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# Rock stars in home decor

Pebble and stone motifs add earth tones to interiors

We've all toted home an interesting stone or two from a good walk. We appreciate the eons it took to shape them; we admire the composition, the shading. But the coziness?

Today's rocks — or close facsimiles — are getting all warm and fuzzy. Perhaps as a nod to environmental interest, designers and retailers are adding pebble and rock motifs to their home collections. Accessories, rugs, wall

coverings and even lamps are fashioned from the real thing, or so cleverly imitative that you have to touch them to know the difference.

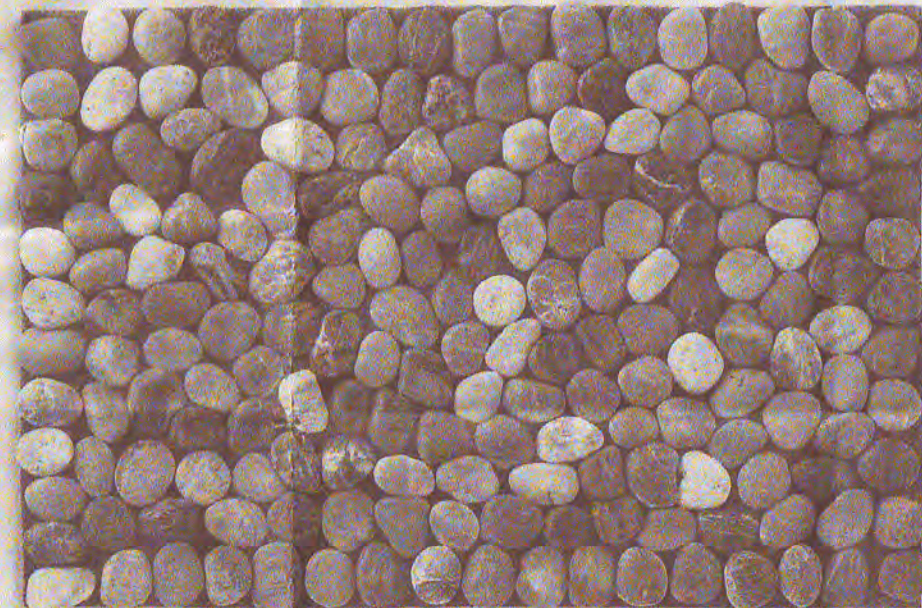
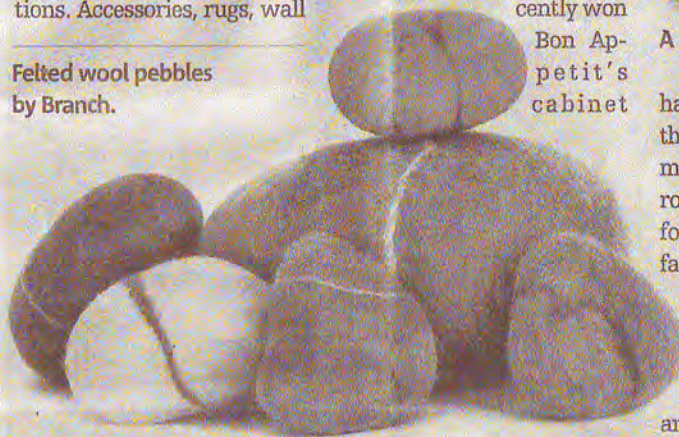
Gigantic, soft floor pebbles are an inspired alternative to the family room floor cushion.

Or wrap a wall in a stone-printed paper, or cover bathroom walls with squares of natural pebbles. There are luminescent boulders for indoors or out, and stacked rock lamps, each one unique.

Thomas Ward of Stepping Stones Studio in Idaho recently won

Bon Appetit's cabinet

Felted wool pebbles by Branch.



A pebble floor mat in beachstone and slate by Chiasso, above, and Plage Rock Cairn wall decals.



hardware competition with the knobs, pulls and lamps he makes from glacial and river rocks he finds on canoeing forays. He's mindful of the fact that most of his clientele are city-dwellers.

"Every stone I place is done in a way that will present its natural beauty and dignity to people who've

been separated from nature," he says.

Perhaps that's what speaks to our fascination with rocks and pebbles; they've been around a good long while. They have stories to tell. And in uncertain times, sharing our space with a little terra firma seems oddly comforting.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### designs on the net

- » Merino wool rocks designed by South African Ronel Jordaan are hand dyed, carded and felted by women in a successful job creation program, [www.besweetproducts.com](http://www.besweetproducts.com)
- » Livingstones wool "rocks", [www.smarin.net](http://www.smarin.net)

- » Pebbles Rug and pebble floor mat, [www.chiasso.com](http://www.chiasso.com)
- » Plage Rock Cairn wall decals, [www.acaciacatalog.com](http://www.acaciacatalog.com)
- » Skipping Stones Studio's stone lamp and doorknobs, [www.stonehardware.com](http://www.stonehardware.com)
- » Moss rocks, [www.zgal-lerie.com](http://www.zgal-lerie.com)