

Fort Worth Public Art  
Camp Bowie / Byers Green Sculpture

Earth Fountain  
Descriptive Narrative

The one element that was paramount to our sculptural response was the participation of water. I chose to concentrate on the whole idea of water and how it comes from, shapes, and returns to the earth in the form of springs, creeks, and rivers. In this process, water sculpts the earth in an always unique site specific manner. The fountain (water) appears to come from inside the earth (at the center of the sculptor). Hence my title "Earth Fountain" for this sculpture proposal. This water flows out the three openings and in the process flows over a scaled representation of the unique local topography. From a distance, the water appears to return to the earth itself (achieved by placing the basin below grade).

In studying the natural features related to water around the site, I looked at the 1 to 250,000 topographic maps, and from these, was able to draw up a plan of the local waters' landscape pattern. This is the pattern that is carved into the domed part of the interior water feature below the fountain. This fountain's central position is oriented to the carved topography as is the site itself to the surrounding local topography.

Three openings are directly related to the angles of the three adjacent streets (Byers, Camp Bowie, and Eldridge). This was a way to illustrate in the sculpture, a site specific orientation of the surrounding built environment. The holes have their edges mirror polished reminiscent of the polish the flow of water gives to stone.

The sculpture's size and scale is meant to have an impact, especially to those in vehicular traffic and to act as a landscape marker, yet the delicately carved topographic feature gives those who venture close depth to study in detail.

A fascinating discovery relating to the site is that Byers Avenue to the west turns into Rushing Springs Road, which is named for the closest emerging water feature to the site itself. The water flow from the sculpture has a certain rushing spring quality in its high flow emergence.

The pebbles in the basin act to generate turbulence to the flowing water and increase the sound of the water. The level of the water in the basin can be adjusted to appear dry and stay below the perforated granite cover or can be slightly above the perforated cover and give a shallow pool "ring-shaped" appearance.

The material of the sculpture is to be of local Texas red granite, known as sunset red, which is also the same granite used on the local courthouse. This interfaces nicely with the reuse of the Thurber brick, both of which have a local historical significance and both of which come from nearby earth as raw material. Also in Texas, water rights are often determined in the courts.

The proposed maze-like paths on the site's landscape is meant to slow pedestrians approaching the sculpture, giving multiple vantage points of view and more time for an introspective dialogue with the sculpture. From vehicular traffic, the path will appear minimal.

*Phillipe Klinefelter - Sculptor*