



## **Custom Stone Works: Building Projects That Will Impress for Centuries**

Custom Stone Works, entering its 23<sup>rd</sup> year of business, has been located in Livonia, Michigan from the beginning. They started as a small granite shop and grew into a large full-scale business, capable of cutting any natural stone. To ensure each project is completed with the accuracy and detail it deserves, Custom Stone Works employs hand carvers who compliment their nine CNC machines. The company's exterior stone projects include many well-known buildings including the Book Tower, the University of Michigan Football Stadium, and Michigan State University campus signs. Today, Custom Stone Works supplies stone for many residential and commercial projects reaching as far as Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

"Mason contractors and suppliers, while competing with one another, are committed to keeping quality and standards at the highest level," said, Omar Faris, manager at Custom Stone Works. "We share in this commitment, double- and triple-checking projects to meet and exceed our customers' expectations."

Faris believes that his team has learned a lot from the MIM since joining 12 years ago. "By taking advantage of the wide range of drawings and resources the MIM offers," he said. "We make our customers, especially residential, more comfortable. They know that we are part of a bigger group that promotes masonry and that increases their confidence in Custom Stone Works." Additionally, Faris noted that the MIM has taught his team that, through hard work, a focus on correctly designed masonry, and accurately fabricated stone, the company can build projects that will impress for centuries.

When advising new members, Faris suggests they be prepared to learn, adapt and evolve. Each masonry project, contractor and homeowner have certain needs. To reach the customers' goals, he emphasized they should be open minded and listen carefully. He summarized with this thought, "Focus on the process and your desired outcome will happen."

What is Faris' favorite thing about the MIM? It's the golf outings! Not solely for the golf but for the opportunity to meet peers in a relaxed environment—to learn about their families, hobbies and interests.