

Triangle

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# FIRESIDE LIVING

BY LESLIE WOLVERTON

GREEK LORE CREDITS PROMETHEUS FOR DEFYING THE GODS AND DELIVERING FIRE TO HUMANS, A GIFT THAT SEPARATED MANKIND FROM ANIMALS AND PROPELLED THEM INTO CIVILIZATION.

Humans have gathered by the light of this captured flame for millennia, with the earliest firepits dating back 400,000 years. Archaeologists discovered ancient firepits lined with stones at Tabun Cave in Israel and the Klasies River Caves of South Africa. Entire tribes and clans gathered around the safety and sustenance of these fires.

Fire still captures our primal attention with its distinctive ability to enliven a space. Whether a garden fireplace, a

poolside fire table, or a copper bowl filled with flame, fire is aesthetic and functional, dramatic and comforting all at once. The addition of fire can maximize the investment of a landscape design project, providing four seasons of outdoor entertainment. It may act as a flickering backdrop for a quiet evening or the heartbeat of a lively party. When not in use, a concrete fire table can serve as a place to rest a drink or hold a plate of hors d'oeuvres, or it can be a spot to kick up your feet after a rewarding day of work.

The modern fire feature has evolved from the Paleolithic into a stand-alone work of art. Old North State's team of designers and craftsmen fashion these elements from myriad materials, including limestone, corten steel, cast



BRUCE DEBOER



## “FIRE IS AESTHETIC AND FUNCTIONAL, DRAMATIC AND COMFORTING ALL AT ONCE.”

stone, concrete, and high-temperature glass. Natural gas technology facilitates a clean and effortless experience in a simple vessel that rests upon a stately column of rough-hewn stone. A massive cast-iron fire kettle offers the luxury of a wood fire outdoors and is perfect for both warmth and cooking. A feng shui-inspired fire table of copper and steel is a natural fit for an Asian garden.

For many ONS clients, fire means family. Celebratory meals are prepared in the outdoor kitchen adjacent to an alfresco living space where loved ones linger by the flames. When a firepit is a backyard amenity, fiery marshmallows are no longer reserved for the occasional family camping trip. A natural gas fire feature offers a moment’s respite for weary parents after the kids are tucked into bed. Beyond the glow of the television, fire has proven itself an intimate and convivial family gathering place, setting the scene for love, warmth, and conversation. ♦



TOP: CHARLES REGISTER; BOTTOM: BRUCE DEBOER

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