



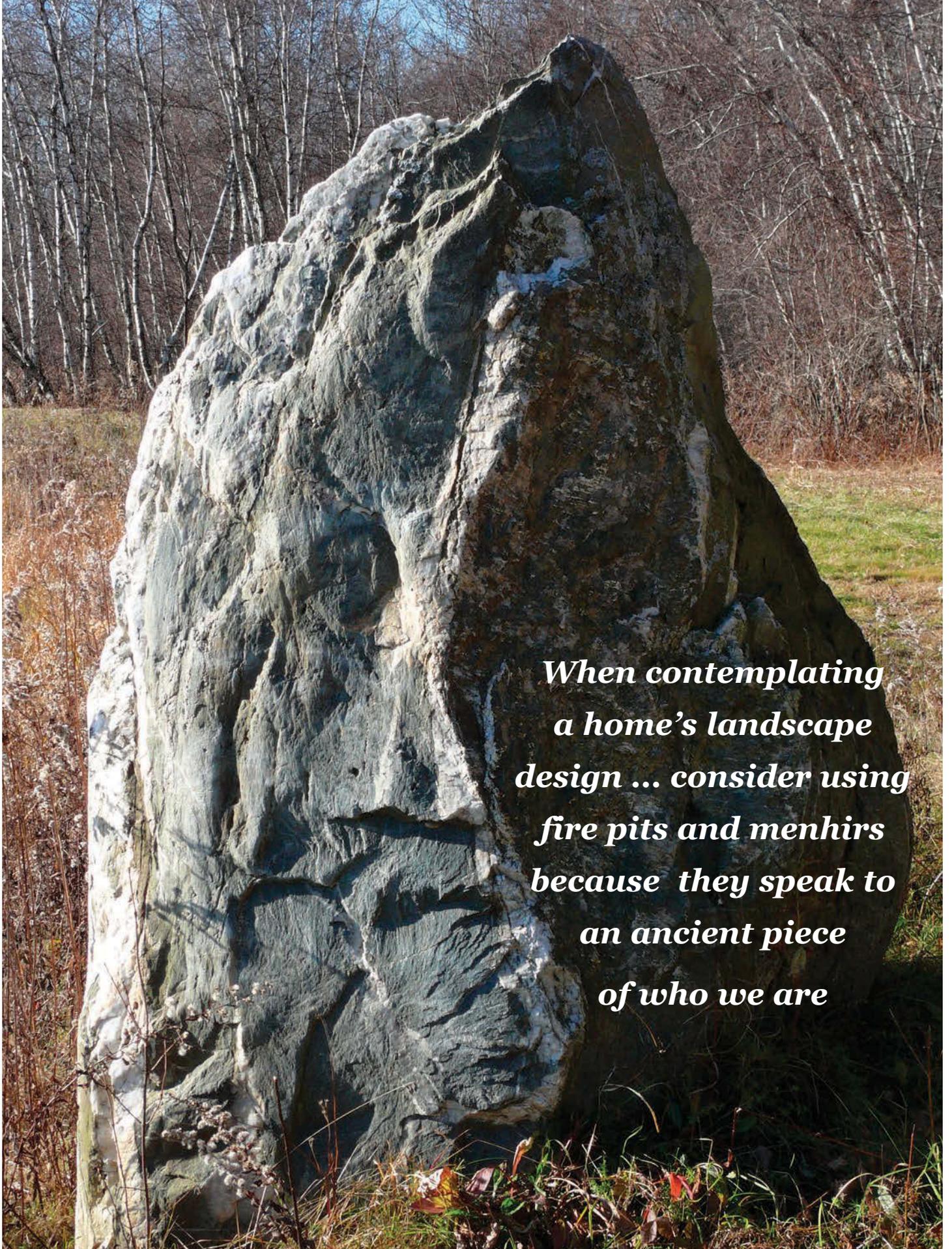
Stones of Wisdom

Most people think of Stonehenge in England as an example of standing stones. Recently researchers from University of London's Institute of Archaeology brought forth the idea that blue stones used to build Stonehenge came from a Welsh tomb.

In many cultures, the graves of one's loved ones are marked by a head stone that provides information about the deceased. Professor Mike Parker Pearson of the University of London "thinks the Welsh reused the stones as a way of bringing their ancestors with them when they traveled to England."

But there are thousands of stones standing on megalithic sites in countries all over the world, some in mysteriously aligned formations, some in small groups known as cromlechs, or "gathering of stones," and still other stones that stand alone. These stand alone stones are called menhirs, and they often serve as silent witnesses.

Some refer to menhirs as "Stones of Wisdom," for it is believed they connect Heaven and Earth and carry the ancestral memory of land surrounding them. They often act as windows into our past.



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Julian Richards believes our ancestors “exploited the magic of stones.” He continues, “they used stone as building blocks for the living and dead; as a canvas for their sacred art; and as a means of marking and commemorating the land of which they were an inseparable part.”

A grouping of stones or a single standing stone can have great presence, especially if given a prominent location within a landscape design. Ted Carter, a landscape designer in Maine, is currently working on a large commercial project in that area, and has positioned a large menhir where two paths cross within what will be an apple orchard.

It will now become a focal point of that project and take its place as a “record keeper” for property going forward. This particular stone was picked from a quarry in New Hampshire by Asheville based geomancer Calen Rayne, who has trained with European geomancers from a number of different lineages. He wandered through the quarry for several hours and picked out numerous stones that will be used in Carter’s future landscape designs.

Carter and Rayne work together on certain projects to create what can best be described as “sacred landscapes” or “ritual landscapes.”

Because many of these projects are located on ocean front property in Maine, the concept is to blend plants, earth, rock and water to

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create a harmonious and balanced environment that nourishes both homeowner and the natural environment surrounding a home.

This process is based on design elements described by Ernest Eitel in his 19th century book, *Feng shui- Sacred Landscapes of Old China*.

Groups of stones and menhirs can be placed for a variety of purposes. Recently a Publix store opened in South Asheville, and a menhir is located at the base of a driveway that connects to Hendersonville Road. So one possibility is to mark an entrance to a property. Another use is to create a meditation space with seating so one can sit and engage with the stone.

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When contemplating a home’s landscape design, consider stones as a viable option to enhance your project. When Carter discusses landscape design with new clients, he mentions elements like fire pits and menhirs because “they speak to an ancient piece of who we are.”

He believes “there is some sort of instantaneous relationship or attachment to these objects that we just can’t fully explain.” For more information, visit sacredlandscapes.com.

