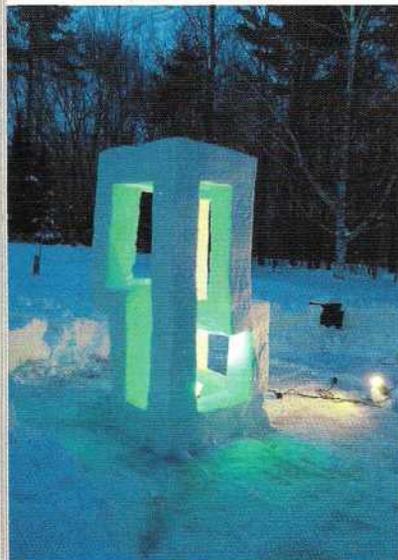


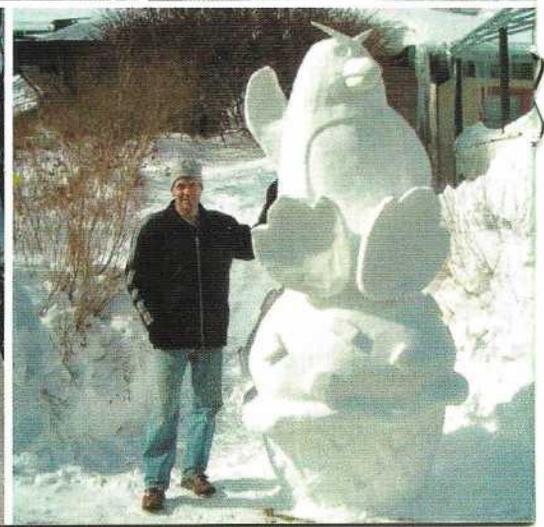
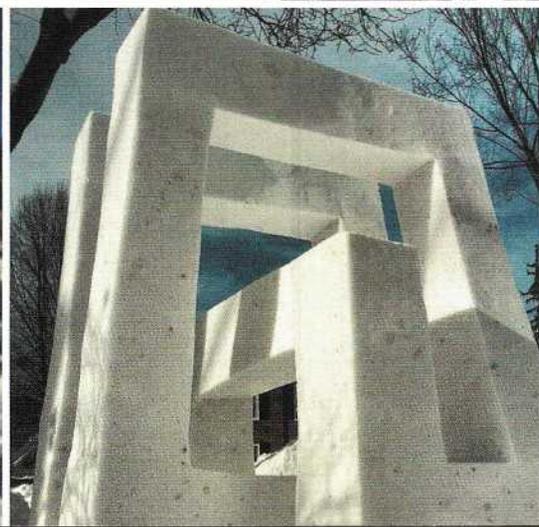
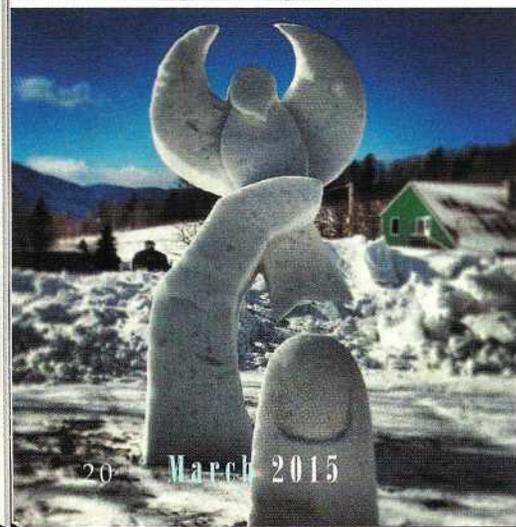
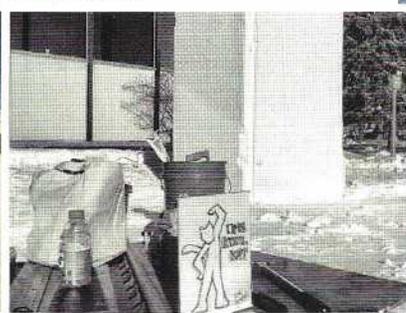
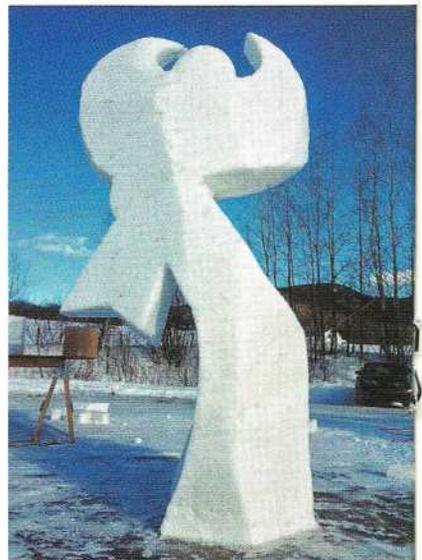
PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVE ROTHSTEIN



THE ART of the DEEP FREEZE

Dave Rothstein makes the most of winter, one sculpture at a time

BY AMANDA DRANE



20 March 2015

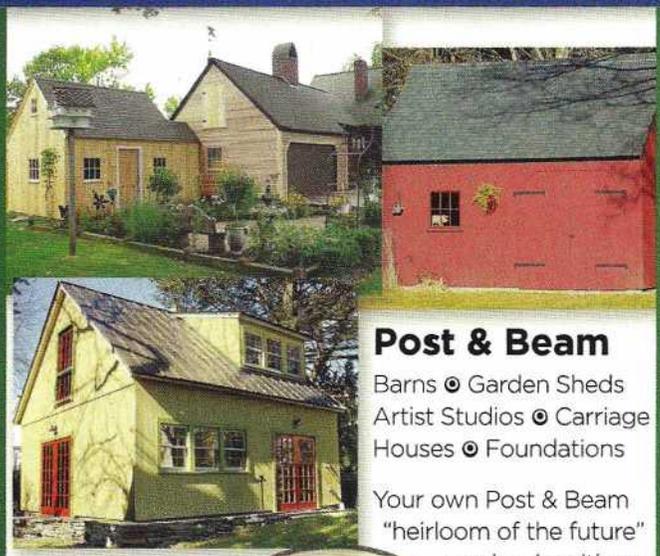
Rothstein wields "The Big Sandy," a snow-sculpting tool designed for "sanding" down edges



You have to have somewhat of a screw loose to go out there in the snow and make something," says Northampton's Dave Rothstein, "but it's all worthwhile."

While many of us are busily removing snow from our properties, Rothstein welcomes the white stuff by turning it into larger-than-life sculptures. An attorney for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by day, Rothstein waits all year and travels all over the world to work with his favorite medium.

choose tradition.



Post & Beam

Barns • Garden Sheds
 Artist Studios • Carriage
 Houses • Foundations

Your own Post & Beam
 "heirloom of the future"
 can begin with us.



PIONEER POST & BEAM

THE PIONEER VALLEY, BERKSHIRES & NEW ENGLAND

MA Lic. #CS080274

Call 413-427-8034 • PioneerPostandBeam.com

Canon Real Estate will help you
 successfully navigate through the
 buying & selling process.



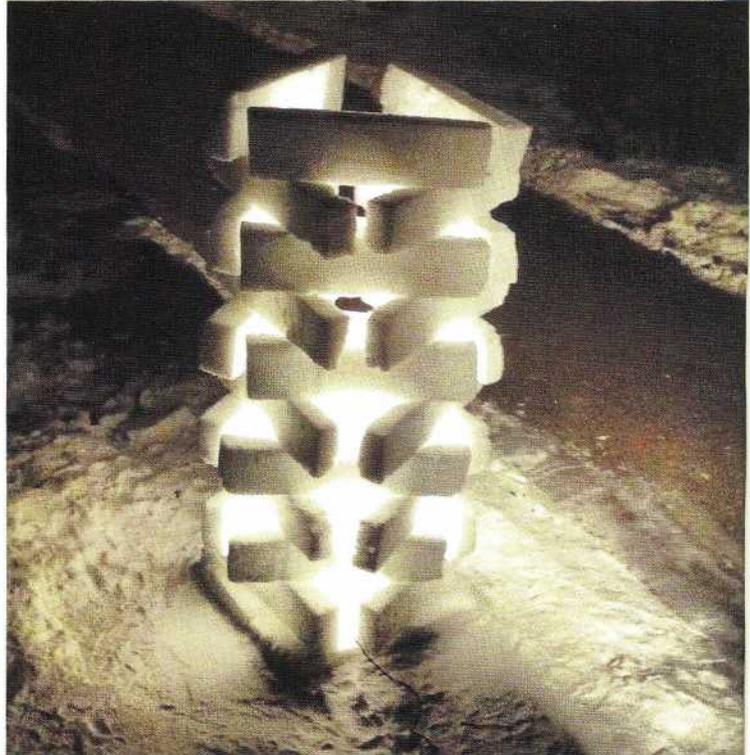
Give us a call to learn how we can help you!

CANON
 REAL ESTATE

Your local real estate professionals for over 30 years

(413) 527-8311 | WWW.CANONRE.COM

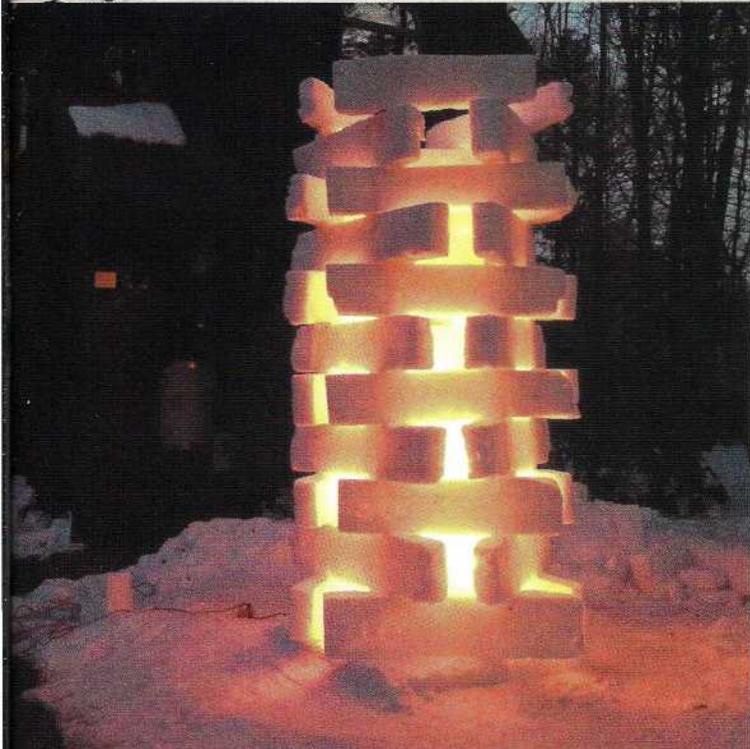
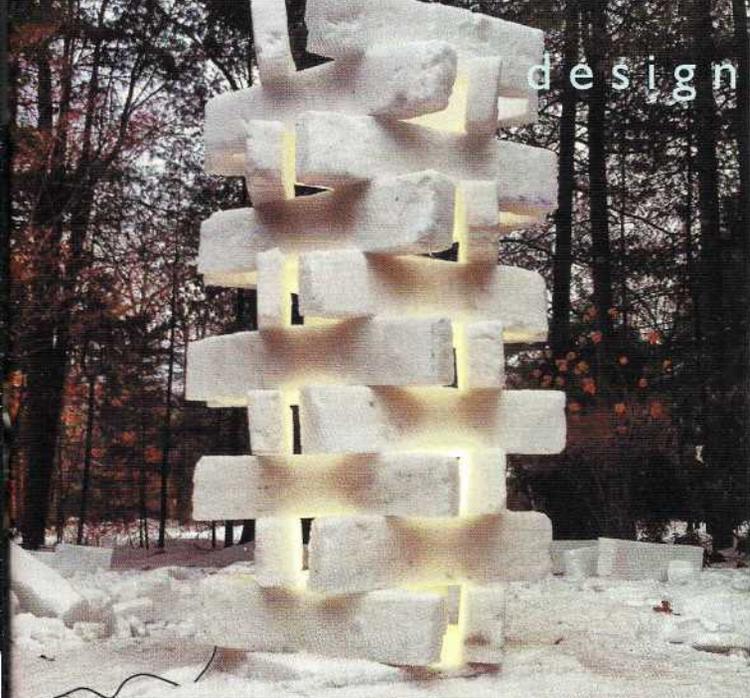
ADVOCATE
 ★BEST★
 THE VALLEY
 PROPERTY FIRM
 2013
 ADVOCATE
 ★BEST★
 OF THE VALLEY
 REAL ESTATE FIRM
 2012
 ADVOCATE
 ★BEST★
 THE VALLEY
 PROPERTY FIRM
 2011
 ADVOCATE
 ★BEST★
 OF THE VALLEY
 REAL ESTATE FIRM
 2010
 Real Estate Agency



Rothstein has sculpted snow for twenty years, completing a handful of frosty works each season. Working outside with such an ephemeral medium, he says, requires considerable forethought. Whether he's sculpting in international competitions, at local festivals or in his own backyard, Rothstein thrives on his unusual art form.

By the time he hits the snow for a long day of sculpting, Rothstein says, he's already designed his piece several times over. Many of his ideas come to him during the summer. He sketches them out, sometimes as many as fifteen times, before modeling the designs with floral foam. The handheld models are tiny in comparison to the eight-by-eight-foot snow blocks he is presented with at snow-sculpting events, but Rothstein says working with the foam is similar to working with snow and the process helps him plan out the dimensions, the shadows and the

design



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVE ROTHSTEIN

Sculpture four ways: Rothstein completed this 15-foot "Jenga Lantern" in his front yard

snow-removal operation. When you're dealing with such a large, cold blank slate, Rothstein says, you have to be methodical.

At the same time, he says, he's often forced to change his plans because of the type of snow and temperature of the day. On an unseasonably warm day, he's forced to take fewer structural risks with the piece, because the melting medium could collapse before his work is finished. When the snow is wet, he says, the flakes quickly freeze into place and are harder to mold, making for the type of back-breaking work that can cut a project short.

"No matter how much you design your piece, you're at the mercy of mother nature — you're always adapting your design on the fly," he says.

The best type of snow to work with? Rothstein says it's the

FLY BY NIGHT

Don't Miss the ONLY Storewide Sale of the Year

The Storewide Bonus Sale



Buy a Sofa & Table and SAVE!



Buy a Bed & Mattress and SAVE!



Buy a Table & Chairs and SAVE!



Buy a Futon Frame & Mattress and SAVE!

Earn a Bonus on Every Dollar You Spend

Visit the store to learn more. Some restrictions apply.

FLY BY NIGHT

21 State St • Downtown Northampton
413-586-1464 • 800-927-1464 • flybynight.com



treefrog
landscapes

"A path is a prior interpretation of the best way to traverse a landscape."
— Rebecca Solnit



Organic ~ Custom ~ Design ~ Build
www.treefroglandscapes.com
Northampton, MA | (413) 586-8735

design

"white, sparkly snow that falls at ten degrees — it compresses well, won't list and bend as much. It's great for detail work."

Sculpting for twelve-hour stretches in ten-degree weather requires some gear. Layers, he says — often wool — are key to being warm enough to focus on the art. He also brings along a sheepskin bomber hat, a parka, and as many as fourteen pairs of gloves. Once moisture permeates a set of gloves, he says, he must change them out or risk damage to his hands.

The quiet, contemplating gaze often associated with artists working in a studio just isn't practical with snow art: "There's no room for ego — as soon as you take a step back to admire, you freeze your ass off," Rothstein says.

Final products can last as little as ten minutes and as long as three months. It's sad, he says, when they don't even make it an hour, but they all come down anyway. Structural risks, Rothstein explains, reduce a snow sculpture's lifespan. The more air a structure is exposed to and the thinner its foundations, the more quickly it will dissolve. This doesn't mean he takes fewer risks — all that matters is that a work stands long enough to be seen and, for his purposes, photographed.

If a project is successful, he says, it will endure long after its demise. "It's not something you can put on a wall. If it's something that speaks to people, you'll hear about it."

Rothstein discovered snow art by accident while living in Alaska. Since then, it has become a huge part of his life. Devoted to the art and spreading its gospel, he has travelled to Canada, Argentina, France, Norway, and Japan for snow-sculpting events, winning first-place prizes along the way.

He says it's not about the competition, all the same. "You're surrounded by people you like, outside in the elements, creating art with like-minded people — I can't imagine a better way to spend a day," Rothstein says. "And usually there's cocoa involved." ❖

"One Kool Kat," a piece Rothstein did during the 2014 Easthampton Winterfest

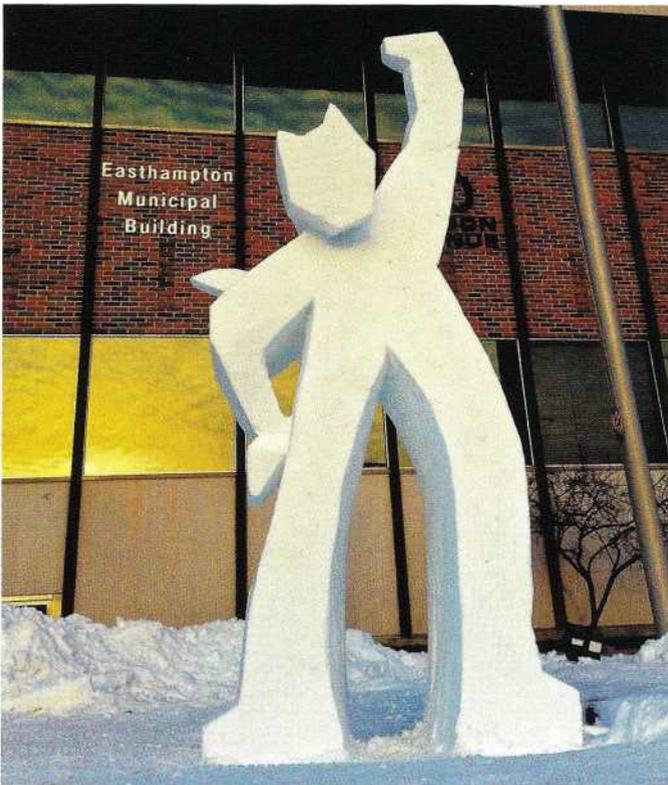
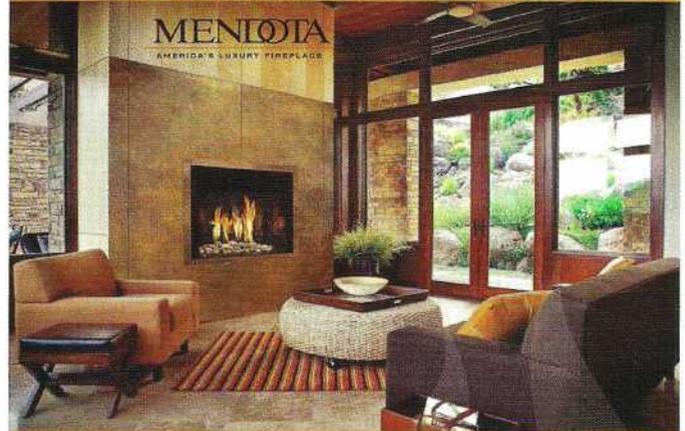


PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE ROTHSTEIN



THE PREMIERE HEARTH
DESIGN CENTER OFFERING
A FULL COLLECTION OF
ACCESSORIES TO FIREPLACES...

Everything Your Hearth Desires



*Extraordinary Fireplaces
for extraordinary Homes...*

1769 RIVERDALE STREET, ROUTE 5 | WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA

WWW.FIRESIDE-DESIGNS.COM | 413-733-0910

HOURS: TUES - FRI 10-5, SAT 10-4, SUN & MON CLOSED



KENT HICKS
CONSTRUCTION CO.

BUILDING ENERGY SAVINGS INTO EVERY PROJECT



Coming soon; Tier III energy star condos walking distance to downtown Northampton, highly efficient and low maintenance, offering year round comfort. For more info:

www.shopdevelopmentnoho.com

413.296.0123



CERTIFIED PASSIVHAUS CONSULTANTS & Energy Consultants



pre view

MASSACHUSETTS

mar 2015

Stairways to Heaven

Climbing the Berkeley Hills, step by step

Everyday Special

Hope & Olive brings Greenfieldeaters to where elegant and casual meet

Genius Academy

MacArthur grant winner Jeremy Denk joins forces with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields