

# Custom Concrete Artistry

## HAND-CARVED VERTICAL CONCRETE FOR INDOORS AND OUTDOORS

By Tony and Brenda Thibodo

Vertical stone carving is a specially designed lightweight concrete that can be built out up to 8-inch thickness without sagging off the walls to create the look of boulders, castle stone, flagstone and other illusions.

This material is lighter in weight; so the normal weight restrictions of requiring footings inside a home, basement or outside patio do not apply in most cases. This material was developed by one of the top artists in the United States after many years of working with concrete materials that would be too heavy or too many restrictions to be very artistic in many unusual situations for the client's request.

Many clients would want to create an image of boulder or stone castle to finish a basement into a Tuscan look with full bar and wine cellar; however locating the authentic stone would be almost impossible or cost-prohibitive as stone with this look would come out of the European countries.



If you can locate this stone, the cost of the stone, shipping across seas and an experienced stone mason would be astronomical to accomplish not to mention the weight restrictions and transporting the stone into a basement area. This is when vertical stone carving material was developed over several years and has now been perfected, including colors, tools and other materials needed to create these illusions.

Another advantage to this lightweight concrete material is that it has up to 26 hours of working time to carve the artistry into the stone creating whatever your imagination desires. The client can customize the project to their specific desires,

needs, colors and trends without the usual limitations of current products available on the market today. Custom features such as hidden doors within a wall or cabinet can be accomplished with this material. Accent walls can become soundproof for your home theater or family room area.

Create a tree for the base of a bistro table, custom create a boulder for a bird bath that is natural looking or integrate the look of a tree over your existing deck footings and support system. Vertical stone carving material allows you to create

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non-traditional projects where most vertical materials on the market today have a cookie-cutter look. A certified vertical artist can work with the homeowner, interior designer, builder or architect on any project requirements.

This material can go over most surfaces, including existing outdated fireplaces and other surfaces as long as the substrate is properly prepared, so the possibilities are endless. Create new illusions and textures using high-tech concrete over new and existing surfaces. Hand carve images of castle stone, flagstone, bark, trees, logs, timbers, boulders and so much more. Custom

building wine cellars, bars, home theaters, pillars, kitchen or entertainment islands, fireplaces, fire pits, furniture, tables, counter tops, arbors, boulders and water features. Your mind is your only limitation!

The material used in hand-carved vertical artistry is only available through a certified vertical artist. This is to insure that the products developed are not chemically altered, changed or promoted in the wrong way, so the integrity of the materials does not have negative effects in the future, as the artist, Tommy Rock Inc. from Chicago, who developed this fine material has seen over the years with other materials.

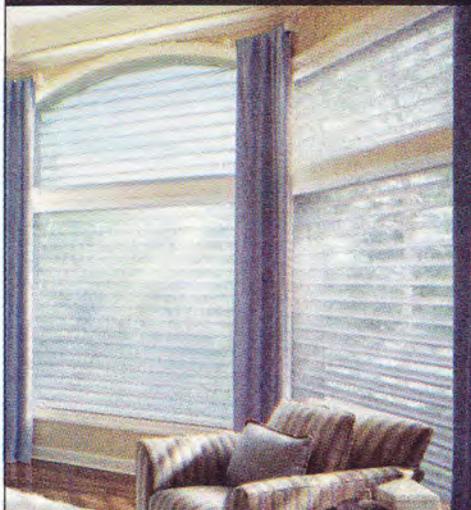
Sculpture Gardens is one of the only companies in Minnesota certified for vertical stone carving. For more information about vertical stone carving artistry, contact Tony and Brenda Thibodo, owners of Sculpture Gardens, certified vertical stone carving artisans. Located on Highway 371 in Nisswa.

*Tony and Brenda Thibodo* are the owners of Sculpture Gardens Gifts & Home Decor of Nisswa. Both graduated from Brainerd High School in 1978, moved to Minneapolis for college.

In 2000 they started their Sculpture Gardens in Baxter and then relocated to Nisswa in 2004. They have been in the concrete business for over ten years and have continually expanded their business to now include concrete countertops.



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