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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PICCO Engineering's Utopia Wins Natural Stone Institute Grande Pinnacle Award 2022**

**Vaughan, Ontario, Canada - June 12, 2023** - PICCO Engineering is the proud recipient of the Natural Stone Institute Grande Pinnacle Award 2022 for its outstanding work on the Utopia project.

The Grande Pinnacle Award is the most prestigious award in the natural stone industry and is awarded to projects that demonstrate exceptional creativity, craftsmanship, and attention to detail. The Utopia project is a perfect example of all these qualities, showcasing the beauty and durability of natural stone.

*"We are honoured to receive this award and to be recognized for our work on the Utopia project,"* said Mike Picco, President of PICCO Engineering. *"This project was a true collaboration between our team, the architects, and the natural stone suppliers. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on such a unique and challenging project."*

Utopia is located in The Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park Welcome Center in Grand Rapids, MI. Each of the four expansive floor-to-ceiling walls are 20 x 90 ft Blanc Absolut Marble featuring the unique, diverse and meditative ethnic faces representing women from around the world named—Marianna, Julia, Laura, and Wilsis—presented in Spanish sculptor Jaume Plensa's signature style. The fabricator Barbany, in collaboration with the artist, masterfully crafted the project to remarkable precision and quality. From the earliest project phases, PICCO's work required material sourcing support, testing, mock-up reviews, anchoring system design and engineering, installation guidance, and comprehensive shop drawings with tickets.

The judges were impressed with the intricate details and precision of the natural stonework on the project. "The use of natural stone on this project was exceptional," said one of the judges. "The attention to detail and craftsmanship is truly remarkable."

**To view photos of Utopia [click here](#).**

**About PICCO Engineering**

PICCO Engineering is an established, award-winning structural engineering firm recognized around the world for its unmatched expertise in stone cladding and anchor systems. The company has over 30 years of experience in the industry and has completed projects for some of the world's most prestigious clients. PICCO has a long history of working with natural stone and has completed numerous projects throughout North America and across the globe. PICCO prides itself on its ability to combine traditional craftsmanship with modern technology to create unique and innovative natural stone solutions.

PICCO Engineering is a group of designers and engineers with core expertise in stone consulting, structural, and residential engineering. [www.piccogroup.com](http://www.piccogroup.com)

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