

Rock On

Amid the timber shops in Kotla Mubarakpur has come up an impressive outlet that stocks an unlikely item of home décor—stones. From granite, marble and sandstone to travertine, quartz and Fumato, Graava offers 150 varieties, many of which are imported from Iran, Norway, Africa, Ukraine and Pakistan, besides the mines of South India.

"We encourage people to look beyond using stones only for flooring. Stones look great in wall hangings, furniture and decorative items," says store manager Amit Khanna.

Spread over 4,000 square feet, Graava also displays stone items like lampshades. "The range, especially the precious and semi-precious stones, often overwhelms our clients. So, we give them a virtual tour on an interactive LCD monitor of how the stone would look in their living room," he adds.

The prices vary from Rs 50 per sq feet for a Chema pink stone from Rajasthan to Rs 25,000 per sq ft for the petrified wood stone from Africa. But even during an economic downslide, some things are value for money. Timber businessman Kshitij Bansal, who bought a red travertine a month ago, says, "It hangs on the wall of my living room. It is a flawless stone, and I have yet to see something like it elsewhere." For details, call - 46780000

— Debesh Banerjee