



*Rock solid*  
**Kingsley Wallman  
 and Genevieve Lilley,  
 founders of venerari**



**You have freshened up the slightly faded perception of the opal. What inspired this?**

Actually, there's nothing 'humble' about the opal. When we returned to Sydney in 2004 after more than a decade living in the UK and the US we were inspired to "reinvent the opal" - bringing modern design to Australia's national gem.

**Why did you choose to work with the opal of all precious stones?**

Kingsley spent time as a teenager working at his father's opal mines and never lost his love of the stone, even though he worked as a corporate lawyer for 15 years.

**From where do you source your inspiration?**

Inevitably, it is the uniqueness and varied colour and shape of each opal, which inspires the design of each setting.

**Where do you source your opals? How is the production process is unique?**

Because of Kingsley's family background, and qualifications, we are able to source our opals direct from the miners or cutters. Supply ebbs and flows as miners strike it lucky and access to the stone at its source is essential as opal becomes rarer.

**The forming of this business partnership was somewhat unorthodox can you tell us a bit about it?**

A lawyer and an architect founding a business committed to the reinvention of opal surprised industry stalwarts as well as our customers. But our varied business backgrounds given us the confidence to create something unique and very special.