



A CUT ABOVE

From premium, hand-picked stone to an attention-filled customer experience, Cava Surfaces offers a turnkey package.

By Wendy Helfenbaum

If you've ever been curious about the many varieties of stunning stone that can beautify your home—from marble and quartzite to onyx, granite and travertine—you might want to talk to Tariq Darwish. As the sales manager at Cava Surfaces, he's not only knowledgeable but also passionate about the spectacular gifts of Mother Earth that can make any room look spectacular. "We specialize in catering to interior designers and discerning homeowners who want show-stopping surfaces to elevate their spaces," Darwish says.

At its North York showroom, Cava Surfaces is committed to innovation, ensuring a constant influx of new and distinctive offerings. "Our mission is to provide continuous inspiration," Darwish says. "Our dedication to product knowledge, exceptional service, and delivering value to our clients truly sets us apart." In fact, far from simply sending clients into the company's warehouse to select a slab, Cava's experts are on hand to help guide them through every step of the process. "For over 15 years, we've embraced a personalized approach to thoroughly inform our clients, empowering them to make informed decisions," he says.

Cava Surfaces boasts an impressive inventory of more than 350 distinct types of stone, ranging from timeless marble, travertine, and onyx to durable quartzite, quartz, and porcelain. Darwish has seen a shift among designers away from greys toward bold veining, warm golden tones and soft striations. "While quartz and porcelain once ▶



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dominated the scene, natural stone is making a resounding comeback, with quartzites gaining significant popularity due to their superior strength compared to marble,” he says. For those who are weary of marble, Darwish says there are new technologies that can add layers of protection to the ancient stone in the form of wraps and one-time ▶

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sealers. "This investment enhances your marble's resistance to stains, etching, and heat, ensuring its longevity and preserving its beauty," he says.

Darwish has also observed a growing trend among homeowners and designers to anchor entire spaces around exotic natural stone selections, drawing inspiration for cabinet, paint, tile and hardwood colours from the veining and tones inherent in the stone. "Quartzite, with its remarkable density and durability, has emerged as a favourite choice," he says, "particularly those sourced from Brazilian quarries that offer vibrant hues such as blues, pinks, and oranges."

The company remains at the forefront of innovation with the recent introduction of nano-ink quartz, a revolutionary technology that seamlessly prints real marble patterns onto a quartz base, enhancing authenticity while retaining the inherent benefits of quartz: resistance to etching and staining, and ease of installation, which reduces labour costs. While traditional styles of flecked granite have waned in popularity, Darwish advocates for the unique granite options offered by Cava Surfaces, citing such examples as the striking black Belvedere granite with golden-white veins, and the premium onyx available in captivating shades of pink, soft orange, blue, and green.

Dedicated to staying abreast of industry trends, the stone experts at Cava Surfaces provide regular updates to their clients, offering a weekly live inventory and sending out curated brochures to designers and homeowners in search of the perfect selection for their spaces. "Building or renovating a home can be overwhelming, but our interactive catalogue, which is akin to flipping through a magazine, streamlines the process, allowing clients to explore our offerings with ease before guiding them through their selection," Darwish says. ¹¹



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