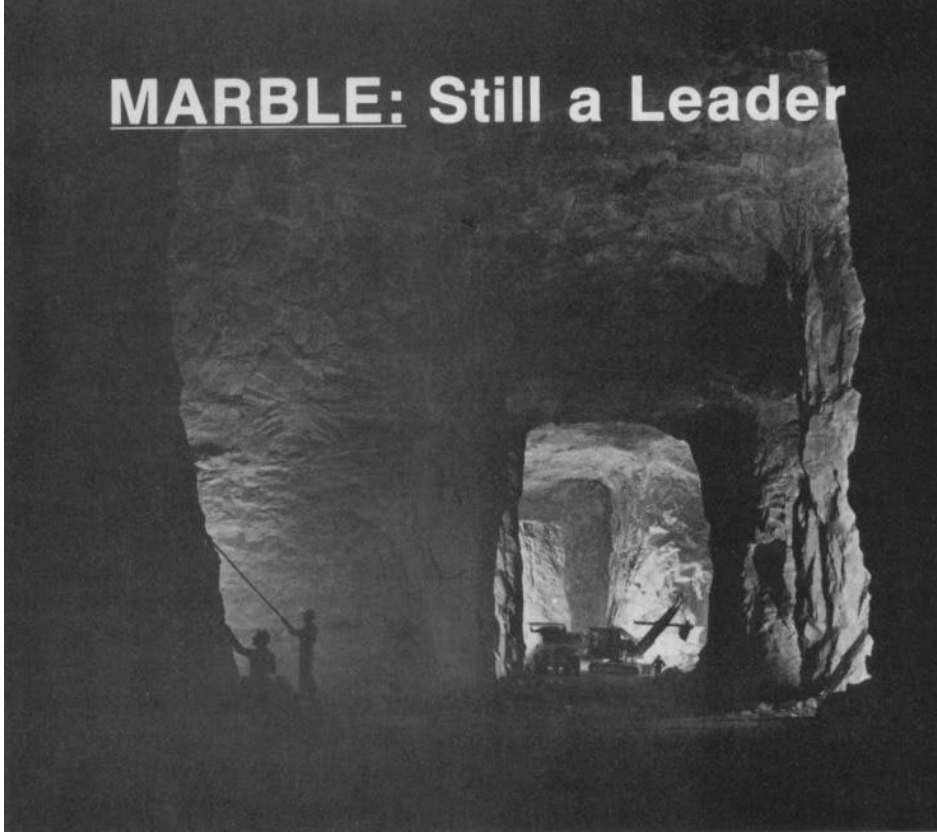


# MARBLE: Still a Leader



***Whether used  
in construction,  
agriculture,  
landscaping  
of monuments,  
marble finds  
many uses***

It took some 600 million years for nature, heat and pressure to convert sea shells, secrement, and tiny animal bodies into the beautiful calcite crystals which today are known as Marble.

The beauty and durability that resulted from this long process has found application in nearly every segment of the construction industry. Nowhere is marble used more extensively than in the wall and ceiling trades.

While the presence of marble abounds in such visible uses as exterior building materials, monuments, sculptured works, and the like, it is equally valuable in other areas of wall and ceiling work such as plaster for interior and exterior work as well as terrazzo aggregates for use mostly in the production of terrazzo floors, but also for structural, precast walls.

The use of terrazzo, with which wall and ceiling contractors are familiar, was initiated and developed by the Venetians somewhere about

the 15th Century.

Venetian workers were seeking a good, long-wearing and weather-resistant material to use on the terraces of their homes.

Scraps of marble were waste to the large marble companies, and the workers were given permission to use this waste material. Employing some of the principles of "Mosaics," the workers mixed the odd-sized marble pieces with cement and poured the mixture onto their terraces.

As far as long wear and whether resistance were concerned, the Venetians got what they were looking for. But the surfaces lacked color, were uneven, and rough.

Experimentation produced a technique of using a hard-grit rubbing stone together with a light cement grout to ease the friction. This brought out the marble's inherent colors and produced a smoother surface.

To this surface, the Venetians gave the name "terrazza," which through the years evolved to "terrazzo." The construction process changed little over the years.

About the 19th century the process became known in the United States where rapid improvements

in Terrazzo installation occurred with the introduction of electric grinding machines.

These machines which use carborundum stones on rotating heads removed the long process of hand-rubbing and brought out much better the color of the marble chips in the Terrazzo mixture.

Other uses for marble include white marble roofing aggregates for built-up roofs, landscape beautifying, agricultural lime production, and use for fillers in the manufacture of matches, paper coatings, phonograph records, putty, ceramics, cultured marble, crayon, printers' ink, chewing gum and hundreds of other items.

One of the most recent products utilizing marble is Stucco-Kote, a brilliant white marble aggregate, produced by the Georgia Marble Company, Atlanta, Ga. This application provides a finish which will retain its original snow white color for years and can be used for interiors and exteriors.

But whether marble is used in slab form or as an aggregate in a Terrazzo installation or simply as part of the plaster mix, it has justified its place as the aristocrat of building finishing materials. □

**Photo: Like a great dungeon of the past, the cavernous marble mine owned by Georgia Marble Company in Whitestone, Ga., provides much of the non-slab type marble used by the company's customers.**