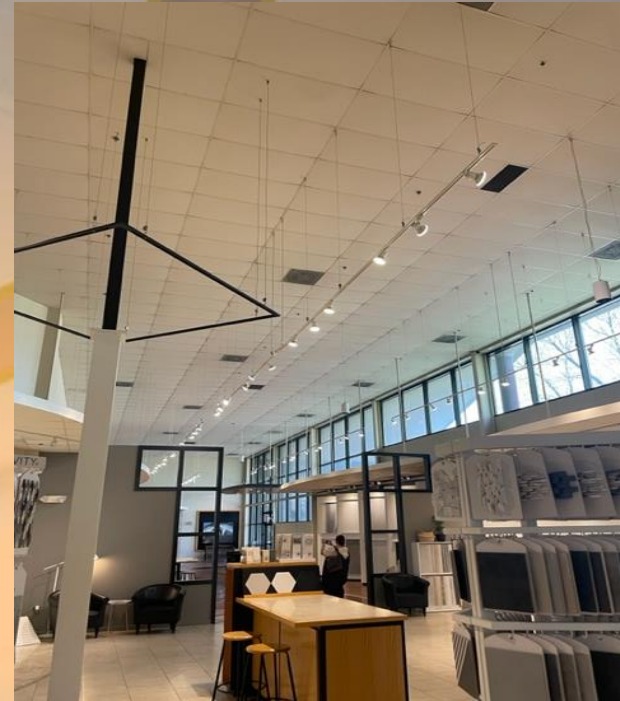


TRITON STONE GROUP

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ITMD 132
4/24/23



Triton Stone Group showroom was so informative. The atmosphere was well organized and visually interesting. There were high ceilings with accent lights showing off various tiles on the walls and in the middle of the showroom. They were very accommodating with snack/drink bar and different waiting areas. Katy, the design consultant, graduated from JCCC and has worked for Triton 15 years. She started the tour by introducing herself by the bar and then we moved to the bigger tile room in the front.



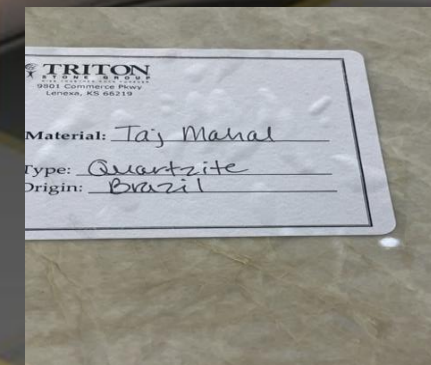


Katy has been working with tiles and countertops during her time at Triton. She said the most popular natural stone is marble right now. The standard thickness is $\frac{3}{8}$ ", but some come thicker, and this usually effects the subfloor that you use under the tiles. She showed us different white marble tiles. Some were polished and others were more matt which is called honed. It is very important to ask for many photos when a lot of marble is issued because the colors are so different. We looked at water jet marble that had designs on it. These tiles are more expensive. The bird tile on the upper right corner was beautiful. There are many different marble trims with different thicknesses as well. Then we looked at glass tiles like the one to the right. It is very important to not use glass tile in the shower because it will rust.





The next thing was to go in the warehouse. It was huge with stacked slabs of all sorts of natural stone. We walked through the marble section first and then saw a few unique pieces. One was marble and leather which is the one with red or pink tones. The marble on the bottom right corner was Katy's favorite marble. We saw black soapstone, granite, and quartzite. The slabs were used for bigger jobs such as a kitchen countertop or fireplace mantel. When a designer comes in with their client and picks out a stone, they are reserved for 30 days and then the designer needs to organize the fabricator to cut the stone.



Things I Learned...

1. I learned that marble must be sealed because it is coarse and absorbs liquid.

It is important to explain this to my clients before they decide on marble. It should be sealed, grouted, and sealed again. It needs to be maintained by sealing every 6 months.



THINGS I LEARNED.....

- 2. I learned that marble has pros and cons.
- Marble has beautiful variations but is not the best natural stone if someone likes to cook a lot. It will stain. The client needs to know this before hand and sign a wavier that you have explained this them.

THINGS I LEARNED.....

- 3. I learned that glass tiles should not be used in the shower.
- Glass tiles will eventually rust in water even though they look very elegant. It is better to use where there is no moisture. I will explain this to my clients as well. That would be a pity if their shower rusted.

THINGS I LEARNED.....

- 4. I learned that when marble is issued in a lot you need to ask for more pictures so you can compare the options and veins in the marble.
- This is important that the client have possibilities to choose from when the veins have such different colors.

THINGS I LEARNED.....

- 5. I learned how important it is to look for good quality tile installers.
- The reason for this it will cost you less in the long run and there will be less mistakes because they know what they are doing.

THINGS I LEARNED.....

- 6. I learned that slate breaks after being installed, but it will eventually stop breaking and last a long time.
- Important for the client to know there is nothing wrong with the slate and to explain this before they decide on it.

THINGS I LEARNED.....

- 7. I learned that natural stone comes in matt or polished finishes.
- It is important to know the difference especially if you are working with aging in place clients because of the slip factor.

THINGS I LEARNED.....

- 8. I learned that there are porcelain tiles that get an image or print on them under the top layer.
- The print will not rub off, so the clients need to know that this option is safe from this.

THINGS I LEARNED.....

- 9. I learned that tiles that are in shapes, beveled edges, mother of pearl shell are all in trend right now.
- As the designer, it is my responsibility to know what tiles are trending and why. The clients will expect for me to know this information.

THINGS I LEARNED.....

- 10. I learned that tiles are not just pretty, but they must be complete and function well.
- I am sure every time you get quality workmanship the clients notice, and you will hopefully show them that they can trust who you choose to work with.

Thank You

I want to thank Triton Stone Group for accommodating our class. A special thanks to Katy for sharing her knowledge about different tiles and countertops.

The End