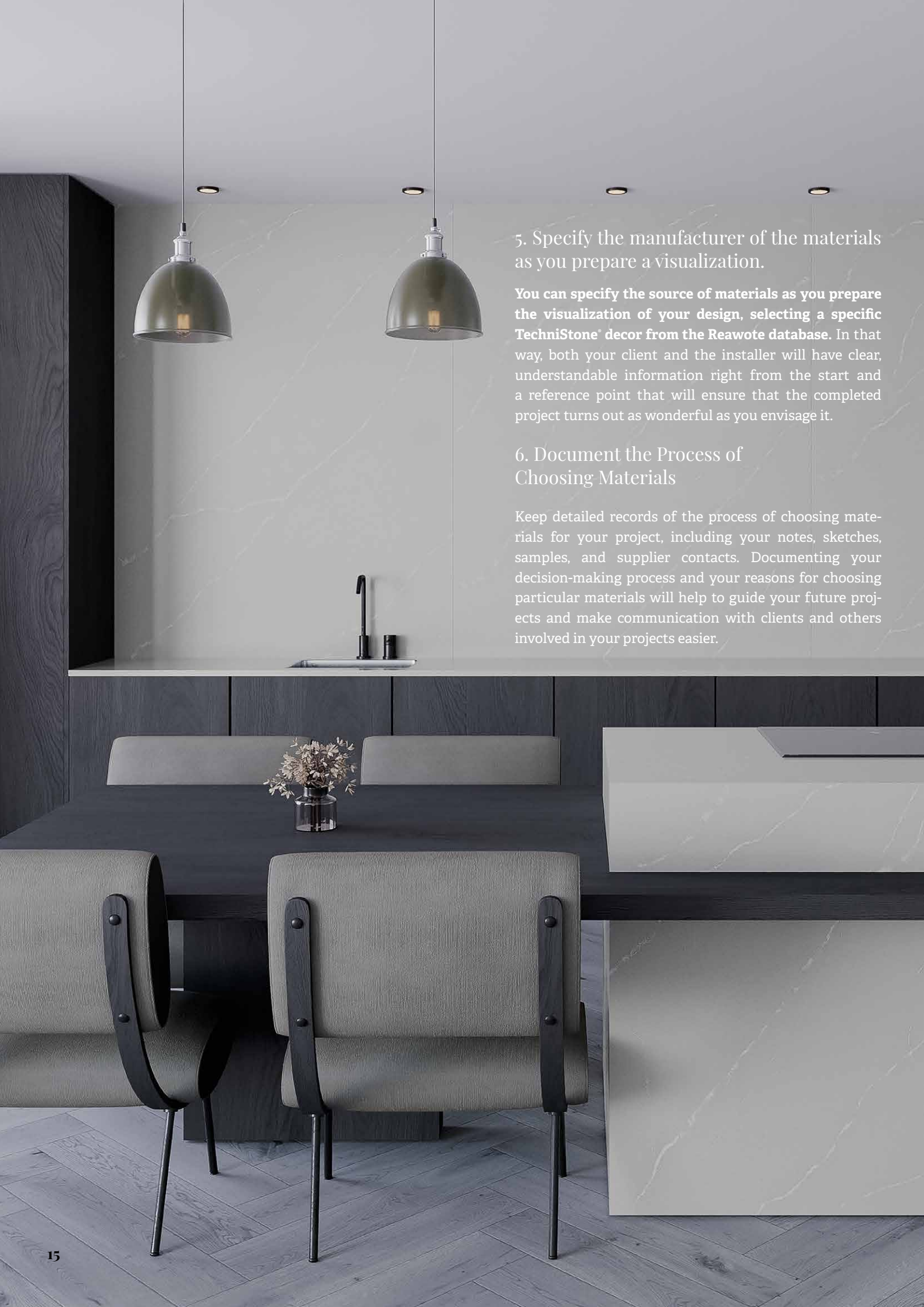
Consider requesting physical samples of materials that have caught your eye in the digital libraries. **As part of its work with architects and designers, Technistone offers fast delivery of samples selected for your project, direct to your studio.** By interacting physically with materials you can assess how they feel to the touch and how their color coordinates with the other colors and materials used in your project. We always recommend observing sample materials both under artificial lighting and in natural daylight.





4. Create moodboards for closer examination.

Create a moodboard that contains your choice of the most important materials to be used in your project. Combine photos, samples, textures, and color swatches to create a coherent design concept. **If you are looking for inspiration, Technistone has a moodboard for each of its decors created by an experienced architect and designer, Soňa Malinová / Czechia. You can find her moodboards on the web page for each color at www.technistone.com.** Moodboards help you visualize how materials will look in a room, and will also help you communicate better with clients, co-workers, and suppliers.



5. Specify the manufacturer of the materials as you prepare a visualization.

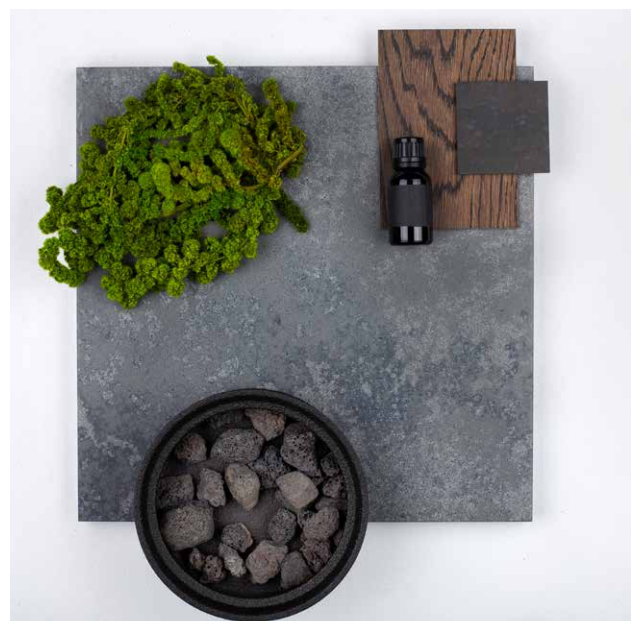
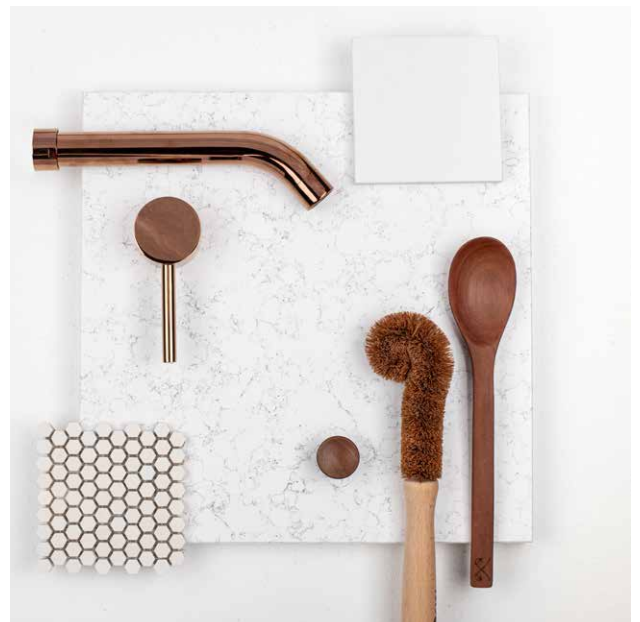
You can specify the source of materials as you prepare the visualization of your design, selecting a specific TechniStone® decor from the Reawote database. In that way, both your client and the installer will have clear, understandable information right from the start and a reference point that will ensure that the completed project turns out as wonderful as you envisage it.

6. Document the Process of Choosing Materials

Keep detailed records of the process of choosing materials for your project, including your notes, sketches, samples, and supplier contacts. Documenting your decision-making process and your reasons for choosing particular materials will help to guide your future projects and make communication with clients and others involved in your projects easier.

7. Participate in workshops and seminars

Participate in workshops and seminars organized by materials libraries as a way of keeping up to date with the latest trends and innovations in materials applications. Meetings with professionals in the field, manufacturers, and fellow designers and architects are excellent networking opportunities, where you can make contacts, exchange ideas, and expand your knowledge. In connection with its Fokus platform, MatériO regularly organizes seminars and webinars. You can find out more on their website, www.materio.cz.



Target

BIOPHILIC INTERIOR DESIGN – WELCOMING NATURE INTO YOUR HOME

Connecting Humans with Nature

Biophilic interior design originated in the concept of biophilia, which is a term coined by the biologist E. O. Wilson to describe people's inborn attachment to nature. By incorporating natural elements like plants, natural light, water features, and organic materials into an interior, biophilic design tries to create an environment that responds to our evolutionary needs and supports a feeling of well-being.

Increasing Well-being and Productivity

Studies show that biophilic interior design has a fundamental impact on people's feelings of well-being and their productivity. The inclusion of elements like greenery, natural textures, and views onto surrounding nature promotes calm feelings and inspiration, and supports creativity and concentration. A biophilic environment is associated with lower levels of stress, improved cognitive function, and a better overall mood among those who live within it.

Natural Light

Daylight and a view to the exterior create a connection with the surrounding nature.

Considering the importance of natural light for people's well-being and their productivity, architects are increasingly focusing on its use in interiors so that they harmonize with the circadian rhythm of our bodies. Finding a balance between natural and artificial light is fundamental. Too much artificial light, especially at night, can disrupt our biological clock and affect our health, productivity, energy levels, and even our appetite. The lighting of a space is key to the success of an attempt at a biophilic design. The interplay of light and shadow deeply influences how we feel in a particular space.





In a time when urbanism and technology dominate our living spaces, a desire for greater connection with nature is growing. In response to that desire, the concept of biophilic interior design has come to the fore, bringing the peace and vitality of nature back into our environment. Let's dive deep into the principles of biophilic design, which are changing the way we perceive and communicate with our interior spaces.

„Technistone's surfaces combine sustainable design practices with timeless appeal, offering a lasting connection to the natural world.“

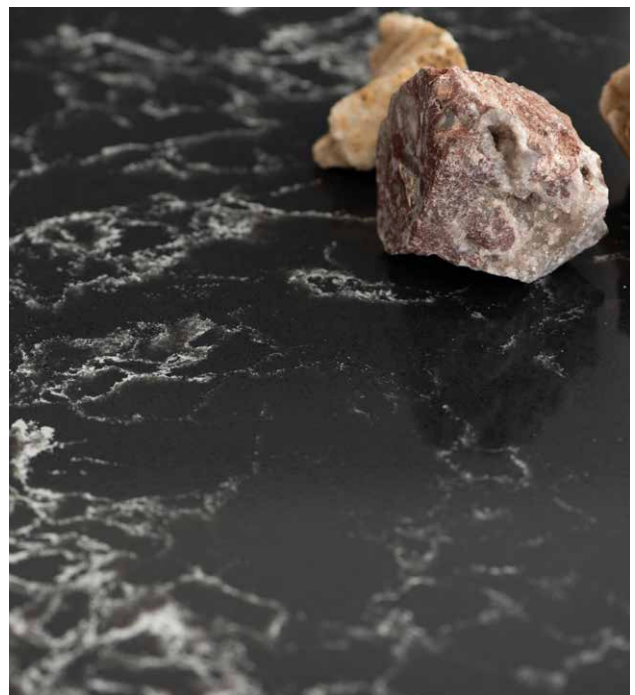


Decor: Pearl Lava
Author: REAWOTE

Natural Materials

Stone, wood, and other organic materials bring visual and tangible warmth to an interior.

Natural materials from the Earth have been used for centuries in construction and it is once again being shown that they have a positive influence on people and their cognitive and physiological functions. This awareness has led architects and designers to return to using materials from local sources that reflect the geology of a region and create a strong, authentic sense of place. The trend to sustainable architecture not only promotes a responsible approach to the environment, but also leads to a deeper connection with one's surroundings and respect for the principles of sustainability in construction techniques.



Biomorphic Shapes

Organic, flowing shapes and patterns bring us closer to nature.

Organic and biomorphic forms and textures are derived from patterns that are found in nature. Elements like curves, inspired by the asymmetric natural shapes displayed by flowers and animals, have been an important trend among interior designers for many years. Their approach to design is based on centuries of architects seeking inspiration in the natural world. Curves especially have a beauty that is rooted in human psychology, because they give a feeling of a safe environment. The incorporation of organic forms into architecture and interior design can be seen in various products, including furniture, light fixtures, textiles, and decorations. Their use creates a harmonious and welcoming aesthetic that reflects the calmness of nature.

Greenery

Potted plants, living walls, and vertical gardens not only bring the beauty of nature into an interior, but also purify the air.

Architects include biophilic elements into their interior designs by adding green plants, water features, and fireplaces. Plantscaping, that is, adding greenery to an interior, has a number of benefits. The choice of plants in biophilic design is intentional and takes account of their availability, climatic conditions, and geography to create an authentic connection with the surrounding area. Water features are basic to biophilic design because studies show that the presence of water can reduce stress levels, promote tranquility, improve concentration, and slow down heart rates.

Sustainability and Impacts on the Environment

The aesthetic benefits and improvements in well-being that biophilic designs bring to an interior go along with a sustainable approach to design because they promote the use of materials and devices that conserve the environment, save energy, and minimize negative impacts on our planet. By creating environments that harmonize with nature, designers and architects are contributing to a sustainable future and a healthier planet.

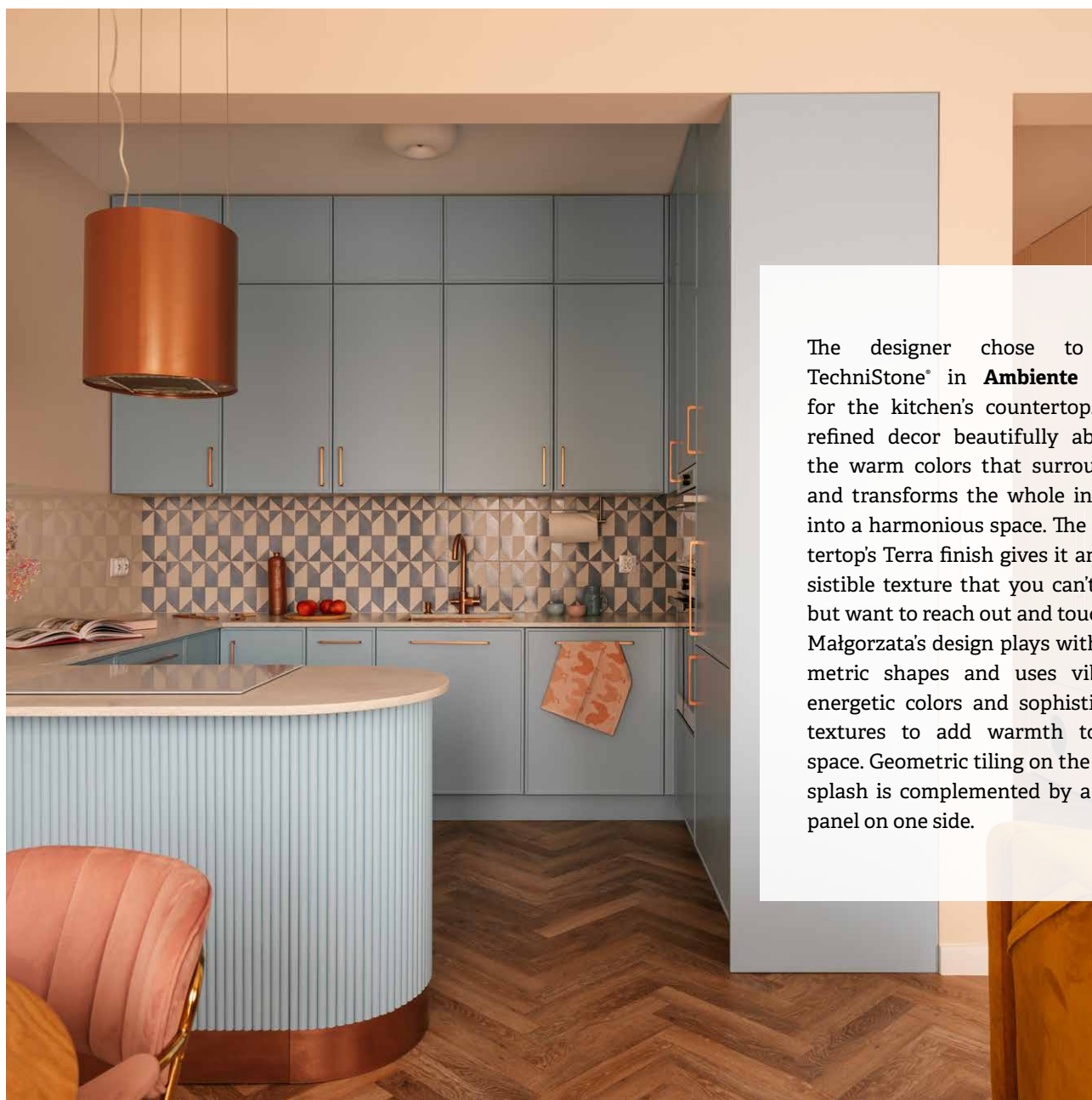


Trends

A KITCHEN WRAPPED IN WARM HUES

Just as the culinary arts can't do without a certain touch of fantasy, your kitchen needs one too. Give your kitchen color, texture, and spirit the way Polish designer **Małgorzata Wojtyczka** does.

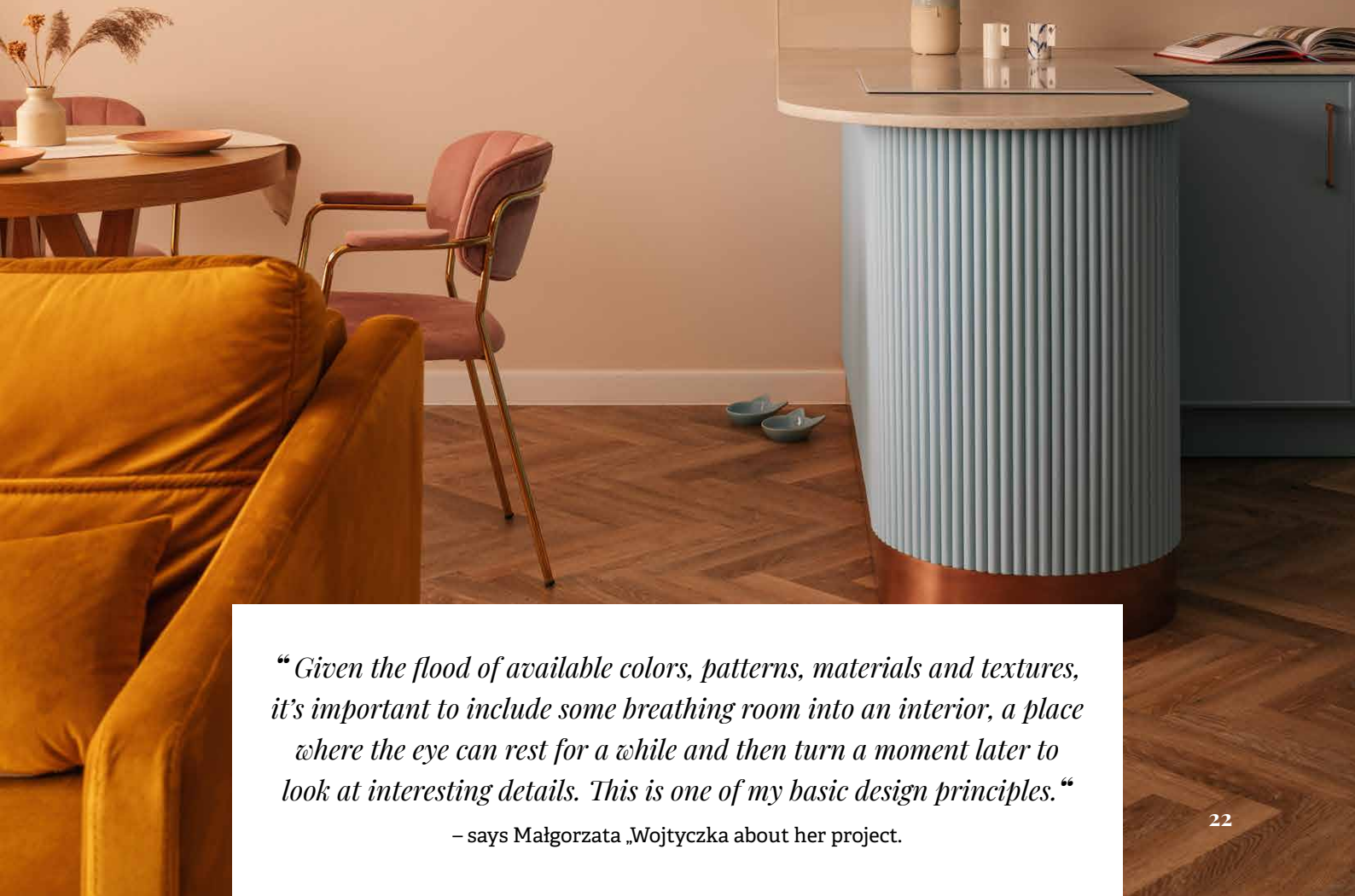
Małgorzata, who does business under the name Wojtyczka Design Studio, has designed a kitchen with a unique atmosphere for a young married couple. Her energetic clients wanted to infuse the interior of their 100 square meter apartment in a suburb of Wrocław, Poland with warm colors.



The designer chose to use TechniStone® in **Ambiente Light** for the kitchen's countertop. This refined decor beautifully absorbs the warm colors that surround it and transforms the whole interior into a harmonious space. The countertop's Terra finish gives it an irresistible texture that you can't help but want to reach out and touch. Małgorzata's design plays with geometric shapes and uses vibrant, energetic colors and sophisticated textures to add warmth to the space. Geometric tiling on the backsplash is complemented by a glass panel on one side.

The main thing about this kitchen design is how lively it is. Thanks to its well-thought-out use of colors and textures, and its unusual features, it's a space that awakens creativity. It also inspires its owners to explore the culinary arts with vigor and imagination.

The kitchen's centerpiece is a milled wooden island accented by a copper-clad kickplate and a suspended range hood made with the same material.



“Given the flood of available colors, patterns, materials and textures, it's important to include some breathing room into an interior, a place where the eye can rest for a while and then turn a moment later to look at interesting details. This is one of my basic design principles.”

– says Małgorzata „Wojtyczka about her project.



Małgorzata Wojtyczka / Poland began her journey as an interior designer by studying at the Academy of Art and Design in Wrocław. After her studies, a couple of internships, and working for some older architects, she founded her own studio. Since then, she has dedicated herself to her independent design work. She delights her clients with practical, original interiors that are tailored to their individual needs. She draws inspiration mainly from traveling and is not afraid to weave those insights into her projects. Although she says that she likes modernism and Bauhaus, you can find elements of eclecticism in her projects as well.





The combination of Baby Blue and Peach Quartz in this kitchen pulsates with life, but also emanates a calm tranquility. The complementarity of the two colors, where the peaceful blue of the cabinetry contrasts beautifully with the lively peach tone on the walls and furniture, results in a harmonious, balanced interior space. The popularity of peach tones is increasing, as evidenced by the recent announcement of Peach Fuzz as Pantone's color of the year.

Theme

TECHNISTONE MOODS

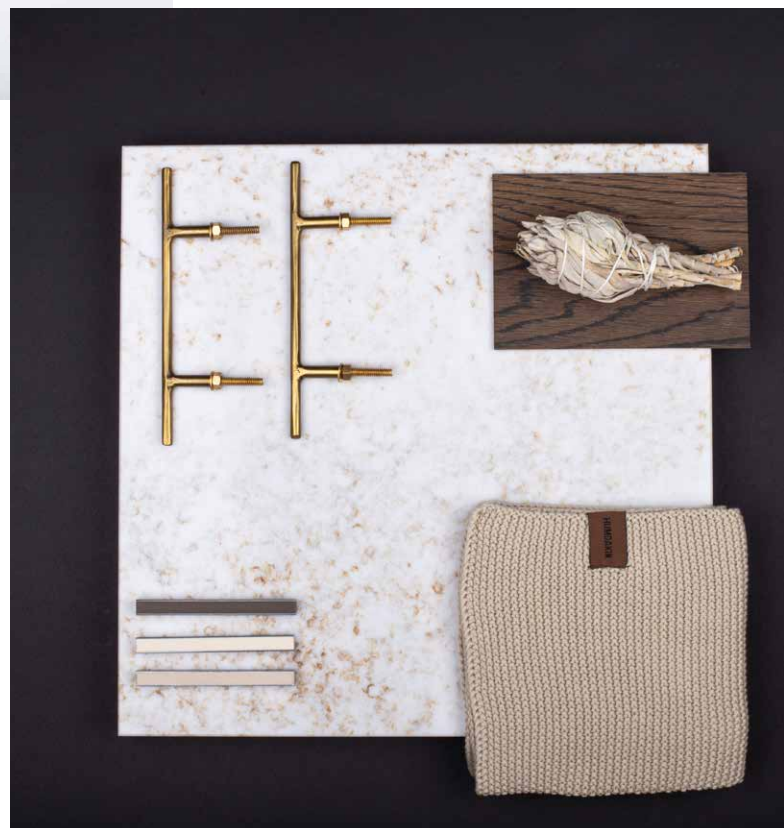


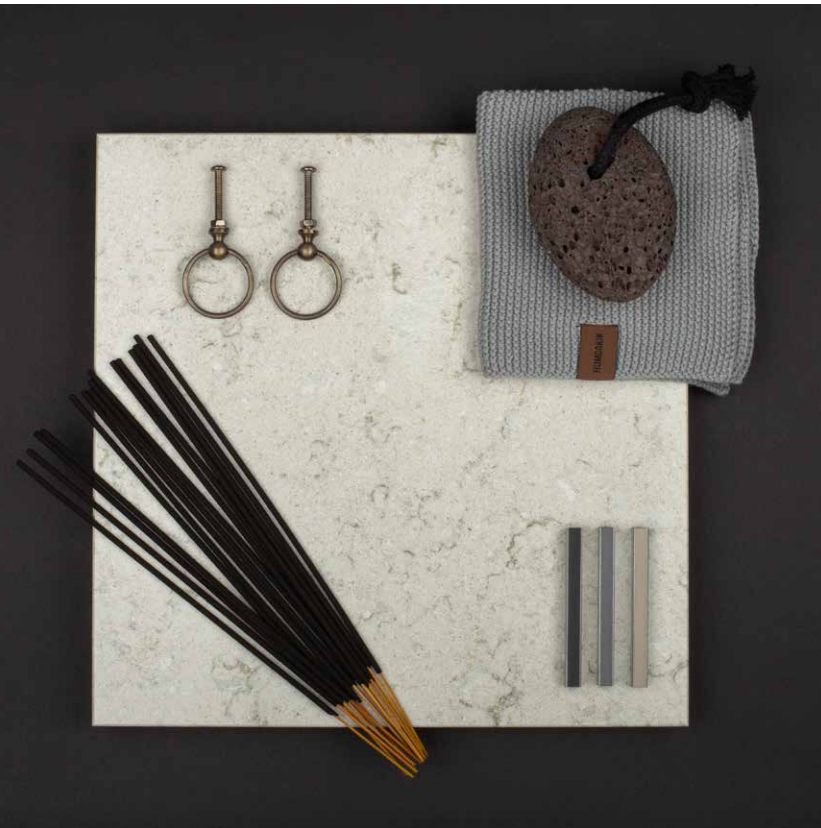
Country Rose

Like a romantic scene in a village where roses bloom around old stone houses. The warm patterned color of Country Rose evokes a sense of comfort and nostalgia. This decor carries with it an atmosphere of peace and harmony. It adds uniqueness and a touch of vintage elegance to an interior.

Morning Daisy

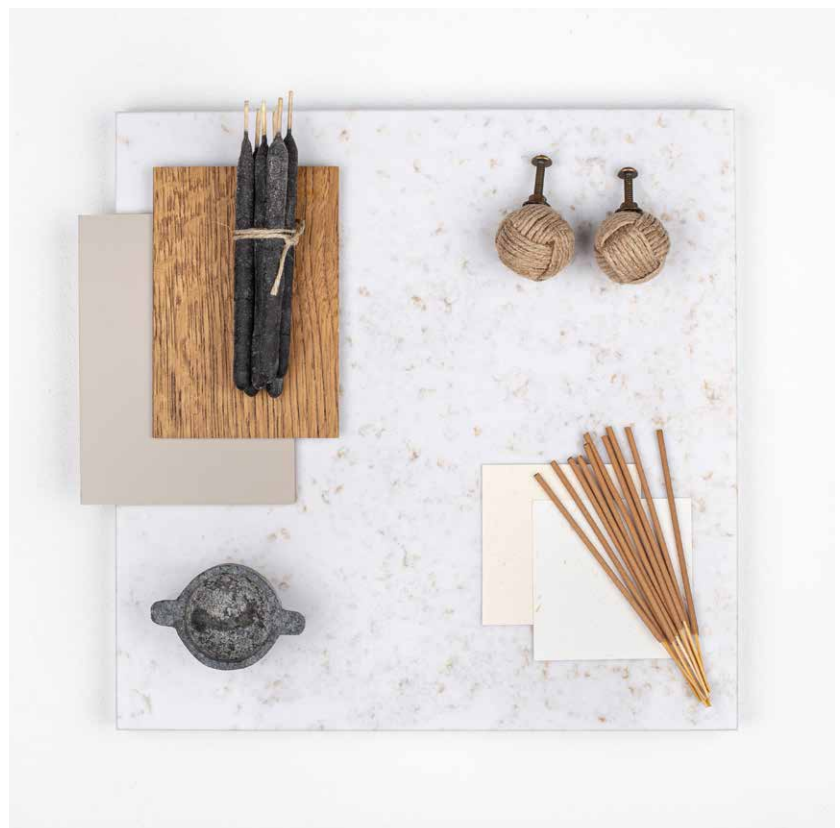
Morning Daisy is the reflection of morning dew on a meadow dotted with daisies. This decor recalls those moments of the early morning when nature awakens to a new day. It radiates optimism and the energy associated with new beginnings.





Wild Yucca

Wild Yucca takes you on an adventurous journey through the desert, where you encounter the wildness of nature and exotic plants. This decor features bold contrasting colors that speak to you of the power of nature.



Wedding Lily

The delicate texture and light color of Technistone's Wedding Lily design evoke the freshness and purity of a flower, the symbol of love and stability. This decor brings a feeling of elegance and freshness to every space.

TechniStone®

A WILSONART COMPANY

Producer of Premium-quality Quartz

Our proven success and years of experience, along with our in-house research and development department, make Technistone one of the most important companies in the world engaged in the manufacture of engineered stone.

In this issue of the **TechniZONE magazine**, we explore the area where creativity and technical expertise come together. As a premium engineered stone manufacturer, Technistone is aware of the key role that design plays in shaping interior spaces and our enjoyment of them. Our magazine is an attempt to create a platform where architects, designers, and the wider public have a chance to connect and share ways to continue moving forward in the field. Come join us on this journey, where beauty and functionality join forces to bring authenticity to our environment.

everlasting beauty

Technistone, s.r.o.
Bratri Stefanu 1070
Hradec Kralove 500 03
Czech Republic

Phone: +420 495 714 711
E-mail: sales@technistone.com

[technistone.com](https://www.technistone.com)



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