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Stone By Design: The Artistry Of Lew French



Synopsis

More than 125 gorgeous photographs showcase the beauty of award-winning stonemason Lew French's work in eight different homes, illustrating how rounded fieldstone, gray slate, rough granite, and even curvy driftwood can be incorporated into stunning pieces of functional art. French provides charming narration for each project: how an idea came to be; how a stone-splitting technique is executed; even how one of his most difficult pieces, a three-year-long project, was saved from ruin the day it was completed. With its contemporary hearths of rustic slate, sculptured walls of both great granite slabs as well as stacked and rounded fieldstones, *Stone By Design: The Artistry of Lew French* will inspire design lovers to incorporate this material in home interiors and exteriors, whether as an artful writer's studio, a playful fireplace, or a carefully crafted garden pathway. More than just a stunning tribute to the work of Lew French and his unique vision and craft, this book celebrates both the function and form of stone. It's the perfect inspiration for anyone interested in adding the beauty of stone to their home or landscape. Lew French was born in the small farming town of Zumbrota, Minnesota. He started to work with stone when he was just nineteen years old. He moved to Martha's Vineyard twenty years ago and has worked on his own stone designs exclusively since. His work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *House Beautiful*, *The Boston Globe Magazine*, *Architectural Digest*, and *Metropolitan Home*. He has also been featured on HGTV's *Modern Masters* and local programs in the Northeast. He has two sons, Asa and Truman. Alison Shaw is a fine-art and editorial photographer who lives and works on Martha's Vineyard, which has provided the inspiration and subject matter for much of her color and black-and-white photography. Over five thousand of her original fine-art prints are in public and private collections. Alison's work appears regularly in *Yankee Magazine*, *Martha's Vineyard Magazine*, and *Cape Cod Life*. She teaches photography workshops for the *Maine Photographic Workshops* and *Santa Fe Workshops*. Alison lives with her family in Oak Bluffs.

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Customer Reviews

When Lew French made his first stone fireplace at age nineteen, he didn't expect to feel so drawn to the simple material. Twenty-eight years and countless projects later, he still feels awed by the presence stone has in a well-designed setting, whether it's an artfully rendered remodel of a writer's stone studio, a playful fireplace, or a carefully crafted garden pathway. This first collection of French's work, filled with artistic inspiration for your own home or landscape, is a study in contrast: contemporary hearths of rustic slate, sculptured walls of both great granite slabs and stacked, rounded fieldstones. More than 130 gorgeous photographs by Alison Shaw illustrate the beauty of French's pieces and invite you to see how rounded fieldstone, grey slate, rough granite, and even curvy driftwood, are incorporated into stunning pieces of functional art. Throughout, French narrates the charming stories behind the projects: how an idea came to be; how a stone-splitting technique is executed; even how one of his most difficult pieces, a three-year-long project, was saved from ruin just in the nick of time, the day it was completed. *Stone by Design* is the perfect inspiration for anyone interested in adding the beauty of stone to their own home or landscape. Lew French was born in a small farming town in southern Minnesota, called Zumbrota. He started to work with stone when he had a small construction crew right out of high school and built one or two houses a year. He moved to Martha's Vineyard twenty years ago, and has since worked on his own stone designs exclusively. His work has been featured in many publications, including *The New York Times* and *House Beautiful*. French was also featured as a Modern Master on the premier season of "Modern Masters" in the House and Garden Network. French lives with his two sons, Asa and Truman. Alison Shaw is a fine-art and editorial photographer who lives and works on Martha's Vineyard, which has provided the inspiration and subject matter for much of her color and black-and-white photography. Over 5000 of her original fine art prints are in public and private collections. Alison's work appears regularly in *Yankee Magazine*, *Martha's Vineyard Magazine* and *Cape Cod Life*. She teaches photography workshops for the Maine Photographic Workshops and Santa Fe Workshops. Alison lives with her family in Oak Bluffs.

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This is a beautiful book, with amazing pictures of this artists projects. He uses stone like a painter would use a brush and pigment. His works are truly creative and unique. I am not a stone worker, but i really enjoyed this book. I gave one as a gift to a man who is a tile worker. Just to work with such massive objects is amazing, but to see in them the possibility for walls and other structures is very interesting.

Buy this book. If you have even one ounce of creative juices, this work will get you rocking. This is no New England' farm-wall, how-to rag. This publication is a gateway to devine intervention, a seriously informative and yet beautiful source of motivation. Not a motivation to copy the author, but a motivation to find yourself. Talk to the stone with your own voice and listen to what it tells you..... What a high! Go out there and lay a stone for momma....

I ordered this book for my son-in-law, a mason, for Christmas 2 years ago. Because a story about the author and his work had been shown on CBS Sunday Morning, the book sold out and it had to be reprinted. After months of waiting (well after Christmas), I finally received the book and gave it to him the following Christmas. When he received it, he was blown away by the exquisite portrayals of stone mason works of art. He proclaimed it was "the best present" he's ever received. It was well worth the wait!

Also a great book

If beautiful stonework interests you, this is a book whose pictures you will marvel at and can revisit many times. Some of these projects took several years for the author to complete, with painstaking

attention to finding just the right rock for each location. Enjoy.

Great book in nice condition

I ordered this book after seeing a spectacular stone fireplace in Martha's Vineyard. If you have an affinity for stone, this book is a stunner -- Lew French is an artist by any standards, and the photos are impressive. Now if only I could remember the name for the little openings he created on either side of the chimney -- so convenient for shooting arrows at unwanted visitors!

It met my expectations.

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