

THE DIMENSION STONES IN THE SOUTHERMOST STATE OF BAHIA, NE BRAZIL

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The very important industrial sector of dimension stones presents a great vitality in the national economy not neglecting the promotion of its products and other actions of marketing. The Bahia State, due to its excellent geographic situation and its infrastructure of ports, railways and highways is actually a great natural exchangeable place for the trade. The State of Bahia shows a varied geological framework comprising ancient Pre-Cambrian unities and modern formations. The older rocks of NeoProterozoic age belong to Paraíba do Sul Complex, which is composed of granulites, paragneisses and kinzigites. Other important geological unities are formed by granitic gneisses and granitoids. The lithologic unities are represented by the Itagimirim orthogneisses. They present porphyroid orthogneisses and augengneisses. However, the main sources of granitic stones are the younger unities, of Neoproterozoic age, and they are represented by granites and charnockites. The main granitic massifs are designed as Itagimirim, Salto da Divisa, Guaratinga, São Paulinho, Itanhém, Salomão and Nanuque. The granitic rocks are medium to coarse grained, sometimes with larger crystals. The colours range from dark-green like in the charnockites to light-gray in the granites. The polished stones quarried from these massifs show various tonalities but always in an harmonious appearance as it can be seen in the pictures. The exploration of granites and related stones are exploited mainly from boulders. Exploitation is done in several quarry areas as close as possible. The quality control takes into consideration the material itself and the correct splitting of the blocks.