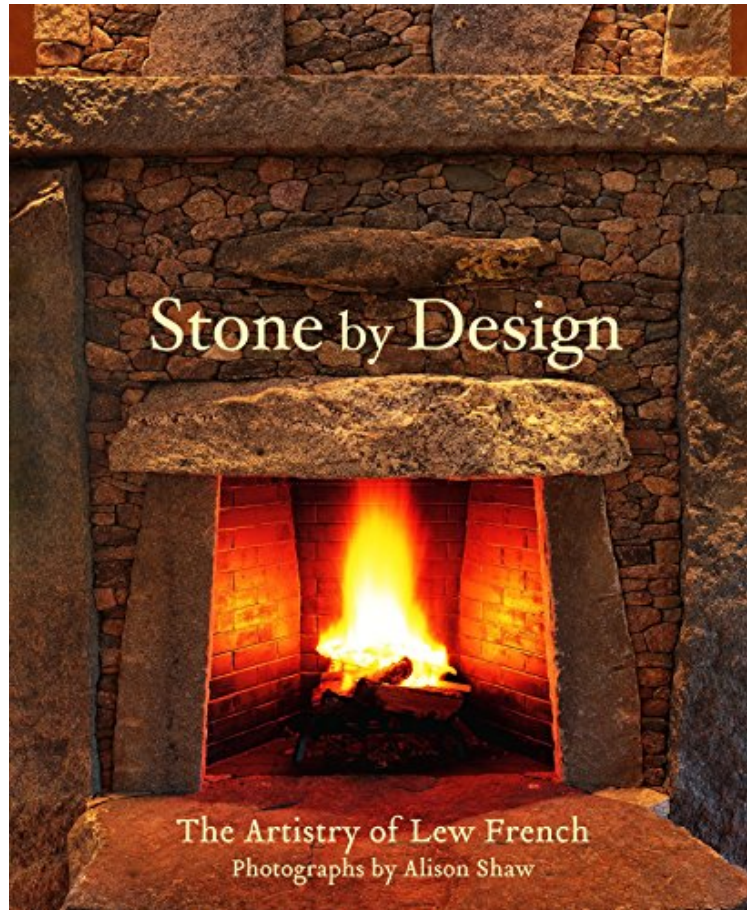


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## Stone by Design: The Artistry of Lew French

*Lew French*

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#406163 in Books 2005-08-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 11.36 x .96 x 9.40l, 2.58 #File Name: 1586854437160 pages | File size: 71.Mb

**Lew French : Stone by Design: The Artistry of Lew French** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stone by Design: The Artistry of Lew French:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. very creative stonework. beautiful projectsBy L. RodgersThis is a beautiful book, with amazing pictures of this artists projects. He uses stone like a painter would use a brush and pigment. His works are truly creative and unique. I am not a stone worker, but i really enjoyed this book. I gave one as a gift to a man who is a tile worker. Just to work with such massive objects is amazing, but to see in them the possibility for walls and other structures is very interesting.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Like I got stoned dude.By LuapBuy this book. If you have even one ounce of creative juices, this work will get you rocking.This is no New England' farm-wall,how-to rag. This publication is a gateway to devine intervention, a seriously informative and yet beautiful source of motivation. Not a motivation to copy the author, but a motivation to find yourself. Talk to the stone with your own voice and listen to what it tells you..... What a high! Go out there and lay a stone for momma....1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Best present everBy KathyH.I ordered this book for my son-in-law, a mason, for Christmas 2 years ago. Because a story about the author and his work had been

shown on CBS Sunday Morning, the book sold out and it had to be reprinted. After months of waiting (well after Christmas), I finally received the book and gave it to him the following Christmas. When he received it, he was blown away by the exquisite portrayals of stone mason works of art. He proclaimed it was "the best present" he's ever received. It was well worth the wait!

More than 125 gorgeous photographs showcase the beauty of award-winning stonemason Lew French's work in eight different homes, illustrating how rounded fieldstone, gray slate, rough granite, and even curvy driftwood can be incorporated into stunning pieces of functional art. French provides charming narration for each project: how an idea came to be; how a stone-splitting technique is executed; even how one of his most difficult pieces, a three-year-long project, was saved from ruin the day it was completed. With its contemporary hearths of rustic slate, sculptured walls of both great granite slabs as well as stacked and rounded fieldstones, *Stone By Design: The Artistry of Lew French* will inspire design lovers to incorporate this material in home interiors and exteriors, whether as an artful writer's studio, a playful fireplace, or a carefully crafted garden pathway. More than just a stunning tribute to the work of Lew French and his unique vision and craft, this book celebrates both the function and form of stone. It's the perfect inspiration for anyone interested in adding the beauty of stone to their home or landscape. Lew French was born in the small farming town of Zumbrota, Minnesota. He started to work with stone when he was just nineteen years old. He moved to Martha's Vineyard twenty years ago and has worked on his own stone designs exclusively since. His work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *House Beautiful*, *The Boston Globe Magazine*, *Architectural Digest*, and *Metropolitan Home*. He has also been featured on HGTV's *Modern Masters* and local programs in the Northeast. He has two sons, Asa and Truman. Alison Shaw is a fine-art and editorial photographer who lives and works on Martha's Vineyard, which has provided the inspiration and subject matter for much of her color and black-and-white photography. Over five thousand of her original fine-art prints are in public and private collections. Alison's work appears regularly in *Yankee Magazine*, *Martha's Vineyard Magazine*, and *Cape Cod Life*. She teaches photography workshops for the *Maine Photographic Workshops* and *Santa Fe Workshops*. Alison lives with her family in Oak Bluffs.

From the Inside Flap  
When Lew French made his first stone fireplace at age nineteen, he didn't expect to feel so drawn to the simple material. Twenty-eight years and countless projects later, he still feels awed by the presence stone has in a well-designed setting, whether it's an artfully rendered remodel of a writer's stone studio, a playful fireplace, or a carefully crafted garden pathway. This first collection of French's work, filled with artistic inspiration for your own home or landscape, is a study in contrast: contemporary hearths of rustic slate, sculptured walls of both great granite slabs and stacked, rounded fieldstones. More than 130 gorgeous photographs by Alison Shaw illustrate the beauty of French's pieces and invite you to see how rounded fieldstone, grey slate, rough granite, and even curvy driftwood, are incorporated into stunning pieces of functional art. Throughout, French narrates the charming stories behind the projects: how an idea came to be; how a stone-splitting technique is executed; even how one of his most difficult pieces, a three-year-long project, was saved from ruin just in the nick of time, the day it was completed. *Stone by Design* is the perfect inspiration for anyone interested in adding the beauty of stone to their own home or landscape. Lew French was born in a small farming town in southern Minnesota, called Zumbrota. He started to work with stone when he had a small construction crew right out of high school and built one or two houses a year. He moved to Martha's Vineyard twenty years ago, and has since worked on his own stone designs exclusively. His work has been featured in many publications, including *The New York Times* and *House Beautiful*. French was also featured as a Modern Master on the premier season of "Modern Masters" in the House and Garden Network. French lives with his two sons, Asa and Truman. Alison Shaw is a fine-art and editorial photographer who lives and works on Martha's Vineyard, which has provided the inspiration and subject matter for much of her color and black-and-white photography. Over 5000 of her original fine art prints are in public and private collections. Alison's work appears regularly in *Yankee Magazine*, *Martha's Vineyard Magazine* and *Cape Cod Life*. She teaches photography workshops for the *Maine Photographic Workshops* and *Santa Fe Workshops*. Alison lives with her family in Oak Bluffs.  
About the Author  
Lew French was born in a small farming town in southern Minnesota, called Zumbrota. He started to work with stone when he was nineteen years old. He had a small construction crew right out of high school and built one or two houses a year. This is when he started to explore with stone. He moved to Martha's Vineyard twenty years ago, and for the past twenty years has worked on his own stone designs exclusively. His work has been featured in the *New York Times* and *House Beautiful*. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.  
Working with stone for the past twenty-eight years has been one continuous learning experience for me. I have designed and built a wide variety of stone objects, including fireplaces, walls, gardens, patios, interior spaces, sculptures, and landscapes. Throughout all this creating and building, I am still amazed at how much I do not know or understand about this simple and basic material called stone. I had just turned nineteen when I first used stone in a building project. I sensed that there was something special about stone, but I did not begin to realize its full potential until I built a black limestone exterior chimney about three years later. While working on the chimney, the full force of the stone's power and energy hit me.

It was an awakening. I remember, to this day, going to the quarry, handpicking the stones to be used, mixing the cement powder with the washed sand to make the concrete to hold the stones in place. I was doing all the work myself, putting in twelve-hour days of backbreaking labor. At night I would find myself in bed, so tired from the day's work in the hot sun but still not able to fall asleep, just laying there on my back. I waited anxiously for daybreak, so I could go back to work and lay more stone, thoughts racing through my mind, so excited about the hypnotic energy that the emerging patterns of the stones were creating. I wanted to create a bigger picture, at the end of the day I'd set my tools down and just stare at what was unfolding. It was not about the work-I liked being outdoors, working for myself, and being physically active. But the physical work was just a means to the end: the completed six-by-twenty-two-foot rectangular form. When it was finished, I could not stop myself from looking at it. The visual impact that the stonework had on me was like nothing I had experienced in my young life. For the first time I knew what I wanted to do. I wanted to work with stone.