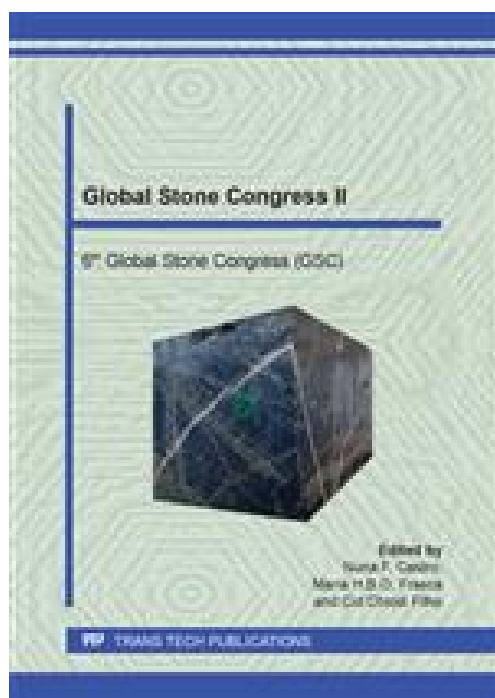


Global Stone Congress II



Subtitle: 6th Global Stone Congress (GSC)

Description: This volume contains selected, peer-reviewed papers from the 6th edition of the International Stone Congress, the Global Stone Congress 2018 (GSC): Connecting Minds in the World of Stone that was held- 25-28 April 2018, Ilhéus, Bahia, Brazil. Presented articles reflect the latest results and achievements in the area of technologies of mining, processing, and application of the natural stone and marble.

eBook 978-3-0357-3524-6

Print 978-3-0357-1524-8

eBook + Print 978-3-0357-1524-8

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Editors: **Nuria F. Castro, Maria H.B.O. Frascá and Cid Chiodi Filho**

BIC: **TDP, TGM, TN**

BISAC: **TEC009020, TEC020000, TEC021000**

Keywords: **Heritage, Natural Stone, Stone Characterization, Stone, Technology, Sustainability**

Details: **Selected, peer reviewed papers from the 6th International Stone Congress, the Global Stone Congress 2018 (GSC), April 25-28, 2018, Ilhéus, Bahia, Brazil**

Pages: **200**

Year: **2020**

ISBN-13 (softcover): **9783035715248**

ISBN-13 (CD): **9783035725247**

ISBN-13 (eBook): **9783035735246**

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Marble Museum of Vila Viçosa, Portugal A Mirror of Geological and Mining Heritage

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Keywords: Marble, Portugal, Museum, Estremoz Marble.

Abstract. Raquel de Castro Marble's Museum was built in an old quarry of ornamental marble located in one of the entrances of Vila Viçosa, Alto Alentejo – Portugal. It's a space intended to preserve all the knowledge acquired over decades of exploitation and processing of the Worldwide know stone Estremoz Marble, regionally called "White Gold". The name of the museum, Raquel de Castro is due to the former owner of the quarry that donated in life the space to the Town Hall of Vila Viçosa. The importance of this industry to the region's economy has profoundly affected the lives of its people and is always strongly linked to the natural stone sector. The contents arranged logically and sequentially, guide the visitor in the most varied aspects, from the geological, historical, technological, environmental and social framework. All the themes are approached in a scientific and practical way, making the museum an area of knowledge and culture constituting a portrait where the populations and industrialists of the region can be reviewed.

Introduction

The old quarry of Gradinha, at the gates of Vila Viçosa, had been deactivated and abandoned for many years, with several environmental impacts and safety risks for the population of the village. The city council of Vila Viçosa acquired this space, projecting it and reactivating it, in a museological way – the Raquel de Castro Marble's Museum.

The proximity to an urban center (Fig. 1) and the fact that it was an old open pit exploitation within deep well development, typical of the extraction units of the region, heap with mining waste and all the support structures, has made this space an exceptional place for the installation of a museum dedicated to the marble and every aspect related to this worldwide known stone.

Nowadays, the Museum of Marble has around three hundred pieces, a number that is increasing, thanks to the donations and generosity of industrialists and individuals, as well as the support of institutions, where the University of Évora stands out.

The project that now underway represents a new museological trend, aiming to improve the quality of the exhibition. This will be achieved with redistribution and labeling of the pieces in a logical way and the improvement of scientific and technological information related to all the geological, industrial, anthropological and environmental patrimony.