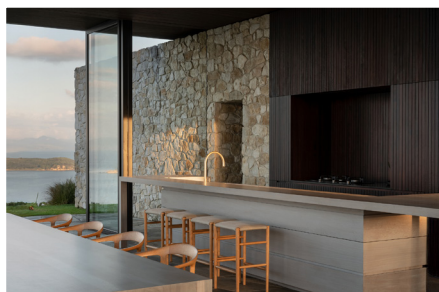
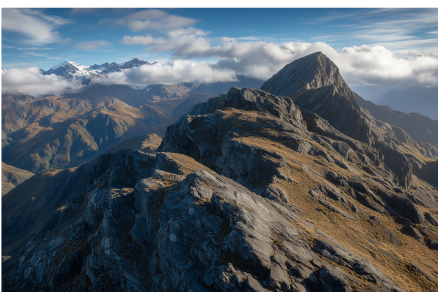




## Natural Stone Cladding



## Style and Finish Guide

## INTRODUCTION

Choosing the right stone for your project is an important decision. Your natural stone cladding should be as enduring as the raw material — you want to be sure you get it right.

Whether you're drawn to the colour, the shape and texture, or the story behind it — deciding on the stone itself is the natural and best first place to start.

However, there are other factors that can influence the style and look of the finished installation — from the way the stone is laid to the colour and depth of the mortar. The following guidelines explore the options available and offer considerations around each.

As always, we're only a phone call away to talk it over with you directly. We can also send images, create design renders, and produce sample panels for larger projects.

The Natural Stone Co. team.



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1. Lay Styles
2. Mortar Finishes
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## 1. Lay Styles

Depending on the particular stone, there are a variety of ways in which it can be laid. In some cases, the stone can be laid as it is supplied - other lay styles require us to shape it further during the production stage and/or the installer to do this on site.

Below are the most common lay styles for natural stone cladding. These are an indication only, there can be variations depending on the type of stone and the look you want to achieve.

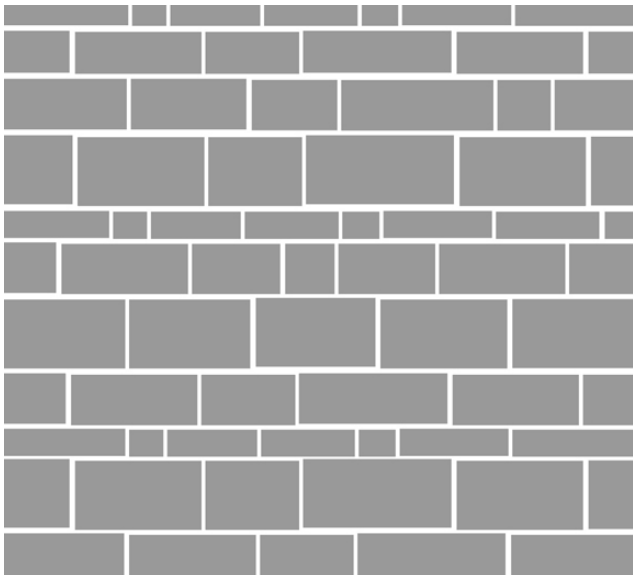
Speak with your architect, builder or installer about which options are suitable for your project or give us a call and we'll happily talk you through it.

### Random Ashler

A classic style of stonework where the stones are cut and/or dressed into varying-sized rectangular or square shapes and laid in horizontal rows.

While there is a degree of randomness - stones of different heights and lengths are blended together - the stones are purposely chosen to achieve a linear look. Typically laid as Dry Stack or with a fine Point Joint (see Mortar Finishes).

Most suited to schist with its natural linear shape. Can be achieved with limestone and other natural stones, however this does require more processing of the stone prior to laying.

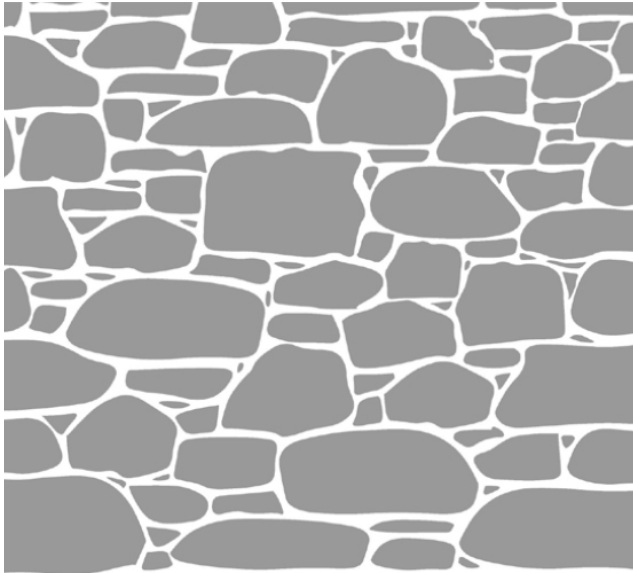


*Suitable for: NZ Schist; NZ Limestone; NZ Volcanic Stone; Other Natural Stone*

## Random Rubble

An organic, natural look using irregular-shaped stones of varying sizes.

Little shaping is required, and gaps are filled with mortar and/or smaller stones. Because the stones are less uniform, mortar joints are wider and more visible if the stonework is Pointed (see Mortar Finishes).

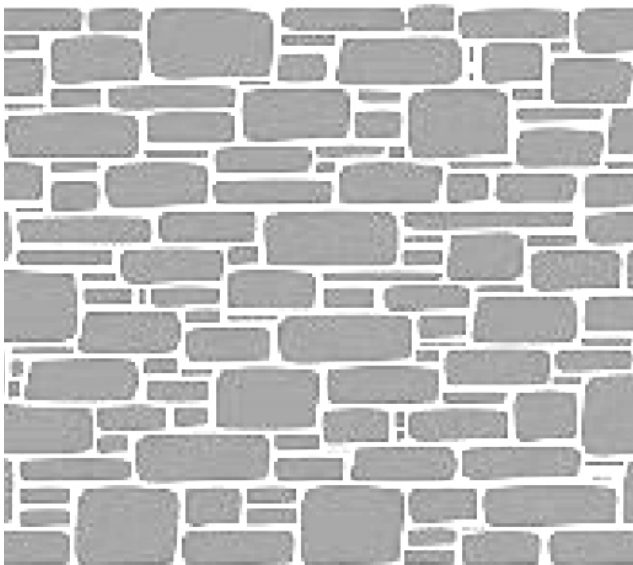


*Suited to most natural stone types.*

## Square Random Rubble

Similar to the above, but the stones are squared off on all four sides prior to laying. This is done with a dressing hammer to create a natural, organic finish, rather than a cut finish.

Because the stones are squared off, the gap between the stones can be narrow if desired, either for a Dry Stack or a fine Pointed Joint installation (see Mortar Finishes). Note that this process results in smaller stone sizes overall.



*Suited to NZ Limestone; NZ Volcanic Stone (Basalt/Andesite; Other Natural Stone without layering*

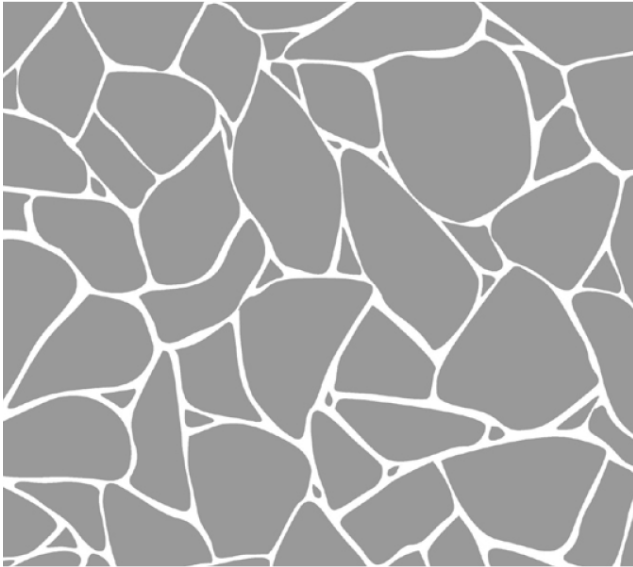
## Reticulated or Crazy Paving

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Irregular-shaped stones of varying sizes are laid in a random, asymmetrical way.

There are deliberately no straight lines or grid patterns, creating an artistic, mosaic-like design. Fitting the pieces together requires skill and an eye for pattern — no two installations look the same.

The stone can be laid either Dry Stack or with a Pointed Joint (see Mortar Finishes) and can be applied as both walling and flooring.



*Suited to most natural stone types.*

*Schist needs to be extracted and processed along its foliation (layering) to be laid as a paving stone, sizes may vary.*

## 2. Mortar Finishes

This relates to how much - if any - mortar is used between the individual pieces of stone and to what depth.

### Dry Stack

Also referred to as Dry Stone Walling, this method has no mortar between the stone with a tight joint (gap) of approximately 2-7mm. Smaller pieces of stone are used to fill gaps and create a continuous flow of stone.



### Pointed Joint

Where the space between the stone is filled with mortar.

Variations with a Pointed Joint finish include the width of the space or joint - from narrow (around 10-15mm) to wide (19mm or greater) - and the depth of the mortar - from a Raked to a Flush joint. More on this below.



## Bagged or Rendered

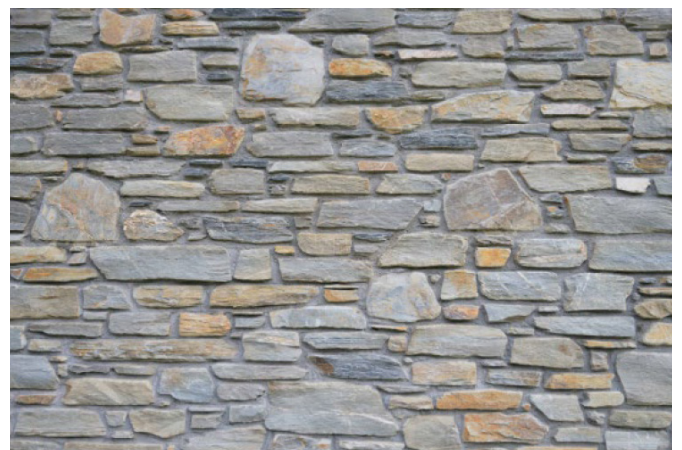
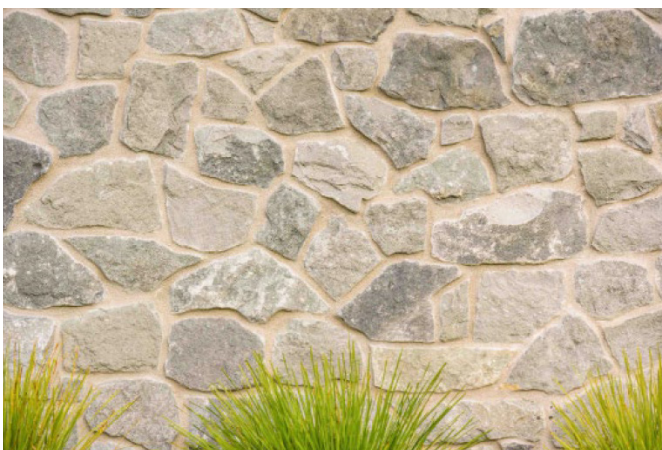
Based on the look of traditional stonework, a very wide joint or gap is filled with mortar to be either flush with or partially covering the stone's face. Creates a textured but even surface that exposes parts of the stone while also hinting at the shape beneath.



## Raked Joint

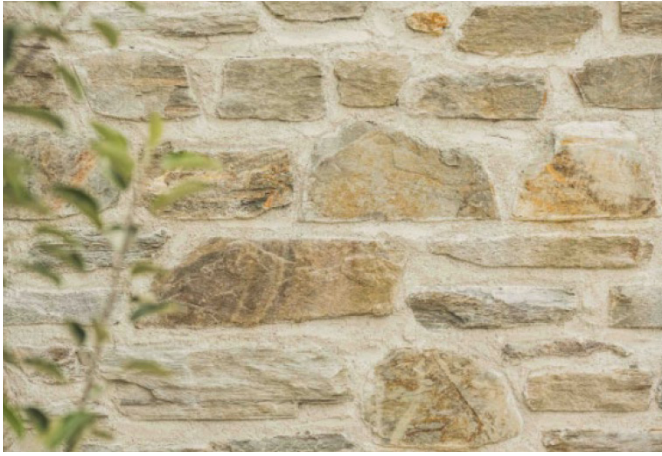
Where the mortar is gently brushed out of the joints while it is still wet to create a recess of a specific depth (up to 20mm). A Raked Joint creates a shadow effect that emphasizes the individual stones.

Raked Joints are not generally recommended for exterior use in wet or cold climates as the recessed shelf can trap water, leading to potential moisture damage or freeze-thaw issues over time.



## Flushed Joint

Where the mortar is flush with the face of the surrounding stones. Creates a smooth, flat finish to the surface of the wall and gives the joints a fuller look.



### 3. Mortar Colour

The colour of the mortar also plays an important role in the overall look of your stonework. It can enhance the natural beauty of the stone, create visual harmony, or provide a contrast for a more graphic, architectural effect.

As a general rule, a similar-coloured mortar creates a more continuous flow across the surface, while contrasting mortars tend to emphasise the individual stones and provide a break to the eye.

Below is an example of the more standard mortar colours as a starting point. The options are greater than this and custom mortars can be created to achieve a specific colour.

Speak with your architect, builder or installer about the look you'd like to achieve for your project, or give us a call to talk it over, we'd be happy to help and can recommend some options.



Jet Black



Cream



Premium White



Natural



Dark Brown



Charcoal



Antique White



Antique Cream



Light Brown

## 4. Detailing Options

Having certain details made from natural stone helps to complete the look of your cladding installation, completing the look and giving the installation a sense of permanence

Below are examples of the most common forms of natural stone detailing. We source and manufacture our New Zealand stone cladding, so we can design and produce custom detailing for specific projects. Contact us to talk about what you have in mind, the earlier in the project cycle the better.

### Capping

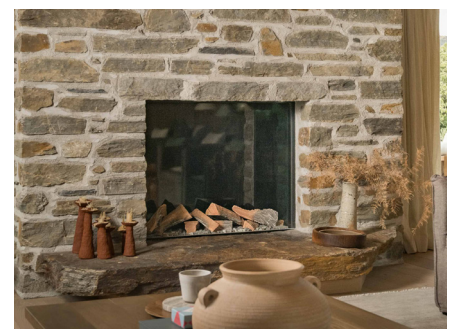
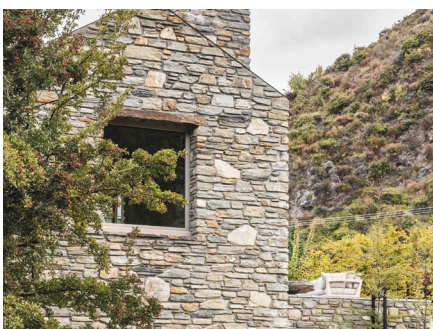
Capping is flat, custom-cut pieces of stone to sit on the top of walls, pillars and parapets. Usually produced from the same stone as the cladding but can be different depending on the length and thickness of the capping required.



### Lintels

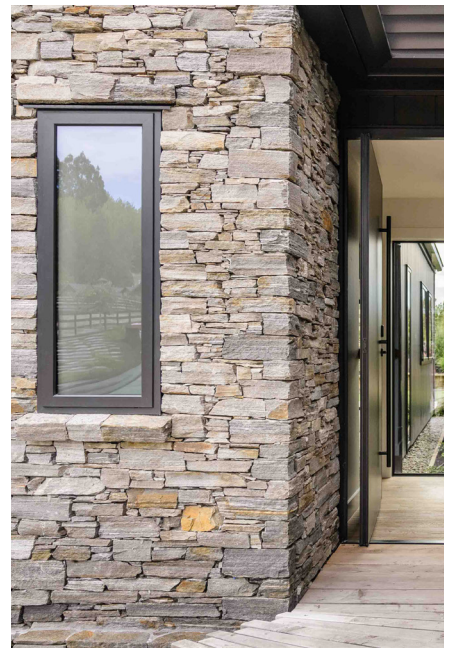
Lintels are a horizontal beam placed above openings like doors, windows, and fireplaces. Natural stone lintels create a seamless look with the surrounding cladding as well as being a subtle feature in their own right.

Depending on the type of stone and the dimensions of the opening, natural stone lintels can be one-piece, three-piece or multi-piece.



## Sills

As with lintels above, natural stone sills are a key feature below windows, coming up to the bottom of the window frame. They can sit flush with the window or extend past for an alternative look and, depending on the type of stone, can be produced as a one-piece, three-piece or multi-piece sill.



## Light Switches and Walling Lights

For a seamless architectural finish across your natural stone wall, we can custom-produce cut-out features for light switches and recessed wall lighting. Talk to us about this in the early stages of your project.

