



BEYOND THE ORDINARY

Kingstone Studio founder Jean-Pierre DeBoise crafts custom outdoor kitchens, fireplace mantels and other unique items.

When Frenchman Jean-Pierre DeBoise came to America in 1983, he brought with him a life-long love of building and a desire to bring beauty to the humblest of material-cement. While still a teenager, he began to design samples of façade elements for a local store. His materials included plaster, balsa, clay and fiberglass. After receiving a Bachelor's degree in Public Works and

Civil Construction in France, he worked as a project manager for a large construction company. Many of his jobs took him to old cities with beautiful stone buildings. He loved the feel of permanence and substantiality of those buildings.

Despite his success in construction, he had an unfulfilled dream. "As long as I can remember, I'd wanted to come to America," Jean-Pierre said. In 1983, a job

offer gave him the chance to do so. He moved here, and shortly thereafter began to pursue another dream—that of having his own business. He began his current business in the kitchen of his Tampa home. His molds of coping and patio stones, balusters and fireplace mantels filled his home with the smell of resin and fresh cement. For a short time, he accepted the offer of a friend to use his



ABOVE: A fireplace mantel becomes a striking focal point in the hands of designer and craftsman Jean-Pierre DeBoise.



ABOVE: A passion for old stone influences DeBoise's designs for outdoor kitchens.

garage workshop, but his business continued to grow and he had to make another move. This time, Jean-Pierre moved to his current studio/workshop in Tampa. On the advice of a local businessman, he decided to also branch out into designing outdoor kitchens. In 1996 Kingstone Studio was born.

Kingstone Studio now specializes in handcrafted fireplace mantels and custom outdoor kitchens. Rocks and waterfalls were also added to Jean-Pierre's repertoire about two years ago. His approach to each design is unique. He produces original designs or works from ideas of his customers to create a one-of-a-kind piece. Custom kitchens are never duplicated.

Jean-Pierre does all of the designs for Kingstone Studio and uses a material he developed called Travertec™. Travertec is a handmade composite material. Based on the properties of Glass Fiber Reinforced Concrete (GFRC), the end result is a very attractive material. It is also exceptionally good for use in Florida's climate, as it is rust, rot and heat resistant, as well as waterproof and virtually maintenance free. It was Jean-Pierre's passion for old stone, developed while working on those projects in

France, which eventually led him to develop the material.

Each custom design takes approximately one to three months. Jean-Pierre says he doesn't have a favorite project among those he's done. "They are all challenging, and are technically very different," he says. "When I take one project, I live with it for a couple of months. I have to come

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up with the design, with the engineering, how I will technically install it and assemble it. I want it to be very pure and not look like a boxy cabinet."

Ninety percent of the work is done in his studio. "This way it takes very little time to install the project," he says. "It usually takes between one day and one

week, with the average being two days. This gives the customer a minimum of mess and dust."

One of Jean-Pierre's unique designs is a fireplace mantel called the "Villiers." It is a replica of a 13th century fireplace located in the bedroom of a manor in Villiers, France. The original fireplace was 30 percent larger than Jean-Pierre's design, but he has added a few of his own design elements to lighten the structure and make it more appropriate for today's homes. He uses texture and variations in color to imitate the look of a centuries old fireplace. He also "ages" the stones, and deliberately breaks and repairs a few of them to make them resemble old stonework.

Jean-Pierre's most rewarding moments come when he watches a client seeing his creations for the first time. His attention to detail and unique creations embody Kingstone Studio's slogan, "Beyond the Ordinary."

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