

5

spaced region between each of said plurality of groups of block engaging members on all sides of each of said plurality of block engaging members, wherein each block engaging member of said plurality of block engaging members includes a block receiving region, for receiving an engaging region of at least one block, and wherein said spaced region between each of said plurality of groups of block engaging members of said block retaining slate has a predetermined distance greater than a predetermined distance between each block engaging member within each of said plurality of groups, such that each of said plurality of groups of block engaging members is adapted to engage said at least one block.

2. The block retaining slate of claim 1 wherein said block receiving region of each said block engaging member includes a rounded region.

3. The block retaining slate of claim 1, wherein said predetermined pattern of said plurality of block engaging members includes at least one row of block engaging members and at least one column of block engaging members;

at least one group of block engaging members defined by an intersection of one of said at least one row of block engaging members and one of said at least one column of block engaging members, said at least one group of block engaging members adapted to engage said at least one block such that said at least one block is aligned in at least one predefined row and column corresponding to said at least one row of block engaging members and said at least one column of block engaging members.

4. The block retaining slate of claim 3, further including a plurality of columns of block engaging members and a spaced region on said first surface between each of said plurality of columns of block engaging members; and

wherein at least one group of block engaging members is adapted to engage said at least one block in one of said plurality of columns of block engaging members and adjacent said spaced region.

5. The block retaining slate of claim 3, further including a plurality of rows of block engaging members and a ridge on said first surface between each of said plurality of rows of block engaging members; and

wherein a group of block engaging members is adapted to engage said at least one block in one of said plurality of rows of block engaging members adjacent said ridge.

6. A block retaining slate for blocks having an engaging region, said block retaining slate comprising:

a base portion having at least a first and second surface; and

a plurality of block engaging members arranged in a predefined pattern on said first surface, said predefined pattern of said plurality of block engaging members including a plurality of rows of block engaging members and a plurality of columns of block engaging members, wherein an intersection of said plurality of

6

rows of block engaging members and said plurality of columns of block engaging members defines a group of block engaging members, wherein there is a plurality of groups of block engaging members with a spaced region between each of said plurality of groups of block engaging members, and wherein said spaced region between each of said plurality of groups of block engaging members has a predetermined distance greater than a predetermined distance between each block engaging member within each of said plurality of groups at block engaging member, each group of block engaging members adapted to engage at least one of said blocks such that said at least one of said blocks is aligned in at least one predefined row and column.

7. The block retaining slate of claim 6, further including a ridge on said first surface in said spaced region between each of said plurality of rows of block engaging members, wherein a group of block engaging members is adapted to engage said at least one block in one of said plurality of rows of block engaging members adjacent said ridge.

8. The block retaining slate of claim 6, wherein each block engaging member of said plurality of block engaging members includes a rounded block receiving region, for receiving said engaging region of said at least one block.

9. A block retaining system comprising:
a block retaining slate including:
a base portion having at least a first and second surface; and

a plurality of block engaging members arranged in a predefined pattern on said first surface, wherein said predefined pattern of said plurality of block engaging members includes a plurality of rows of block engaging members and a plurality of columns of block engaging members such that an intersection of each of said plurality of rows of block engaging members and each of said plurality of columns of block engaging members defines a group of block engaging members; and
a plurality of blocks, each of said plurality of blocks being engagable only with a respective said group of block engaging members such that said plurality of blocks are aligned in predefined rows and columns corresponding to said plurality of rows of block engaging members and said plurality of columns of block engaging members.

10. The block retaining system of claim 9, further including a spaced region on said first surface of said block retaining slate between each of said plurality of columns of block engaging members, and wherein each of said plurality of blocks engage a respective said group of block engaging members adjacent said spaced region.

11. The block retaining system of claim 10, further including a ridge on said first surface of said block retaining slate between each of said plurality of rows of block engaging members, and wherein each said block engages a respective said group of block engaging members adjacent said ridge.

* * * * *