

Some of the most alluring aspects of today's grand custom homes are the magnificent stone choices for kitchens and baths. Stone options for countertops, fireplace surrounds, tubs and other surfaces are elegant and varied, and available from one of Atlanta's most reputable names in the industry- -Atlanta Kitchen, Inc.

"As the region's only provider capable of fabricating all four major quartz stone products – Cambria, Silestone, Zodiaq and Caesarstone – we can offer customers a wide range of styles and colors," explains Mitch Hires, President of Construction Resources, Inc., the parent corporation that encompasses Atlanta Kitchen, Inc. and its affiliated companies, including Atlanta Marble Manufacturing, Inc., Atlanta Glass and Mirror, Inc. and Atlanta Garage Doors & Fireplaces, LLC.

"We can install any stone that is available through distribution and importing," states Hires. "Atlanta Kitchen maintains over 2,000 slabs of granite, natural stone and quartz in our stone yard at all times." Atlanta Kitchen is also a leading fabricator of solid surface countertops including Corian, Staron, Hi-Macs, Avonite and Gibraltar. The company just announced the expansion of their granite and quartz facility and new solid surface facility located in Decatur, Ga.

"Through expert craftsmanship, professional installation and sophisticated equipment, we can provide very quick turnaround times to meet our client's deadlines and unique requirements."

Since your countertops will probably be the most expensive design element and will dominate the space, it is best to choose colors that coordinate well with your decorating style, advises Hires. "It makes good sense to choose your stone when making your cabinet, flooring and wall color selections," says Hires. "You want a stone color that you can decorate around. You don't want to choose something so exotic that you have trouble coordinating the other elements in the room."

The cost factor is variable, and is determined by the value of the stone, ease of accessibility, and availability. "More common and easily available stones will be less expensive than a more precious stone that is harder to retrieve and may need more backing and reinforcement," states Hires.

Currently, natural stone is the most popular style being installed in today's kitchen and baths, says Hires. "Multi-color stones, sandstone colors, Calcutta Gold Marble, are all very popular right now," he explained. "There is also an increased trend in using quartz products, such as, Cambria and Silestone, due to its 10-year warranty and the fact that it has zero maintenance requirements." Popular granite stone colors include Venetian Gold, Tropic Brown, Santa Cecilia and Absolute Black.

Construction Resources, Inc. is known around the region as a true "one-stop" shop offering not only quality stone, solid-surface countertops, and cultured marble vanity tops, but also whirlpool tubs, door locks, shower doors, mirrors and frameless glass enclosures. Operations facilities and showrooms are also located throughout North Florida, Georgia and Alabama. Locations include Tallahassee, Fl., Jacksonville, Fl., Santa Rosa Beach, Fl., Birmingham, Al., Decatur and Conyers, Ga.

"Our inventory now includes a new line of luxury air and water jetted whirlpool tubs," says Hires. And, the demand calls for the product, he adds. "Bathrooms have become a special retreat for homeowners," he explains. "With a spa bath, you will add value to your home while creating a special environment where you can rejuvenate your body, relax your mind and soothe your spirit." This extensive product line of more than 40 products has quickly made the company a strong contender in the acrylic luxury bath industry.

"We want customers to have one vendor they can rely on to provide more specialty products for their homes," explains Hires. "Our company is a 37-year old family business. We've built a good reputation in the community and have strong relationships with all the stone distributors in town. Customers can pick out what they like from either one of our two local showrooms, or from a local distributor, and have it shipped to us for fabrication."

For your home's bath needs, Atlanta Glass & Mirror, Inc. provides mirrors, shower doors, frameless glass, ventilated shelving, door locks, bath hardware, vinyl and wood exterior shutters, closet systems and other accessories for the home.

Construction Resources's family of companies now also offers products for other rooms of the house including gas log fireplaces, wood burning fireplaces, garage doors

and carriage doors through Atlanta Garage Doors & Fireplaces, the company's newest addition.

“Nothing makes a home feel as warm and welcoming as the ambiance of a fireplace,” says Joseph M. Horne, President of Atlanta Garage Doors & Fireplaces. Now more than ever, he says, homeowners and builders want specialty fireplaces installed in multiple rooms of the house including bedrooms, bathrooms and kitchens. “Today it is possible to install fireplaces – either vent-free, direct vent, wood burning or electric – in virtually any room of a home.”

“We take pride in offering a simple turn-key installation of gas log, wood burning fireplaces, mantels, surrounds, overhead garage doors, carriage doors and garage door hardware,” adds Sonny Hires, Vice-President of Construction Resources, Inc. “We are certain the addition of this new company will add yet another layer of service and products available to our customers while further expanding our portfolio of specialty products for the home.”