

## INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

Ken Fung, creative director of APAC Workshop, says stone walls are chic, but they require expert craftsmanship and take time to make. However, they are much easier to maintain than painted walls. He explains: "Oil- or water-based paints are more vulnerable to weather changes. They may chip off or grow mouldy in wet weather. But stone walls are easy to maintain and, today, most of them are given a special surface treatment. All you need to do is to dust the walls with a piece of cloth from time to time."

To preserve the stone's natural colour and pattern, it is best not to use chemicals to clean the walls. To remove the occasional stains that may occur from red wine or soy sauce, a piece of wet cloth will do the trick.

The installation of stone walls can be slightly complicated, Fung says. Most of them are secured to a base with special pins. But for heavier stones, you may need a special frame or stone hanger to hold them in place.

### 石牆的安裝及保養

馮健文說，雖然石牆設計流行，安裝卻要多花功夫，但安裝工藝若做得細緻，石牆較諸乳膠漆牆更易打理。「油漆及乳膠漆牆有時會因天氣變化，發霉或掉下一小塊，但石牆基本不用怎樣打理，尤其是今天不少石材都經過表面處理，只要用布輕抹塵埃就可以。」當然，石牆若用化學清潔劑抹，會令石紋變色，若不小心沾上紅酒或醬油，需立即用濕布抹去，不然，會把石紋染色。

安裝方面，馮健文說，石牆工序較多，一般都應用釘固定，有些重的石牆，則需要支架固定工程，又或採用石材掛鉤。



MAINTENANCE IS SIMPLE WITH STONE WALLS.  
石牆擁有容易清潔和保養的優點。

wood and metal. The warmth of wood softens the stone and evokes a sense of being in touch with nature.

"If you prefer metal, you can pick a stone for the main theme, and then throw in stainless steel or copper," Leung says. "The result is avant-garde and grand."

Stone is a natural raw material. Freshly-mined stone needs to go through several processing stages, such as cutting, sanding and polishing, before it can be used as a building material. That is why building a feature wall with stone is more costly than doing so with wallpaper or paint.

Despite the cost, stone walls have won over many homeowners. According to

Leung, many of them are willing to spend their hard-earned money on creating a place where they are able to relax after a hectic day at work.

Ken Fung, creative director of APAC Workshop, agrees that stone walls have become increasingly popular in Hong Kong in recent years. "Creating stone walls began over a decade ago," he says. "But in the past, stone walls were often built in kitchens, bathrooms and gardens. These days, homeowners install a stone wall in island kitchens, living rooms or dining rooms to accentuate the living space."

There are as many options for themes as there are different kinds of stones. Fung says

some use the ruggedness of stone walls to bring a natural feel to the living space, while others look to the material to bring excitement. When mixed with metal, stone walls can create a posh feel.

Natural stones come in a variety of patterns, textures and feels. They are special, and every piece has its own personality, which is something paint cannot offer.

Stone walls are special because they never age. They bring a sense of imagination and fantasy to the living space, giving it depth and an additional dimension. They make your whole design livelier, fresher, and are always easy on the eye.