Naturally Aesthetic

In the high desert of Nevada resources to build with are limited. Historically, very little timber is available unless it is transported to a building site. Settlers that built structures in Nevada had the same problem. Stone that was available in concentrations became an enduring building material. Evidence can be seen throughout the high desert. Both with native american structures, and early ranchers. Many fence lines in Nevada use Gabion fence posts that stand for decades or more. The Anasazi built cliff dwellings with mud and stone masonry that is still standing today.

By using the same materials, not only do we use what is on site, but any stone that comes from the land at Fly Ranch, will automatically blend into the natural aesthetic of the land, because it is from the land. Walls or structures viewed from a distance will appear to be part of the landscape. Any other material like a roof color can be matched and chosen to blend in with the natural landscape. This is not a new idea. The Bungalows of the Arts and Crafts Movement and Frank Loyd Wright both chose materials from the location of construction to fit in with the natural environment.

Pyramid Lake Cultural Center and Museum

The dramatic sweeping forms of the cultural center and museum rise out of the stark desert surrounding Pyramid Lake. Local multicolored stone covers the exterior walls of the round building, which has a curved roof rising to a triangular entry section. Inside is a central area for ceremonial dances, surrounded by stepped seats. The Hopi architect Dennis Numkena designed the structure after winning a national competition. Because the Paiute do not have a tradition of permanent architecture, Numkena relied on universal forms, such as the circle and triangle, and used native materials to reflect the building's connection with the tribe's ancestral land.

– Society of Architectural Historians

The longer the life, the smaller the footprint

Evidence of rock strctures can be found everywhere in the Western Desert. It's a material that lasts. Take it from the land you build on and you have avoided using quaried material from around the globe. The more materials you find loacally and don't have to process, the less of a carbon foot print you leave behind. Wood is not a good choice for structures like this. It shrinks, and deteiorates and cracks and falls apart. Joints become weaker and weaker until it falls down. Maintinace is non-stop. Masonry has proven to stay for many years. This makes any effort to use it as a material worth the extra time and dificulty to build with.