

Considerations to be taken into account before starting to specify external Natural Stone



A brief summary of matters to bear in mind:

1. Pedestrian/vehicular or shared surface
2. Support layers for the paving - possible need for specialist: Consultant/use of laying guides and BSEs
3. Ethical issues
4. Environmental issues
5. Thickness constraints
6. Planned life
7. Fast food outlets
8. Oil drips from vehicles
9. Staining from other sources
10. Potential damage from market traders, pub deliveries, skateboarders, lorries on pavement and vandalism
11. Maintenance - chewing gum - street cleaners!! Vacuum and jet washing
12. Frost requirements, salt regime
13. Skid/slip resistance
14. Disabled access
15. Building context and adjoining materials
16. Relationship to internal paving
17. Colour consistency
18. Compatibility of street furniture and kerbs
19. Can the quarry produce the size/shape desired
20. Start date/procurement timetable
21. Tolerances required
22. Details to be incorporated - gullies, drains, inserts...
23. Supervision of the work
24. Contrasts in one material
25. Combinations of materials

Then begin to select colours, design and sizes which suit the chosen materials.

Use stone in art, for giving a sense of place, showing history or geography, providing information and entertainment and having fun, **aesthetically, economically and with sustainability.**

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