

SOUTHWEST ARMATURE
Features Spica in the constellation Virgo, the virgin. Virgo has represented almost every female deity. Also locates Rigel in Orion as it sets.

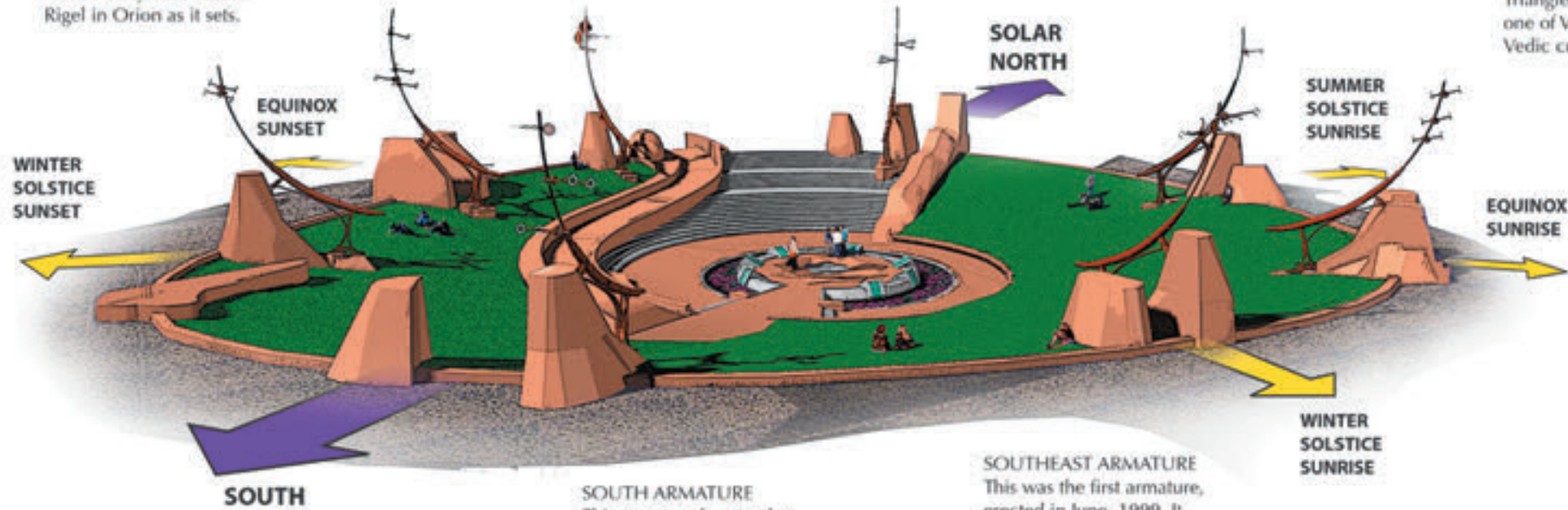
WEST ARMATURE
This armature locates four stars, emphasizing Regulus in the constellation Leo. Other stars are Altair, Procyon and Betelgeuse.

NORTHWEST ARMATURE
Stars and sunsets are obscured by the Johnston Terminal building. Instead, this armature will support wind sculptures that respond to the weather and portray the spiral dance of African wind goddess Oya.

NORTH ARMATURE
This armature identifies Dubhe in the Big Dipper. The interpretive panel explains how the Big Dipper can be used to find the North Star. It also locates Schedar in Cassiopeia.

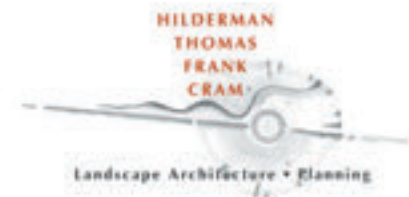
NORTHEAST ARMATURE
Vega, of the harp constellation Lyra is identified. In honour of Lyra, this armature also supports an aeolian harp, an ancient instrument sounded by the wind.

EAST ARMATURE
Locates three stars, featuring Altair in Aquila, the eagle constellation. Altair is one of the Summer Triangle stars, interpreted as one of Vishnu's footprints in Vedic culture.



SOUTH ARMATURE
This armature locates the star Antares in Scorpius, one of the zodiac constellations. The Aztec sunstone image is inscribed on the monolith, and a decorative shadow rod reveals the extremes of the sun's path at noon.

SOUTHEAST ARMATURE
This was the first armature, erected in June, 1999. It sights on Rigel, the brightest star in Orion, Sirius in Canis Major (the brightest star in the sky) and Spica in Virgo.



Dushe

Fisher

In Anishinabe legend, The Big Dipper represents “Fisher”, who was killed while stealing warm weather from the sky people. Though he was only able to warm half the year, Fisher’s heroism was rewarded with an honoured place in the sky, marking the seasons as he circles the North Star.



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Chi'nu ni nu

In Chinese legend, the star Vega is the weaving princess “Chih Nu”, and “Altair” is “Ch'ien Niu”, the King's herdsman. Their love for each other caused them to forget their work, forcing the King to banish them to opposite sides of the Milky Way. One day each year they are reunited when all the magpies of the world form a bridge across this celestial river.



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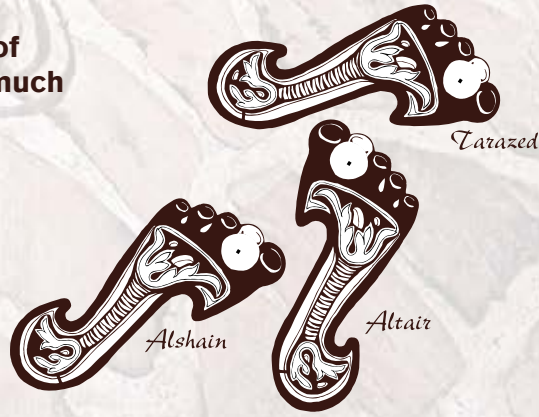


70 Vishnu

The stars Alshain, Altair and Tarazed in the constellation Aquila represent “the Three Footsteps of Vishnu.” In Hindu legend, Vishnu, in dwarf form, was allowed by the demon-king Bali to take as much land as he could claim in three paces. Transforming into a giant, Vishnu’s first two steps claimed heaven and earth. His third step landed on the back of Bali, banishing him to the underworld.



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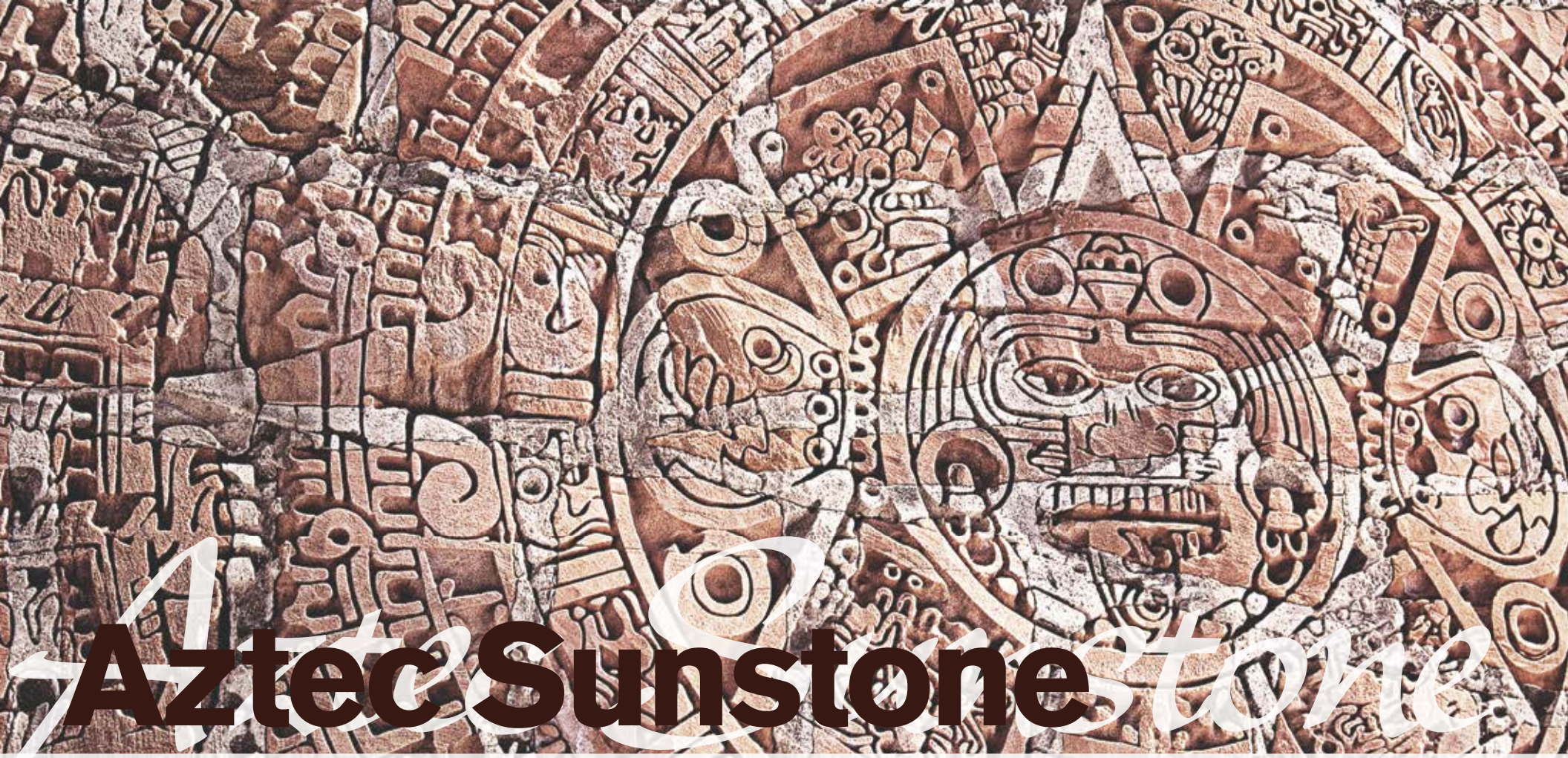
Orion

The constellation Orion, also referred to as “The Hunter”, becomes visible from November to April. Greek mythology tells a story of how Orion was killed by a giant scorpion. The gods then raised both Orion and the Scorpion to the skies. As the scorpion constellation rises, Orion sets.



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Aztec Sunstone

The sun was central to Aztec culture in Mexico. It was believed that without certain rituals, the sun would not rise. This famous symbol, carved in 1479, depicts the sun god Tonatiuh at its centre. It is a picture of the order of the cosmos, interweaving Aztec concepts of time, space, politics and the sacred.



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Isis

In Egyptian legend the constellation Virgo represented Isis, the greatest of their gods and goddesses. While fleeing the dreadful Typhon, Isis dropped a sheaf of wheat, scattering the grains across the heavens, thus creating the shimmering stars of our galaxy, the Milky Way.



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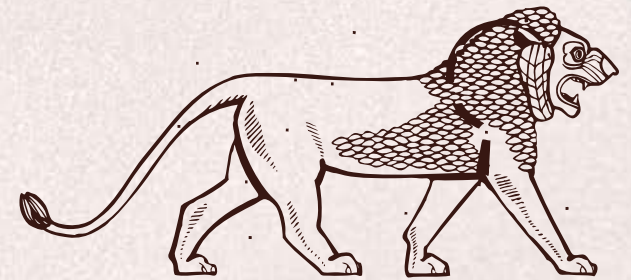


Lion and Sickle

The most prominent stars in the constellation “Leo” form a sickle. The Mesopotamians called this formation “Gis-mes” or “Curved Weapon”. Passage of the sun through the sickle announced the summer solstice harvest.



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Oya

Oya is a powerful West African spirit of the wind. Her spiral dance represents elemental energies and the turbulent forces of change. Much of Oya's power is rooted in the natural world; she brings rapid change and aids us in both inner and outer transformation.



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