



Playing with Fire

The piece appears to most people as a solid slab of limestone. “Or what?” They wonder.

- Seth Ernsdorf, Ernsdorf Design Inc.

Multi-functional and monolithic, this concrete “Firetable” provides the perfect setting to play with fire at a Los Angeles area home. Seth Ernsdorf of Ernsdorf Design collaborated with homeowner Trudi Cohen and builder Abe Grossman to create a coffee table, dinner table, and outdoor fire pit all within one seemingly solid concrete slab.

The volume is broken up by a clever jack-hammered strata of beach pebble that meanders across each plane of the creamy white concrete. The table feels strong and permanent and alive.





Why concrete?

Using concrete for the material gave the “Firetable” a stunning presence. The piece appears to most people as a solid slab of limestone. “Or what?” They wonder. The table feels strong and permanent and alive somehow. The concrete table was also a complement to planters in the client’s yard that we had produced as well. Her yard renovation called for a mix of stone, wood, metal and concrete.

Client Desire

Our client wanted an outdoor table where she could sit by the pool, watch the sunset with a drink and have dinner with friends and family. Since her house sits on a hillside, and is near the ocean, the air can become chilly as the sun falls, so she also needed to stay warm. We thought to combine both functions of a coffee/dinner table with that of an outdoor fire pit so we produced the “Firetable.”

Client Reaction

Our client was shocked and delighted. She loved the piece. It has become the highlight of her poolside lounge area. Her friends all wonder where in the world she found the table – they’ve never seen anything quite like it.

Timing + Expertise

The project from start to finish and install took use approximately 8 days. We were asked to produce the table as a single piece – monolithically. So, our challenge was to reduce the weight as much as possible without compromising strength. We used a traditional concrete mix, so we had to outfit the table with rebar as well. We kept the table surface at 1.5” thick, but shrank the walls to 1” using hard foam as a backer for extra support. Also, the foot of the table returns in about 2” to give the table a float effect. We sandwiched the hard foam between the foot return and the table top, in effect supporting the foot, walls and table top. The fire pit basin was outfitted with a custom made metal pan in two parts. The pan slopes to a drain pipe that allows rain to empty out in a drain under the table. The fire effects hardware is plumbed to natural gas line under the table.

We learned that we could produce large objects monolithically and successfully transport and install them. We also learned that a little detail such as the rock strata that runs the circumference of the table is a wonderful effect that adds tremendous appeal and wonder to our products.

Designer Notes

*Seth Ernsdorf
Ernsdorf Design*

Specifications Concrete Firetable

Total Retail Price: \$8,000

Volume: 7 cubic feet of concrete

Weight: 900 lbs

Dimensions: 7' x 4' x 14"

Concrete Mix: Traditional fast-setting with added titanium dioxide to lighten the mix, giving the table a creamy white look

Reinforcement: 3/8" Rebar

Rock Strata: Beach pebble set with mortar in a jack-hammered out channel



Best Exterior/Outdoor

ernsdorfdesign.com

Ernsdorf Design Inc offers precast concrete elements for the home, garden and office. We make concrete countertops, desks and shelves, bathtubs and sinks, "firebowls", fountains, tile, fireplace surrounds and more.

All precast concrete products are produced custom to order. We can design for you or construct what you have designed. Our products are cast in-studio using custom built molds.

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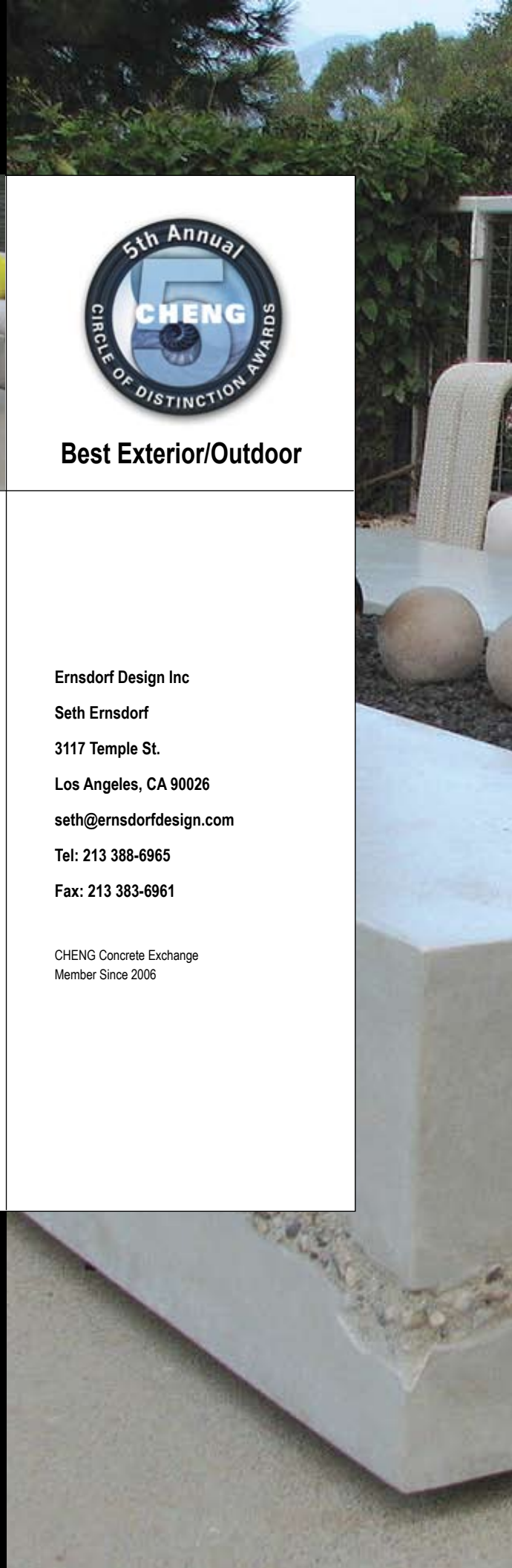
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