



RHODES
ARCHITECTURAL
STONE
NATURAL STONE EXPERTS

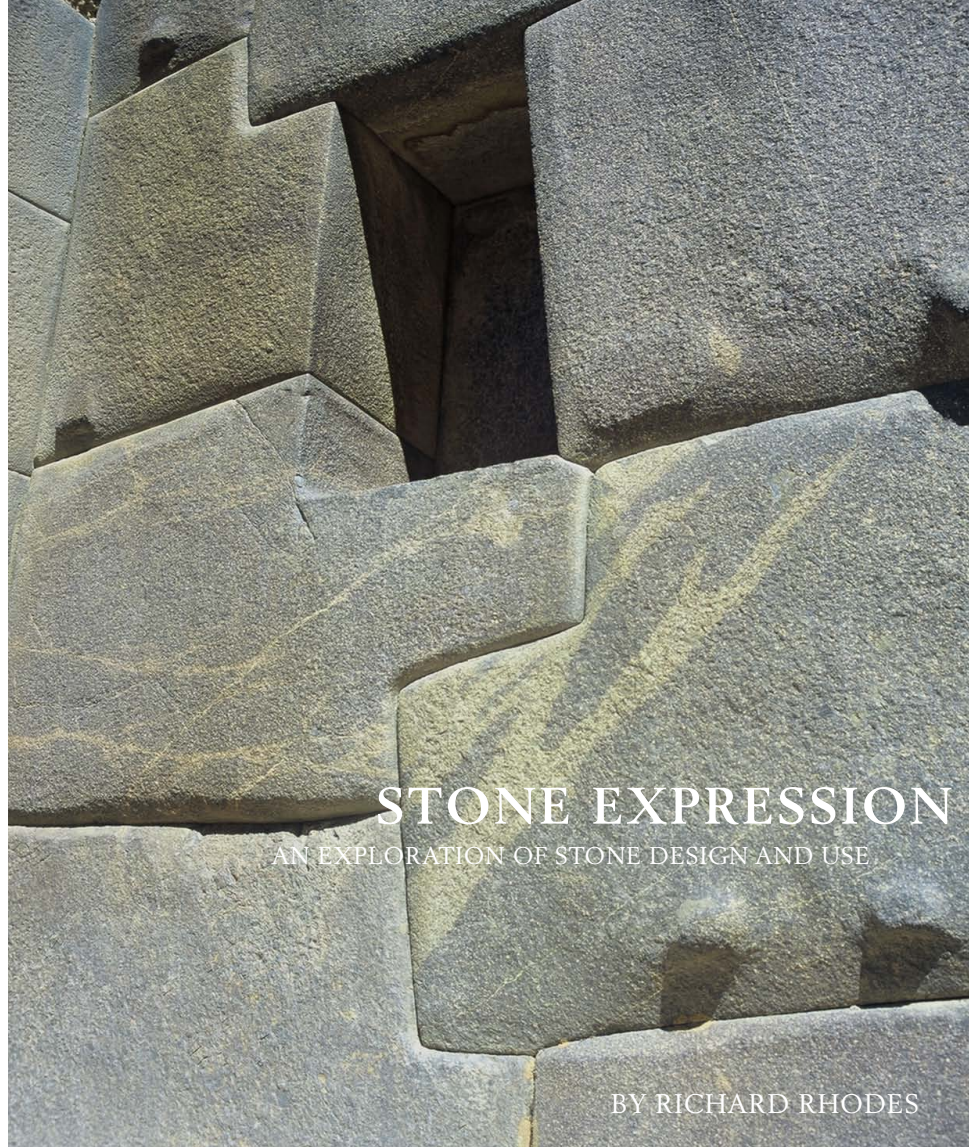


Book Jacket:

The relationship between mankind and stone is elemental and deeply engrained into all of us. Stone, after all, has been the primary building material for over 4000 years of human history, and it continues to record our triumphs and failures. In this searching look at the expressive use of stone in the past, Richard Rhodes unlocks the underlying principles of stone's highest and best use, and he illuminates rules codified by the medieval Freemason's guild. Century after century of stone use and practice gradually produced the closely-guarded *Sacred Geometries* and *Sacred Rules of Bondwork* – the "Sacred Rules" as they are collectively known – considered to be the most important and closely-kept property of stone guildsmen from the earliest times. Previously available only to the initiated, the rules are set forth here in public for the first time. Today more than ever, we need to explore the essential qualities of stone that emerge from the Sacred Rules, not only to rediscover the ancient and traditional knowledge that governed its use for so long, but also to find a roadmap for how future generations of architects, designers, and stone workers might artfully recapture the power this material offers.

A practicing stonemason, sculptor and veteran entrepreneur, Rhodes is uniquely qualified to illuminate the subject from his hands-on perspective and wide-ranging expertise. After completing an apprenticeship as a mason in Italy he worked for thirty years in the stone industry, crafting and designing stonework, founding and directing three companies specializing in architectural stone, and developing a reputation as a maverick and a pioneer in the use of stone. In this book, Rhodes brings his personal voice and story to bear on the essential themes that are locked in the material he has spent a lifetime exploring.

The book is richly illustrated with Rhodes' own medium format photographs and its various applications around the globe. Forming a remarkable collection in their own right, these photographs display ways in which stone has been central to human culture since man's earliest architectural habitation. Layman or design professional, this book will bring understanding and powerful insight into your experience of stone work around the world.



** Book not yet available, expected publishing date 2014*