

Triangle

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A BOULDER LOOK

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IF YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR A UNIQUE WAY TO JAZZ UP YOUR LANDSCAPE THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE FLOWERS OR SHRUBBERY, CONSIDER ADDING SPECIMEN ROCKS AND BOULDERS IN STRATEGIC PLACES.

From dramatic to Zen, stonework can affect the look and feel of your yard while adding unexpected focal points and solving landscaping problems.

Let's think past the contrived look of small river rocks lined up as flower-bed borders. Instead, consider how the placement of various-sized boulders can lead to a natural and organic appearance. Especially useful for newly constructed homes, boulders nestled beside a grouping of tall ornamental grasses add a look of permanence to the yard. Choosing

boulders with moss and lichens growing on them breathes even more longevity into the area while adding texture. Similarly, if your landscape lacks interest, boulders and specimen stones can be used to build levels into the design. With proper placement, stones of varying sizes, installed in conjunction with retaining walls, raised beds, or sloping ground, incorporate an oasis of interest among the greenery of an expansive lawn. This type of application also solves tricky issues like dead areas that don't support much plant growth.

Rocks and boulders solve other problems in the landscape, as well. For areas that are frequently eroded by rainfall, a dry creek bed of rocks and boulders "flowing" down a slope can hide a drainage system underneath that handles runoff problems and properly diverts excessive water. A destination



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“STONework CAN AFFECT THE LOOK AND FEEL OF YOUR YARD WHILE ADDING UNEXPECTED FOCAL POINTS AND SOLVING LANDSCAPING PROBLEMS.”

“pool” of small river rocks completes the look and adds beauty and a definitive solution to channeling water.

If your yard needs a pleasing aesthetic, boulders can serve as striking focal points. Cluster them under trees where nothing else will grow or place them as natural benches in various parts of the garden. I like to use what’s endemic to our area. My favorite for our geographic region is gray mountain stone. Chiseled and geometric or smooth and round, the shape of the stone and its placement can signal high drama or calm Zen. Large, rounded boulders used in conjunction with Japanese maples, camellias, and hostas, for example, set the mood as a traditional Oriental garden.

The only question is: Why aren’t you already using specialty stones and boulders in your landscape plan? They are a standout way to add an artistic statement and give the eye a delightful place to land while complementing your home. ♦

