




GLOBALSTONE
CONGRESS**2012**
PORTUGAL // ALENTEJO [BORBA]
16 TO 20 **JULY 2012**

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Global Stone Congress

Luis Guerra Rosa, Zenaide Carvalho G. Silva
and Luis Lopes

Global Stone Congress



ISBN-13: 978-3-03785-653-6
Key Engineering Materials Vol. 548
Electronically available at <http://www.scientific.net>



TTP TRANS TECH PUBLICATIONS

Edited by
Luis Guerra Rosa, Zenaide Carvalho G. Silva
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Key Engineering Materials

ISSN 1013-9826

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Indexed by Elsevier: SCOPUS www.scopus.com and Ei Compendex (CPX) www.ei.org/. Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA) www.csa.com, Chemical Abstracts (CA) www.cas.org, Google and Google Scholar google.com, ISI (ISTP, CPCI, Web of Science) www.isinet.com, Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) www.iee.org, etc.

Internet:

The periodical is available in full text via www.scientific.net

Subscription Information:

30 volumes per year. In 2013, volumes 525-554 are scheduled to be published.

The subscription rate web access only is EUR 1980.00 per year, for web plus print EUR 2550.00 including postage/handling charges.

ISSN print 1013-9826 ISSN cd 1662-9809 ISSN web 1662-9795

Trans Tech Publications Ltd
Kreuzstr. 10 • 8635 Zurich-Durnten • Switzerland
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Zenaide Carvalho G. Silva
Luis Lopes

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Selected, peer reviewed papers from the
4th edition of
Global Stone Congress 2012,
16-20 July, 2012, Alentejo, Borba, Portugal

Edited by

**Luis Guerra Rosa,
Zenaide Carvalho G. Silva and Luis Lopes**



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Trans Tech Publications Ltd
Kreuzstrasse 10
CH-8635 Durnten-Zurich
Switzerland
<http://www.ttp.net>

Volume 548 of
Key Engineering Materials
ISSN print 1013-9826
ISSN cd 1662-9809
ISSN web 1662-9795

Full text available online at <http://www.scientific.net>

Distributed worldwide by

Trans Tech Publications Ltd
Kreuzstrasse 10
CH-8635 Durnten-Zurich
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Enfield, NH 03748
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Phone: +1 (603) 632-7377
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printed in Germany

Preface

Since 2005, when the first edition of what is now called GLOBAL STONE CONGRESS took place in Brazil, participants from several countries who work on dimension stone realized this type of meeting should proceed, involving as much as possible, professionals and academics exchanging experience and scientific knowledge in the subject. Italy (2008) and Spain (2010) organized the next ones and then Portugal hosted the Congress in Alentejo, on July 2012.

The meeting was sponsored by several associations of the natural stone sector and by the counties where the Congress activities occurred, from scientific sessions to field trips and cultural events.

Over 150 Congress participants submitted material for presentation and from those, 41 peer-reviewed papers were selected to be published in this Special issue of Key Engineering Materials. The subjects covered several areas and were gathered into 6 chapters for publication:

- Resources, Exploration and Exploitation
- Manufacturing Processes, Tools and Optimization
- Environmental Management; Recycling and Valuation of Byproducts
- Characterization and New Products
- Natural Stone in Architecture and Design
- Cultural, Economic and Social Issues.

Contributions of authors were diverse, valuable and their effort to spread their experience was appreciated, as well as the work of the reviewers, who helped a lot with their knowledge, expertise and patience, improving the quality of many writings. We are grateful for that.

It is our hope that other countries where the traditional work on dimension stone is well developed will participate on the organization of the next meetings and that we can maintain and project to the future this healthy chain of cooperation already started.

Luis Guerra Rosa

Zenaide Carvalho G. Silva

Luis Lopes

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