

# Selecting Materials that AGE WITH INTEGRITY



## How Materials Age Over Time

### WOOD

- Ages through UV exposure and moisture
- Color softens, grain becomes more pronounced
- Can weather beautifully or degrade unevenly



### STONE

- Develops surface patina and softened edges
- Highly resistant to UV and temperature shifts
- Natural variation enhances age



### CONCRETE

- Prone to staining without proper sealing
- Gains character through hairline cracks & tonal shifts
- Long lifespan when properly specified



### BRICK

- Color remains stable over decades
- Considered one of the most predictable aging materials
- Mortar joints age before brick itself



## Climate Shapes Longevity



### COASTAL AREAS

Salt air accelerates corrosion and moisture absorption



### FREEZE-THAW ZONES

Expansion stresses stone, concrete, and mortar



### HIGH UV REGIONS

Accelerates fading and surface breakdown



### HUMID ENVIRONMENTS

Encourages mold, warping, and surface staining

## Choosing Materials with Predictable Patina

- > Natural color variation from the start
- > Materials that fade evenly rather than blotch
- > Surfaces that improve with wear, not fight it
- > Finishes designed to erode gracefully



## Maintenance Realities by Material

### WOOD

- Depending on the species of wood, it can require sealing, oiling, or staining at regular intervals
- Benefits from ventilation and drainage design
- Aging can enhance character when protected properly

### STONE

- Minimal upkeep beyond occasional cleaning
- Sealing depends on porosity and location

### CONCRETE

- Periodic resealing reduces staining
- Cracks should be monitored, not always hidden

### BRICK

- Low maintenance
- Mortar repointing over decades preserves integrity



## Pairing Materials for Long-Term Resilience



- > Pair high-movement materials (wood) with stable anchors (stone, concrete)
- > Use brick or concrete at ground contact zones
- > Transition materials where weather exposure changes
- > Let each material age independently without visual conflict
- > Select materials with complementary aging timelines