SET IN STONE

BY LISE LAROCQUE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSICA DEEKS

THE PLACE: For more than 50 years, **Merkley Supply Ltd.** has been a cornerstone in Ottawa's building industry. Supplying a wide range of brick, stone and landscaping products, it is known as a go-to destination for interior and exterior finishes. The store features two large showrooms and an outdoor product display. "Our large displays let visitors visualize the look and texture of a particular stone and determine how well it will match their specific décor," explains Ken Merkley, Marketing Manager. "People often bring paint swatches or pieces of hardwood into our displays to get a sense of what will work in their home."

THE PRODUCTS: Merkley offers an assortment of indoor and outdoor building and renovation supplies and every tool imaginable for the installation process. "If you want to do it yourself, we are happy to help you find what you need and offer advice," says Ken. "If you'd rather leave your renovation or building project to a professional, we're happy to recommend local experts that can help with the installation."

WHAT'S HOT: Thin stone veneers have become a popular choice for use both inside and outside the home. They offer the beauty of natural stone but are lighter and easier to install – perfect for modernizing outdated, aesthetically-challenged fireplaces. "In older homes, people sometimes want to update their fireplaces with a new look but don't know where to start," explains Ken. "Thin veneers allow them to redo a fireplace without having to remove the existing brick. They can be applied over the existing structure to modernize the fireplace without tearing it apart."

TIP: Plan your outdoor landscaping project now. As the autumn winds breeze into town, outdoor landscaping might be far from your mind, but it's often the best time to set the planning wheels in motion in order to maximize enjoyment of your outdoor living space next summer.

GET THERE: 100 Bayview Rd., Ottawa (Mechanicsville) 613.728.2693, www.merkleysupply.com **OH**