How to pick out your Perfect Material?

When it comes to finding the perfect material for your counter there are a few different things to consider and know about with respect to the different choices that you will see while out shopping.

Here are a few things to ask yourself before selecting a slab.

How you want it to feel when you touch it? Polished? Leathered? Honed?

What maintenance level you are willing to commit to.

And how you want the material to look and function within your home.

Granite

- Granite is a Natural Stone, So every Slab is unique, What you are picking will be unique to you and your home.
- This also means that the material can withstand hot and cold temperatures so placing
 a hot pan or cookie sheet on the counter straight out of the oven isn't a problem.
- This material will need to be resealed in accordance with the specific material you choose.

<u>Quartz</u>

- Quartz is an Engineered Stone, 93% is ground up and pulverized Quartz (one of the strongest stones on the market), the last 7% is the resins and pigments to give it the look and feel you see today.
- This quality allows for Quartz to be nonporous and thus have a very simple maintenance schedule although some finishes can effect this ease of cleaning.
- This material never needs to be resealed, since it is pressed together so tightly. This same property however means using hot pads before placing a hot pan or pot down.

<u>Quartzite</u>

- Quartzite is another natural stone that each slab is unique, Quartzite has a more
 crystalline structure which gives it the depth and movement that you see in the
 material. One of its many draws.
- This same structure that makes the material so attractive also makes it a little more persnickety during fabrication.
- This material can have hot and cold placed on it without worry. This material also will need to be resealed depending on the precise material that you pick

<u>Marble</u>

- Marble is a Natural Stone that is quarried from the earth which means that every slab
 is unique, This stone is heat resistant so you don't have to worry about it went placing
 hot pots and pans on it.. This stone does need to be resealed.
- However due to its composition it requires you to be more meticulous. The material is softer than many others, it can stain and etch easily. For it to retain the same look as the day it is install takes commitment to a monthly maintenance plan to keep the stone from showing the more rustic patinaed look that you see in the old castles of France's Loire Valley.

Soapstone

- Soapstone is another Natural Stone that gives a very sleek look. It is a soft rock and
 for centuries has been used to make ornate objects like pipes to bowls and now
 countertops, This rock can readily absorb heat and it stays warm for a long time after
 its been heated.
- Soapstone requires a diligent upkeep schedule to keep it looking as pristine as the day it was installed. However, it is very soft, and can easily be scratched.
- The look and feel of Soapstone is unlike any other material and has a soft and almost silky feel to it.

