

The ROCKSPIRIAN

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Nature, Art & Architecture

It's as complicated and simple as that!

THE INSPIRATION FOR ROCKSPIRE SINCE ITS INCEPTION has been the combined influences of Nature, Art, and Architecture. So, what do these three words mean to us going forward as we develop this 'Living Laboratory for Sustainable Lifestyles' we call Rockspire? It's important to note the order of the words as we believe that it all starts with the awesomeness of the natural environment.

Nature - *The physical world and everything in it that is not made by humans.*

It's what attracted us to Rockspire in the first place and it continues to influence every decision made concerning development of the property. We want to make sure that any intrusion we make to the natural state does no harm.

Art - *The conscious use of skill and imagination especially in the production of aesthetic objects.*

It's the connective process linking the aesthetic beauty of nature to our human creative imagination.

Architecture - *The art or science of building a unifying or coherent form or structure.*

It's the logical result of combining nature and art to build a way of life and the structure needed to sustain it.

What makes it **complicated** is that there is no instruction book to guide us through this adventure. That's why we call it a Living Laboratory.

"One of the striking characteristics of those who have learned to practice experimental innovation is that they understand that failure, in the form of making mistakes or errors, and being imperfect is essential to their success. It's not that they intentionally try to fail, but rather that they know that they will make important discoveries by being willing to be imperfect, especially at the initial stages of developing their ideas." From: **Little Bets** by Peter Sims

What makes it **simple** is that the nature of Rockspire gives us a clear direction to follow. If we stay focused and use common sense, how can we fail?

"Common sense is so uncommon. And it's amazing how little competition you have when you use common sense." - Frank Lloyd Wright



AND SO, IT BEGINS! Initial dirt work has started at the first two homesites. Don Roller (pictured left) has been involved in most of the dirt work at Rockspire for the past 20 years and this initial phase of work at the homesites is no exception.

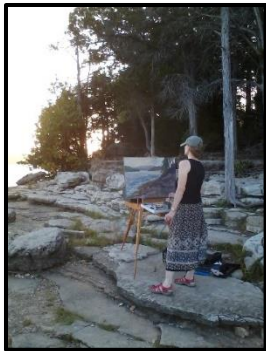
Bulldozer work at homesites
Photo by: G. Myers 5.28.18

PLEIN AIR PAINTERS OF EUREKA SPRINGS - P A P E S -

TEN OF EUREKA SPRINGS' FINEST PLEIN AIR PAINTERS came to Rockspire on June 20th to begin planning the 4th **ESPA FEST** (Eureka Springs Plein Air Festival). They spent most of the morning hiking and observing Joan's Angel Trail for inspiration leading to their next visit to Rockspire to paint its backwoods beauty. After touring Rockspire, lunch was served at the *MobbyMac Carriage House* during which discussion centered around planning the next **ESPA FEST**.

PAPES initiated the four-day festival three years ago with the sponsorship of ESSA (Eureka Springs School of Art) as a plein air painting competition, where the artists would paint at a different location around Eureka Springs each day of the festival. On the final day, prizes are awarded as the artists display their art. This festival has been a wonderful venue to showcase the talents of the local plein air artists as well as attracting plein air artists from around the country to participate in the festival. **ESPA FEST** is open to the public and is therefore a great way to meet the artists and observe their fine art as it's being created. It's also a great opportunity for aspiring plein air artists to learn technique from the masters by attending classes, and observing and discussing as the artists paint 'en plein air'.

Stay tuned, as more information is forthcoming about the next **ESPA FEST**.



PAPES members doing what they love to do ... painting 'en plein air' around the Eureka Springs area.

Photos courtesy of Ron Lutz
Studio 62 Eureka Springs

"It is not the result of our actions that we are looking for, but the fulfillment of just doing. Let everything go where it naturally wants to go, and you will always be successful. Follow your own light, be ordinary, then you will see for yourself that you are part of the whole. Is there anything more miraculous than the wonders of nature? Yes, your appreciation of those wonders!"

Excerpt from **Zen In Your Garden**
by Jenny Hendy