

HEARTH, SLIPS AND WALL CLADDING EXPLAINED



AFTER the ANTIQUE

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OUTER HEARTH

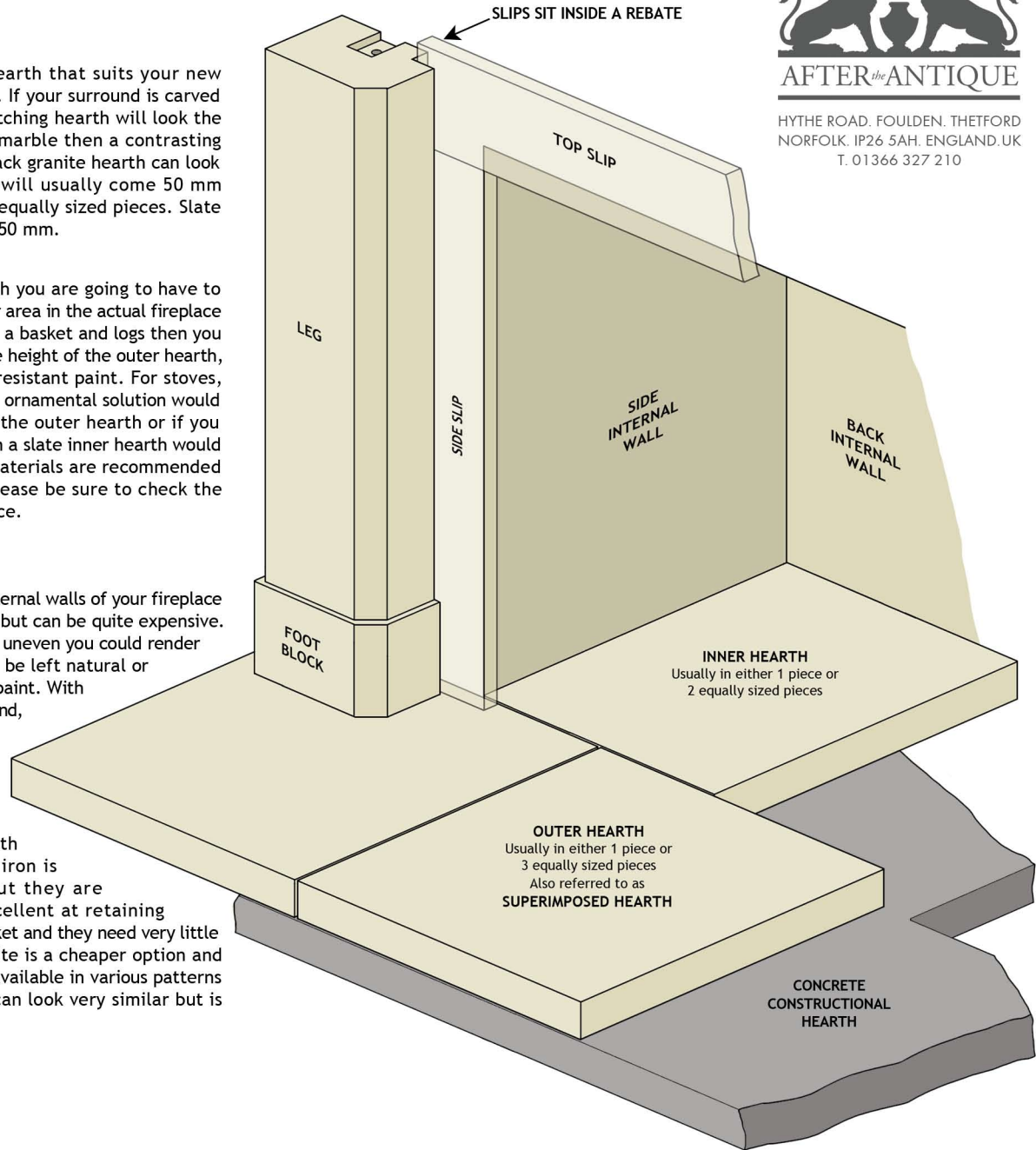
Unless you have an existing hearth that suits your new surround you will need a hearth. If your surround is carved in sandstone or limestone a matching hearth will look the best. If your surround is white marble then a contrasting honed black slate or polished black granite hearth can look very effective. Outer hearths will usually come 50 mm thick and in one piece or three equally sized pieces. Slate and granite will be boxed up to 50 mm.

INNER HEARTH

If you are having an outer hearth you are going to have to consider what to do with the floor area in the actual fireplace opening. If you are going to have a basket and logs then you could concrete this area up to the height of the outer hearth, then paint it with a black heat resistant paint. For stoves, gas or electric appliances a more ornamental solution would be to use the same material as the outer hearth or if you have a white marble outer hearth a slate inner hearth would be a good alternative. Not all materials are recommended for high heat applications so please be sure to check the suitability of your preferred choice.

WHAT TO DO WITH THE INTERNAL WALLS

You have a few options for the internal walls of your fireplace opening. Fire bricks is an option, but can be quite expensive. If you have a brick opening that's uneven you could render with a lime mix, which can then be left natural or painted in a heat resistant black paint. With a sandstone or limestone fire surround, if you are planning on having a stove an option is to line the opening in matching stone. Traditional white marble surrounds can look elegant and classical when teamed with cast iron reeded panels. Cast iron is quite an expensive option but they are extremely durable and are excellent at retaining and radiating heat from a log basket and they need very little care in their lifetime. Vermiculite is a cheaper option and is a heat resistant board that is available in various patterns including a reeded finish, this can look very similar but is not as durable.



WHAT ARE SLIPS?

Slips are three pieces of matching or contrasting stone that sit inside the opening of your fire surround in a rebate cut into the surround. They make the surround opening smaller which enables you to use a stock surround if your wall opening is smaller than the surrounds opening.



CAST IRON
REEDED PANELS



FIRE BRICKS



LIME RENDERED



STONE LINED



PATTERNED
VERMICULITE