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## Modern Examples of Stone Construction: A Pictorial Survey

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## Modern Examples of Stone Construction: A Pictorial Survey

*Text and Photos by Heather Cross*

Stone still appears in residential design, but more often than not it is a surface application of cast concrete “stones” glued into place on panels. Local examples are varied and do illustrate other options and applications. The three shown below span an approximately fifty-year period and provide modern adaptations to true stone construction.



*Kildare Street—The random mosaic facade of this early- to mid-1900s bungalow is apparent due to the shallow recess of the window and door. The long span of the overhang porch is also accomplished with a thin steel plate or beam that is able to bear the weight of the stone veneer. A true stone span would rely on a slight arch to distribute the weight or long stone or reinforced concrete lintels. The perfectly square corners of the posts, the straight courses, and the thickness of the squared ashlar revealed at the corners suggest the stone is just a covering around the true structural members beneath. The mortar joints are raised and beaded, a practice that is mainly decorative and weathers poorly. This home sits directly across the street from “Kildare.”*



*5409 Panorama—The random broken-coursed ashlar of this ranch is typical of homes from the 1940s through the 1970s. The squat horizontal massing of the chimney is a direct influence of the Prairie School style. This example seems to be actual stone because of the variation in color, even on single stones, and the non-repetitive shapes. A cast concrete ashlar of this type would include similar, if not identical, “irregular” stones within the pattern.*



*5510 Panorama—This fence, reconstructed in 2000 from recycled stone on the site, rests on concrete foundations to prevent collapse and incorporates an uncoursed, raked mortar design to give the illusion of a dry-mortar, fieldstone fence. The home behind it shows an applied stone veneer panel.*