Caelum Moor
An Environmental Sculpture at Richard Greene Linear Park

The environmental sculpture known as Caelum Moor has a long history in Arlington, Texas. The 5-acre work of art, created by sculptor Norm Hines, Professor of Art at Pomona College in Claremont, California, includes five groups of granite monuments set in a landscape. The sculpture is designed to provide an attractive and engaging environment for the public - a place to gather, to observe and reflect, to be refreshed, to enjoy the blending of nature and art.

Caelum Moor was commissioned in 1984 by Jane Mathes Kelton, CEO of Kelton Mathes Development Corporation. The sculpture was originally designed as the centerpiece of The Highlands development in south Arlington and it was completed and dedicated in 1986. Caelum Moor was named and designed with reference to megalithic monuments. Kelton, whose ancestry was Scottish and who was drawn to the ancient sites found throughout the British Isles, made the Scottish design request in her commission of the artwork.

The name “Caelum” is derived from a constellation in the southern skies known as the “sculptor's tool”. “Moor” refers to the windswept landscapes common to ancient sites. The Celtic titles of each of the five granite monuments - Tolmen Barrow, Tan Tara, Morna Linn, Sarsen Caer and De’Danaan - further reflect the Scottish heritage.

While the stone groups are reminiscent of the forms of ancient monoliths, they diverge in important ways. Each group is unique, offering carved details designed to encourage visitors to approach and engage the polished surfaces. Tolmen Barrow, for instance, has a hole cut through its central stone. On the inner surfaces of Tan Tara, two polished, concave, circles produce the effect of an echo chamber. Morna Linn incorporates water, adding the element of sound to a contemplative environment. Throughout the sculpture, there are abstract patterns, carved and polished, that can be explored with the fingers as well as the eyes.

For more than a decade, Caelum Moor served as a popular gathering place for individuals and families, and as the site of major public events such as the Highland Games. In 1997, the land occupied by the sculpture was sold for redevelopment. As a result, the 22 stones comprising the five monuments were donated to the City of Arlington by WindStar Properties. For 12 years, the stones were stored at the Pierce Burch Water Treatment Facility.

In 2009, thanks to revenue generated from the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone, Caelum Moor was reinstalled in Richard Greene Linear Park in a new configuration designed by the sculpture artist, Norm Hines. With its relocation in north Arlington, Caelum Moor will once again have the opportunity to provide an attractive and engaging environment for the public to gather, to observe and reflect, to be refreshed and to enjoy the blending of nature and art.

Left: The Caelum Moor stones in Richard Greene Linear Park, 2009
Right: Placing the top stone on Sarsen Caer at the new site, June 30, 2009