



Touch stones

Category:

AUSTRALIAN STONE
Sculpture/Public Art

Location:

Moranbah, Queensland

Commissioned by:

Economic Development Qld (EDQ)

Sculptors:

Hew Chee Fong & L.M. Noonan

Stone Supply:

Grandee Granite Quarry, NSW

Initial processing:

J.H. Wagner & Sons

This intriguing project is entitled 'Dwell'. The sculptor Hew Chee Fong was challenged to create a narrative which traces the evolution of domestic housing in an elemental form. A 20-ton boulder of Grandee granite was extracted from the quarry in New South Wales and dispatched to J.H. Wagner's Toowoomba factory where it was cut into four sections each weighing approximately 4 tons. The pieces were delivered to Chee Fong's studio on the Sunshine Coast, where they were carved and transformed into abstract symbols of dwellings.

This process took six months. Textural finishes range from the raw natural surface to heavily bush hammered and brushed surfaces. While the general appearance is rough, the skin of the stone is actually smooth to touch.

Some of the external faces are polished which simulates water. Chee Fong enjoyed working the stone because of its consistent nature. The internal natural surfaces reflect the hand of nature and an ancient dwelling, the external finishes trace man's hand, indicating how we shape our built environment. 