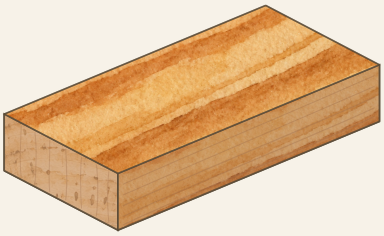
BigDecks

REAL WOOD. SIZE MATTERS.

THE MATERIALS MENU

An Outdoor Materials Field Guide

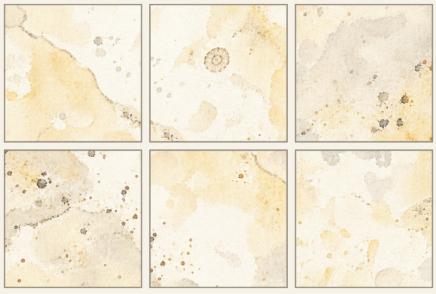
Deck boards, lighting and ground materials explained by shape, texture and use - so everyone can recognize the choice in front of them.



Deck boards



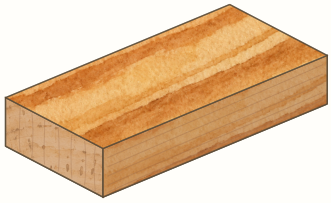
Lighting



Ground materials

Read the yard in layers

Make three decisions together: the rhythm beneath your feet, the surfaces between spaces, and what remains visible after dark.



01 / DECK BOARDS

P. 03-10

What scale and grain should the deck have?

Compare board width, edge thickness, species and finish.

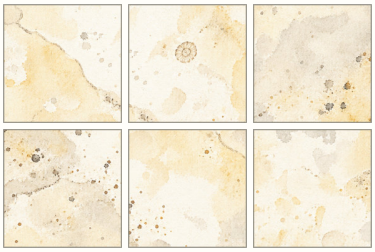


02 / LIGHTING

P. 11-15

What must you see after sunset?

Pair small recessed markers with light at steps, edges and seating.



03 / GROUND MATERIALS

P. 16-22

How should the route feel underfoot?

Compare cut stone, varied stone, brick and distinct aggregates.

Drawings show texture and form. Samples, exact products, construction details and the written scope control the project.

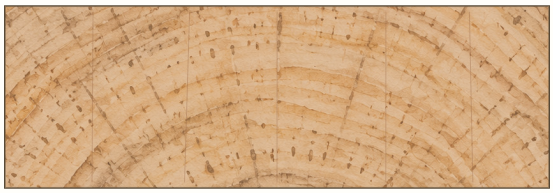
How to read a deck board

A board has a face you walk on and an edge you see. The same wood can feel completely different in a narrow, wide or deep profile.

MEASURED SECTIONS - ONE SCALE FOR ALL FOUR

OG

12 x 4 in



WIDE

9.25 x 1.5 in



KODIAK

7.3 x 1.02 in



STANDARD

5.5 x 0.75 in



OG is the owner-confirmed actual section; the other sections are current dressed or manufacturer references. Confirm supplied dimensions in the project quote.

FOUR THINGS TO NOTICE

FACE

Wide boards mean fewer seams.

EDGE

A deep edge changes the silhouette.

GRAIN

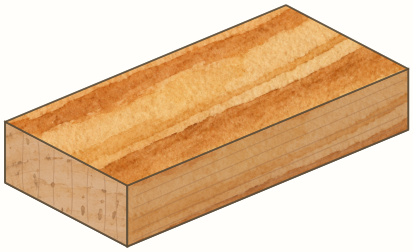
Species and grade shape the pattern.

FINISH

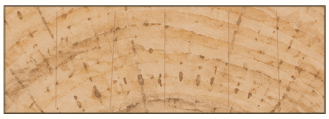
Color and weathering depend on treatment and exposure.

The OG board

B01 SIGNATURE 4 x 12 — WD-01



ACTUAL SECTION / SAME SCALE



12 x 4 in

OG - Douglas fir

SPOT IT

Extra-wide face, emphatically deep edge, expressive fir grain.

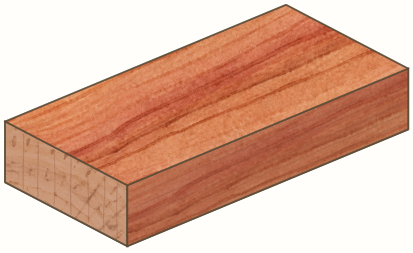
EXPLAIN IT

The most sculptural board rhythm in the range: long, broad timber runs.

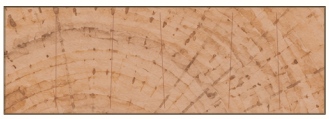
CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Actual section, grade, lengths, moisture, fastening, finish and care plan.

B02 SIGNATURE 4 x 12 — WD-01



ACTUAL SECTION / SAME SCALE



12 x 4 in

OG - Western red cedar

SPOT IT

The same oversized section with cedar's warm, naturally varied grain.

EXPLAIN IT

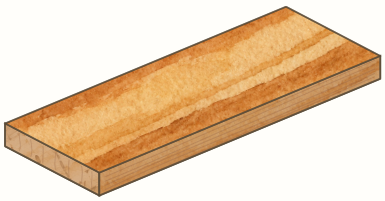
The OG scale in a different wood character. Compare real samples side by side.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Actual section, cedar grade, lengths, fastening, finish and care plan.

The wide-board family

B03 NOMINAL 2 x 10 WD-02



ACTUAL SECTION / SAME SCALE



9.25 x 1.5 in

Wide - Douglas fir

SPOT IT

A broad face with a slimmer edge than the OG; visible fir grain.

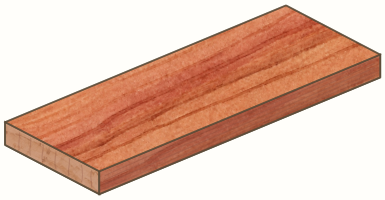
EXPLAIN IT

A generous board rhythm without the OG's massive depth.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Actual section, spans and structure, lengths, fastening and finish.

B04 NOMINAL 2 x 10 WD-02



ACTUAL SECTION / SAME SCALE



9.25 x 1.5 in

Wide - Western red cedar

SPOT IT

Broad cedar planks; warm color and grain vary by board and finish.

EXPLAIN IT

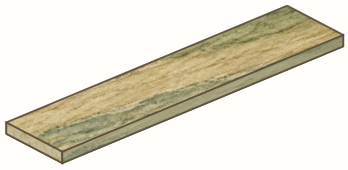
The same wide-board scale with cedar's softer-looking texture.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Actual section, grade, spans, lengths, fastening and finish.

Pressure-treated pine

B05 NOMINAL 5/4 x 6 WD-05



ACTUAL SECTION / SAME SCALE



5.5 x 0.75 in

Pressure-treated pine

SPOT IT

A slimmer, narrower surface with many parallel board lines.

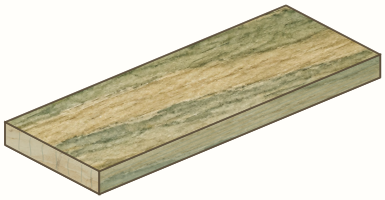
EXPLAIN IT

The straightforward standard deck surface in the current estimator.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Treatment, exact profile, fasteners, and whether finishing is added.

B06 NOMINAL 2 x 10 WD-05



ACTUAL SECTION / SAME SCALE



9.25 x 1.5 in

Wide pressure-treated pine

SPOT IT

A broad treated-pine face; wide rhythm but shallower than OG.

EXPLAIN IT

A wide-board look within the pressure-treated family.

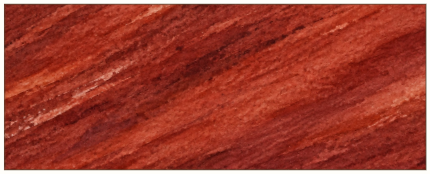
CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Actual section, treatment, structure, fasteners and optional finish.

Tropical hardwoods / 1

B07 TROPICAL HARDWOOD ESTIMATOR

Massaranduba



COLOR + GRAIN STUDY

Section set in written quote

SPOT IT

Typically deep reddish-brown tones and close, dense grain.

EXPLAIN IT

One of four tropical hardwood choices; sample and finish decide the color.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Supplier, species verification, exact profile, grade, fastening and care.

B08 TROPICAL HARDWOOD ESTIMATOR

Garapa



COLOR + GRAIN STUDY

Section set in written quote

SPOT IT

Typically golden to yellow-brown, with a brighter look than the darker hardwoods.

EXPLAIN IT

The lighter-toned tropical hardwood direction in the current menu.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Real sample, exact profile, grade, fastening, finish and weathering plan.

Tropical hardwoods / 2

B09 TROPICAL HARDWOOD ESTIMATOR

Cumaru



COLOR + GRAIN STUDY

Section set in written quote

SPOT IT

Varied reddish-to-golden brown tones and noticeable grain variation.

EXPLAIN IT

A dense wood with more tonal movement; approve the actual batch sample.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Supplier, exact profile, grade, fastening, finish and care.

B10 TROPICAL HARDWOOD WD-03

Ipe



COLOR + GRAIN STUDY

Section set in written quote

SPOT IT

Rich brown to olive-brown grain; a tighter board rhythm than wide timbers.

EXPLAIN IT

A dense, dark hardwood direction. Color is sample- and finish-specific.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Profile conflict: BigDecks pages say 1 x 6 and 5/4 x 6. Confirm before quote.

Thermally modified wood

B11 NOMINAL 5/4 x 8 — WD-04



ACTUAL SECTION / SAME SCALE



7.3 x 1.02 in

Thermory Kodiak spruce

SPOT IT

A broad brown board with visible knots and a brushed face.

EXPLAIN IT

Real spruce changed by thermal treatment. Expect its look to weather with exposure.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Exact product, profile, grooved or plain edge, fastening, finish and care.

B12 PALETTE OPTION — WD-04



COLOR + GRAIN STUDY

Section set in written quote

Thermory Benchmark ash

SPOT IT

Richer, smoother-looking grain than the knotty Kodiak spruce reference.

EXPLAIN IT

A thermally modified ash option shown in the palette; confirm availability.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Whether offered for this job, exact manufacturer profile and install guide.

Choose a deck character

Use the first visual impression, then compare samples and the written specification.

BIG, SCULPTURAL EDGE

OG 4 x 12

Douglas fir / Western red cedar

The board itself becomes an architectural feature.

BROAD, QUIETER RHYTHM

Wide 2 x 10

Douglas fir / Western red cedar / pressure-treated pine

A generous face with less edge depth than OG.

FAMILIAR NARROWER LINES

Standard pine

Pressure-treated pine 5/4 x 6

More seams and a straightforward surface.

DENSE WOOD TONES

Tropical hardwoods

Massaranduba / Garapa / Cumaru / Ipe

Select by real sample, not a printed color.

THERMALLY MODIFIED

Thermory

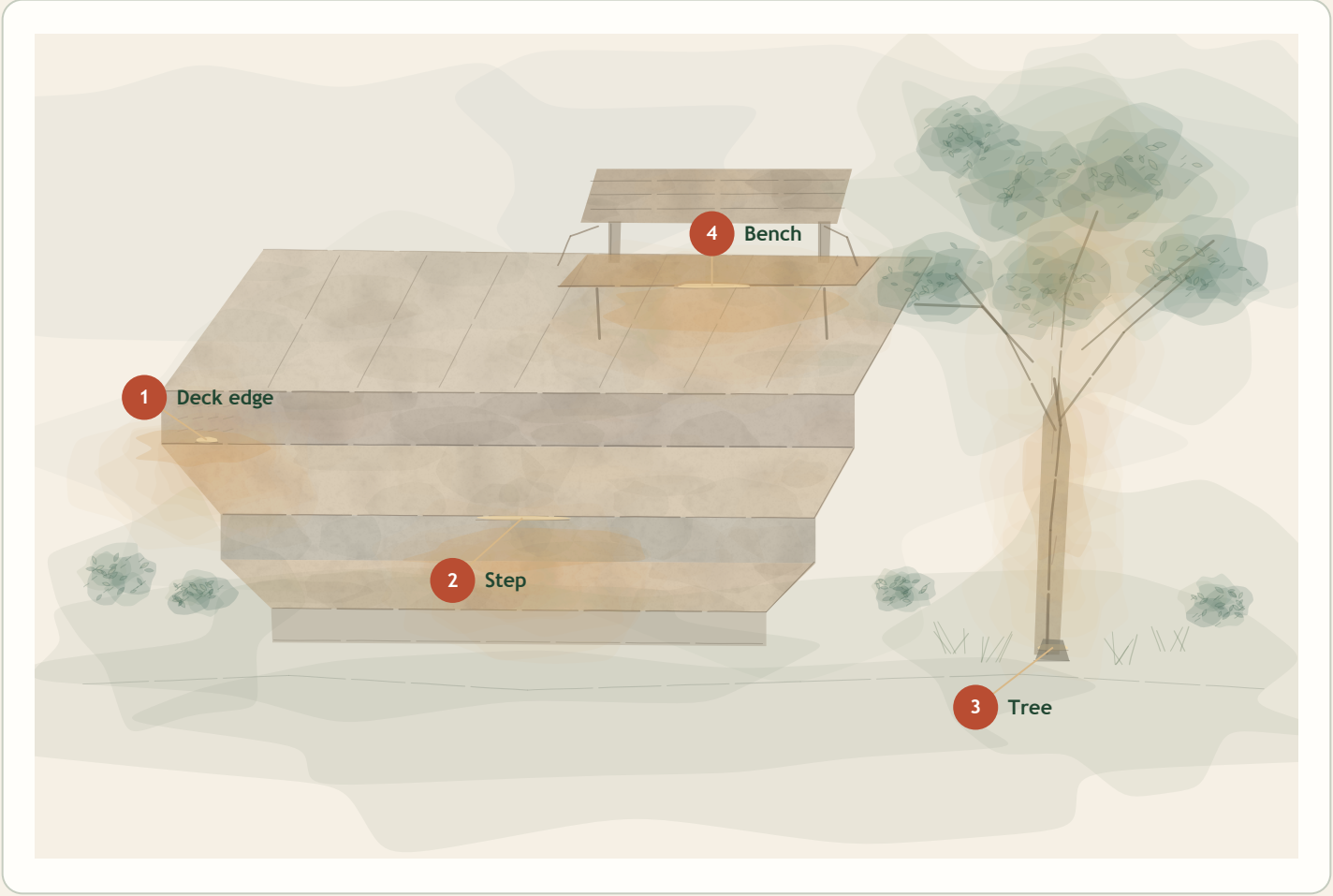
Kodiak spruce / Benchmark ash by confirmation

Different grain characters; exact products matter.

The current BigDecks online estimator lists 11 boards. Thermory Benchmark ash is shown as a palette option and needs confirmation for a specific job.

Place light by what it does

Start with the view after dark, then select fixtures and controls. The same backyard needs different light at a step, a tree and a seat.



Placement diagram only; fixture spacing and light levels are designed for the actual site.

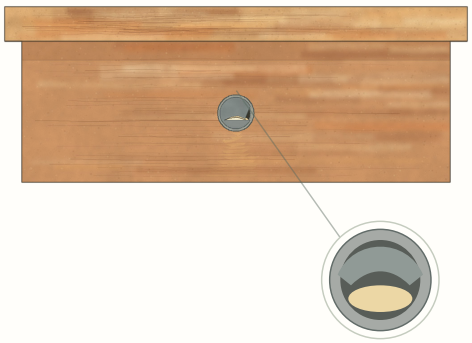
THE USEFUL QUESTION

What does someone need to see from the house, the path, the step and the place they will sit?

The next pages show two small fixtures from a BigDecks purchase record alongside broader placement types. Exact fixtures, drivers, controls and electrical work are selected for each project.

The small fixtures

L01 SMALL RECESSED MARKER — BRILLIANCE



LIGHTING / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

VersaBeam round eyebrow

SPOT IT

A tiny round nickel face with a hood over the opening; light falls down from a riser or edge.

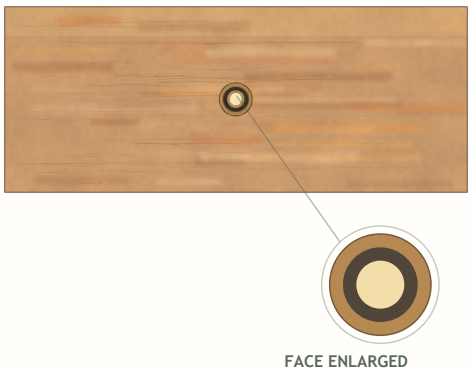
EXPLAIN IT

A BigDecks Lightology order used Brilliance VB-09-NI-2700 markers at 2700K.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Mounting face, spacing, finish, 12V feed, transformer and electrician scope.

L02 SMALL RECESSED MARKER — BRILLIANCE



LIGHTING / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

VersaBeam round flange

SPOT IT

An open circular face without the eyebrow hood; the same small recessed fixture family.

EXPLAIN IT

The same BigDecks order includes brass and nickel VB-02 round-flange markers at 2700K.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Finish, beam aim, glare, 12V feed, transformer and mounting detail.

Lighting the route

L03 CONTINUOUS RISER GLOW — LIGHTING



LIGHTING / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

Concealed understep strip

SPOT IT

One narrow continuous line tucked beneath the tread lip; different from a round marker.

EXPLAIN IT

A soft wash across the riser can work alongside the small recessed fixtures.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Product and outdoor rating, tread detail, driver, wiring and service access.

L04 DOWNWARD EDGE LIGHT — LIGHTING



LIGHTING / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

Hooded deck-edge light

SPOT IT

A small fitting tucked into a deck edge; a hood sends light down rather than into seated eyes.

EXPLAIN IT

Helps reveal a perimeter or change in level after dark.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Fixture, placement, circuit, wiring access, controls and electrical scope.

Lighting the setting

L05 UPWARD ACCENT LIGHTING



LIGHTING / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

Ground-level uplight

SPOT IT

A small adjustable fitting at ground level, aimed upward at a tree or wall; mounting depends on the fixture.

EXPLAIN IT

Gives planting or structure depth at night; color control is project-specific.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Beam target, glare, drainage, outdoor rating, controls and power.

L06 CONCEALED SEATING LIGHT LIGHTING



LIGHTING / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

Bench / soffit glow

SPOT IT

Light source hidden under a bench or recessed in a covered ceiling.

EXPLAIN IT

Adds a soft pool of light where people gather without exposing the lamp.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Mounting detail, weather exposure, controls, wiring and electrician scope.

A lighting conversation

ROUTE

Where will someone walk?

Mark steps, edges and changes of level before adding accent light.

VIEW

What should be visible?

Choose one or two trees, a wall, or the dining area; watch the sightline from seats.

CONTROL

How should it turn on?

Decide zones, switch points, dimming and any color control with the actual product.

POWER

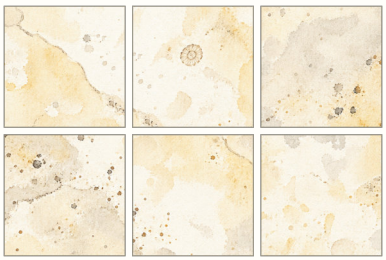
How will it be built and serviced?

Locate drivers and the electrical feed; show any specialist work in the proposal.

A BigDecks purchase included small VersaBeam marker lights and transformers. The project scope also described understep tape, but that tape was not itemized on the Lightology receipt. Final electrical scope belongs in the written quote.

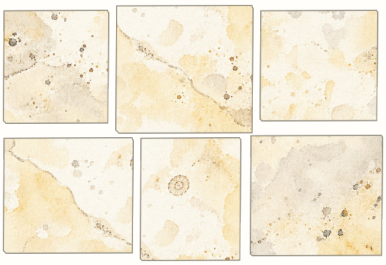
Read the ground at foot scale

The ground changes how you move through a yard. Look at the size and shape of each piece before choosing its color.



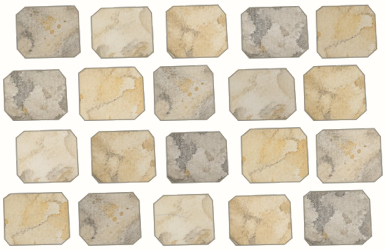
SQUARE CUT

Four even edges



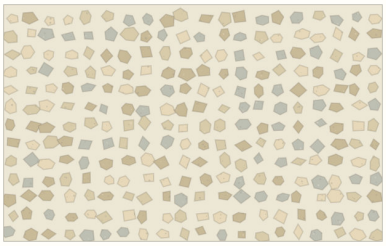
VARIED CUT

About +/- 1 in variation



COBBLE

Many small stone units



3/8 IN STONE

Angular chips



COMPACTED DG

Fine continuous grains



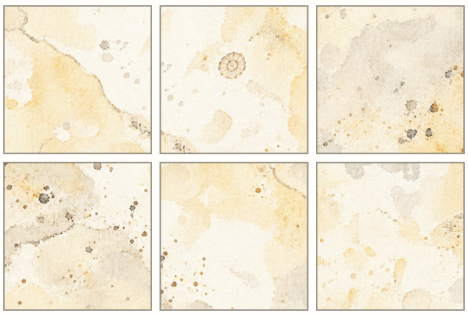
ADOBE

Earthen brick units

A material sample is only half the decision. The base, edge, slope, drainage and wet-foot route determine whether it fits this site.

Cut limestone, two rhythms

G01 SQUARE PAVING UNIT — PROJECT PALETTE



GROUND / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

Square-cut limestone pavers

SPOT IT

Four equal edges and square corners make a measured, regular grid.

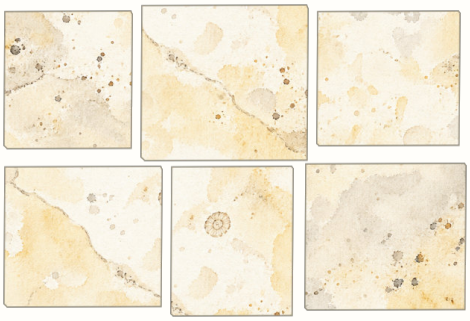
EXPLAIN IT

Use where a calm, geometric path or terrace is the right fit.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Actual square module, thickness, finish, joint, base and wet-foot suitability.

G02 ABOUT +/- 1 IN PLAN VARIATION — PROJECT PALETTE



GROUND / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

Varied limestone pavers

SPOT IT

Pavers remain broadly cut and orderly, but the edges and plan dimensions vary by about an inch.

EXPLAIN IT

A less rigid stone rhythm without the large free-form shapes of flagstone.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

The selected batch's actual dimension range, thickness, joints, base and layout.

Natural stone routes

G03 STEPPING STONES PROJECT PALETTE



GROUND / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

Irregular limestone

SPOT IT

Separate natural-edged stones with planting or ground cover between them.

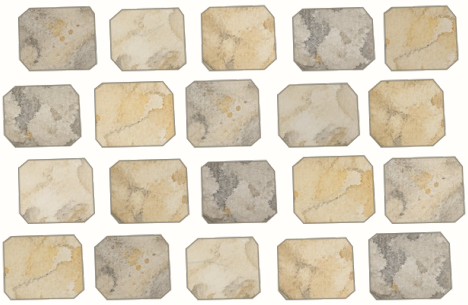
EXPLAIN IT

A less formal garden route; the stride and level of each stone matter.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Stone selection, spacing, stable base, joints and accessible route.

G04 SMALL STONE UNITS ST-02



GROUND / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

Cobblestones

SPOT IT

Many small, irregular stone units and visible joints.

EXPLAIN IT

A textured paving choice used in BigDecks work; choose the actual stone with the project.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

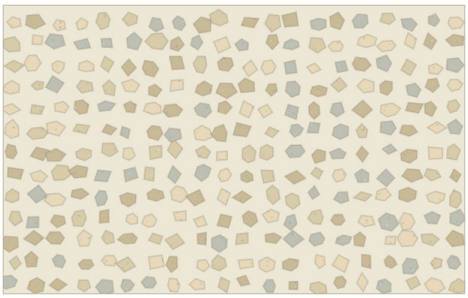
Stone type, sample, joints, barefoot comfort and accessibility.

Crushed and compacted

G05 ANGULAR STONE / 3/8 IN

PROJECT RECORDS

3/8 in crushed limestone



GROUND / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

SPOT IT

Pale angular pieces around the specified 3/8-inch size, unlike fine decomposed granite.

EXPLAIN IT

Used for paths and as a paver setting material in BigDecks project records.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Gradation, depth, compaction, edge, drainage and distance from pools.

G06 FINE GRANITE PATH

PROJECT RECORDS

Compacted decomposed granite



GROUND / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

SPOT IT

Fine granite grains form a nearly continuous compacted surface.

EXPLAIN IT

Used on BigDecks garden paths; it is a distinct material from 3/8-inch crushed limestone.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Product sample, compacted depth, base, edge, drainage and maintenance.

Loose and green

G07 ROUNDED GRAVEL — PROJECT PALETTE



GROUND / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

Pea gravel

SPOT IT

Small rounded pebbles with an open, loose texture.

EXPLAIN IT

A softer-looking informal surface; rounded pieces can move underfoot.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Containment, base, depth, drainage and whether the route must be firm.

G08 LANDSCAPE SURFACE — CATALOG



GROUND / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

Artificial turf

SPOT IT

Even green fibers with a manufactured repeat, rather than living lawn.

EXPLAIN IT

A quoted landscape option for a green ground plane where specified.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Product, sub-base, seams, infill, edge and drainage.

Bed and brick

G09 PLANTED BED SURFACE CATALOG

Organic mulch



GROUND / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

SPOT IT

Dark shredded material surrounding planting, not a formal walk surface.

EXPLAIN IT

Finishes the bed and softens the edge between stone and plants.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Material, depth, containment, drainage and refresh plan.

G10 HANDMADE EARTHEN UNIT PROJECT PALETTE

Adobe bricks



GROUND / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

SPOT IT

Small earthen brick units with softened corners and visible joints.

EXPLAIN IT

A warm, human-scale paving rhythm; select the actual brick for the site.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Real sample, dimensions, weather suitability, base, joint and finish.

Stone mass and crisp edges

G11 GARDEN STRUCTURE PROJECT PALETTE

Accent boulders



GROUND / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

SPOT IT

One substantial stone mass, separate from gravel and stepping stones.

EXPLAIN IT

Can mark a threshold, hold a grade or give the planting a focal point.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Stone selection, access for placement, stable setting and drainage.

G12 EDGE DETAIL MT-01

Steel garden edging



GROUND / INTERPRETIVE SKETCH

SPOT IT

A narrow crisp metal line holding two ground materials apart.

EXPLAIN IT

Keeps a gravel path or planted bed visually precise.

CONFIRM FOR QUOTE

Alloy, gauge, coating, corrosion exposure, anchors and safe edge.

Bring these decisions to site

BOARD

1

Choose a rhythm first.

Which face width and edge depth look right? Review real species, finish and fastener samples.

LIGHT

2

Name the task after dark.

Mark the steps, seating, path and accent targets; locate controls, drivers and electrician work.

GROUND

3

Walk the route.

Decide where a firm surface matters, where loose material can be contained, and how water leaves.

A useful selection is a sample + a location + a buildable detail + a written scope.

Source notes

A VISUAL GUIDE, NOT A PURCHASE SPECIFICATION

- Drawings are interpretive. They distinguish scale, grain, beam direction and ground texture; they are not completed-project photographs or approved shop drawings.
- Scaled sections use an actual 12 x 4 OG; current dressed references for 2 x 10 and treated 5/4 x 6; and Thermory's published 7.3 x 1.02 Kodiak. Confirm the supplied section in each quote.
- BigDecks' live pages disagree on Ipe section: 1 x 6 in the estimator and 5/4 x 6 in the materials palette. Confirm the actual product before quoting.
- A BigDecks Lightology purchase record lists Brilliance VersaBeam VB-09 round eyebrow and VB-02 round flange fixtures in 2700K. Understep tape is a separate design detail.
- Compacted DG and 3/8-inch crushed limestone are separate BigDecks project materials. Square and +/- 1-inch paver modules, cobblestone and adobe details require project sample confirmation.

SOURCE TRAIL - REVIEWED 27 OCTOBER 2026

BigDecks - Deck choices and estimator
https://bigdecks.co/cost-to-build-a-deck-austin/

BigDecks - Materials and profiles
https://bigdecks.co/materials/

BigDecks - Outdoor palette
https://bigdecks.co/

BigDecks - Designing for evening use
https://bigdecks.co/blog/designing-austin-backyard-evening-use/

Thermory - Kodiak spruce profile
https://thermoryusa.com/product/kodiak-spruce-decking-5-4x8-grooved/

Brilliance - VersaBeam fixture family
https://brillianceled.com/versabeam/

Lightology - VersaBeam round eyebrow

BigDecks purchase and project records support the fixture, compacted DG and 3/8-inch crushed-limestone examples. A past purchase does not define every future project specification.