Glassfibre Reinforced Concrete Rocks in England
Glassfibre Reinforced Concrete manufactured with NEG High Zirconia Glass Fibre has helped landscape architects create a major rockscape and water feature at the 1992 Welsh National Garden Festival in Ebbw Vale, Great Britain. The showpiece of the “Welsh Myth and Magic” feature was produced by Custom Rock (UK) by spraying GRC into moulds taken from actual rock formations. Each piece of GRC was produced in Custom Rock’s factory, transported to the site and then erected on steel frames. Joints between pieces were made on site using the same materials. Finally, the rocks were coloured using chemical stains to give the appearance of actual rock. In all, there are some 700 m² of GRC rock on the development which includes waterfalls, pools and mountain trails.

The history behind the development and the use of GRC has been explained by one of the landscape architects:

“We were looking for a product as authentic as possible. The display depicts a number of Welsh legends, including that of the Devil’s Bridge at Pontarfynach. This includes reproducing the image of the Devil, dressed as a monk, in man-made rock. The story features a woman who, one day, spotted one of her cows on the far side of a gorge in the village of Pontarfynach. The Devil appeared, dressed as a monk, and promised to build a bridge for her to collect the cow, provided that he could claim the first soul to cross it. But she noticed the “monk’s” cloven hooves. Apparently testing the strength of the bridge, she threw across a loaf of bread and her dog chased after it. The Devil, says history, duly claimed his prize.”

The “Welsh Myth and Magic” exhibit at the Welsh National Garden Festival is just one of many applications for GRC rock. The product is widely used in zoos, theme parks, water parks, indoor and outdoor water features for hotels.
A rockscape and water feature at the 1992 Welsh National Garden Festival in Ebbw Vale, Great Britain.
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