

**„We are stone people, we believe that stone has a spirit as does everything in creation“**

**Stone-Ideas.com, Peter:** On your webpage you mention the „ancient world“ and its „spirit and wisdom“ which should be re-awakened. Hm, what is meant by that? What kind of knowledge and know-how are you talking about?

**Andreas & Naomi:** What we mean by this „ancient world“ was that there was a certain awareness and in-tune quality that the ancient people had with natural elements, like the weather, seasons, stars, the earth, and stones, to give a few examples... There are many ancient cultures around the globe that have evidence of stone circles created for mysterious purposes, which is still constantly being researched and questioned by archeologists and historians.

We believe we are guided by a higher Source to work with stone as the ancients were. We are stone people, we believe that stone has a spirit as does everything in creation, if we as people can listen and be aware you can hear much more than the goings on of people's thoughts and ideas. If you are aware you can hear the voice of the stone spirit in it's ancient thundering voice. There were ancient ways and practices to not just hear the stone but to awaken the stone through honoring and Ceremony. Our "ancient art" is through these ancient practices and ways of knowing, seeing and being in-tune with the stone.

Our work is to build a better world and place to rest and grow in consciousness and have connection with the Earth and all of it's beauty and wonder that surrounds us everyday. People are moved deeply to experience our work, at a level that goes beyond the explainable, it is what is felt not just what is seen. We have regular feedback and comments from past clients of powerful connective experiences in their home or yard after we have completed a piece.

In our current age of modern technology we have a serious growing problem on our hands with the lack of connectedness to nature, to this real world. The rise of autism more than 200% in the past 10 years, how many children are addicted to the virtual world of gaming, tv, iPads, computers, etc.? There will be a time when we need to return to the earth, it is becoming a lost art and a rare gift. Stone has the ability to

reconnect and bring us back to the roots of our existence and connection to the earth.

**Stone-Ideas.com:** *Also, you write about the „other-side, what is invisible to our human eyes but felt within“. I suppose you're not talking about Tolkien's Middle-earth :-) - but what and where is this other side, this „spiritual realm“ as you also call it?*

**Andreas & Naomi:** When Naomi and I work with stone, we generally work together. However there is still an element of being alone with each stone. A time when you become very aware of the stone. I like to explain it by saying “listening to the stone”. There may be a design or an intention of setting a stone a certain way. However when the stone is lifted by your hand or with a crane, there is a moment where you become aware of how the stone would be best placed. This will not only influence the look and feel of this stone, it will influence the entire installation. As the installation evolves, you become innately aware of its presence, of how to develop the piece. The experience is deeply personal whether it is a private installation or a public one. Its success clearly depends on our ability to tune into the particular project at hand.

**Stone-Ideas.com:** Can you give me an example what you understand by „sacred geometry“? I never heard that term before.

**Andreas:** I had never heard of the term myself until recently. It is also called the Fibonacci Sequence or the Golden Mean. All cathedrals were built with this math as its basic secret. It is what kept the vaulted ceilings up. Bridges are all built with this math. Everything in nature has sacred geometry as its base pattern. From hurricanes, to sunflowers to our DNA strands, they are all Sacred Geometry. A few years ago I had a Harvard professor explain to me that all my artwork in stone contained Sacred Geometry and so I looked into what he was referring to. Once we had some discussion into the matter it came to light that I could see these geometric forms in the random shapes of stone I was working with. It is also known as Pi. With a numerical sequence of 3.141... I do not measure these shapes and yet they have been shown to be perfect when measured after they are completed. It has become my signature and I have become known for my continuous use of this mathematical patterning.

**Stone-Ideas.com:** The fact that you remove stone from nature means

that you interfere with nature. Isn't that a conflict, or has such removing to be done in special way?

**Andreas & Naomi:** We do our best to work with nature. To bring natural pieces of stone from physical location to another. Yes, we do it with subtle and intentional ceremony. Such ceremony is not common or even accepted amongst quarriers and masons which we know, so we are very discerning about this. We express gratitude to the earth and handle the stone we have been gifted with great reverence.

**Stone-Ideas.com:** Have you a word how you call your profession: artist, stonemason, mosaic-maker, stone-shaman...?

**Andreas:** This has been a challenge ever since I stepped out of the norm with what other masons were doing. I was not accepted by other stone masons because I was being so unique in my approach. I was called down and not accepted for decades. Recently I was called a Master Mason for the first time by another master Mason. I have been referred to as a mosaicist however they also feel challenged to accept me as they work almost exclusively assembling very small pieces of material. Whenever possible, I will add stones with a crane. We like the term stone Shaman... Thank you for the suggestion.

**Stone-Ideas.com:** *Most of the stones you use come from the surroundings where you and your wife Naomi live.*

**Andreas & Naomi:** The stones we use the most are from our area of the Pacific Northwest, like British Columbia, Washington as well as across our continent, Brazil, and Madagascar.

**Stone-Ideas.com:** How do you find them: do you (both?) stroll around with a backpack and come back heavily loaded?

**Andreas & Naomi:** Over the years we have spent allot of time in the mountains walking and looking for unique stone. As well we visit quarries in many places. Stones are usually sent back to our studio or to our installation sites on large semi trucks with 24 to 49 tons of stone on each load.

**Stone-Ideas.com:** So you have your garage full of stones?

**Andreas & Naomi:** Yes, we have a garage, a studio and several outdoor sites full of unique, marvelous stones.