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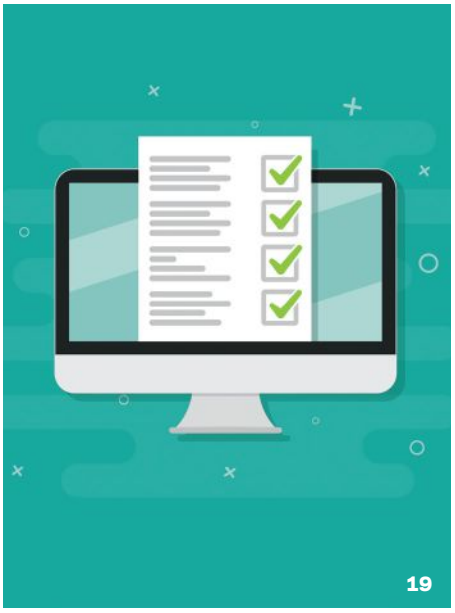
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August 19, 2019
Volume 58, Number 12





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ABOVE RIGHT: ADOBE STOCK

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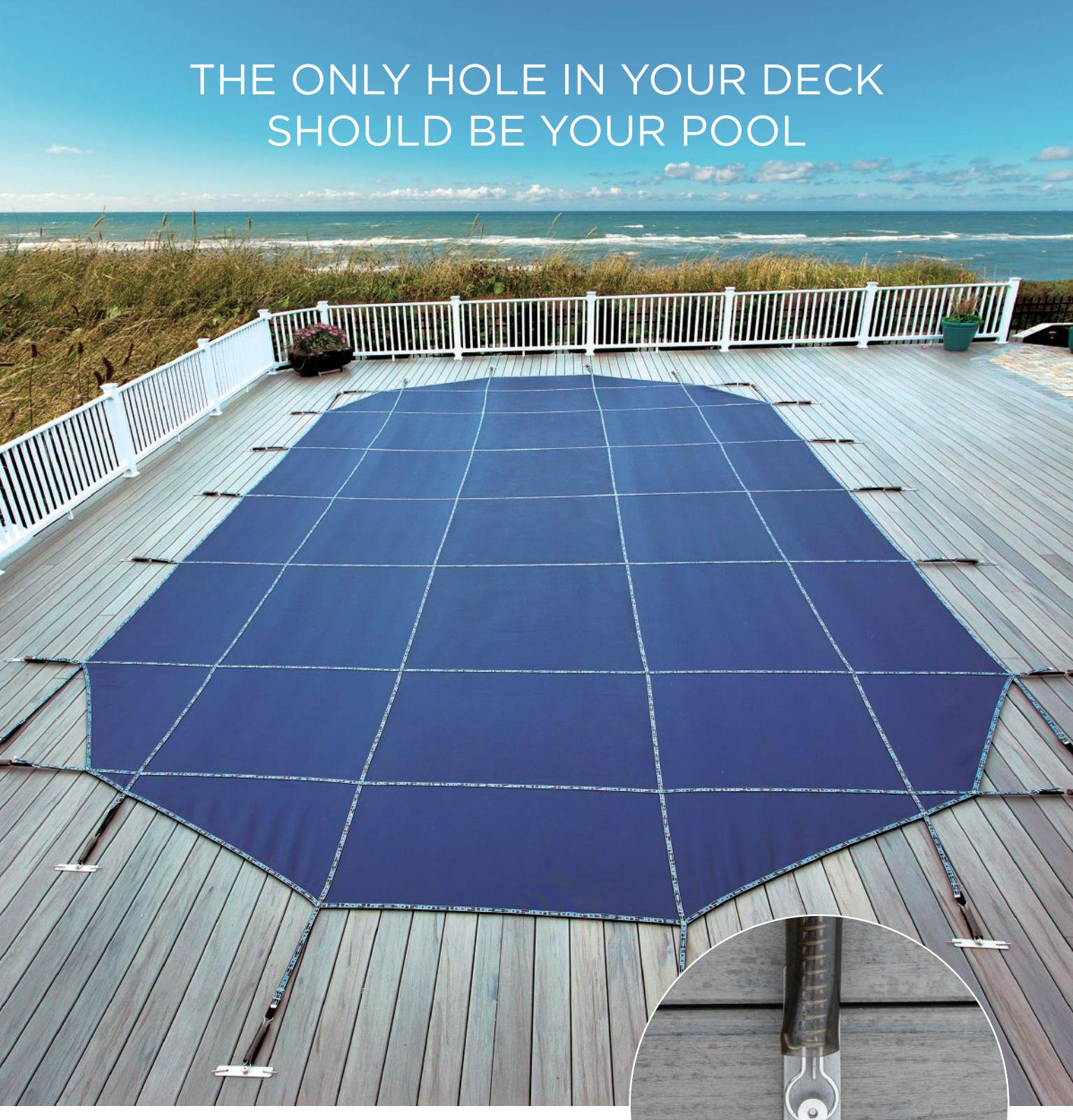
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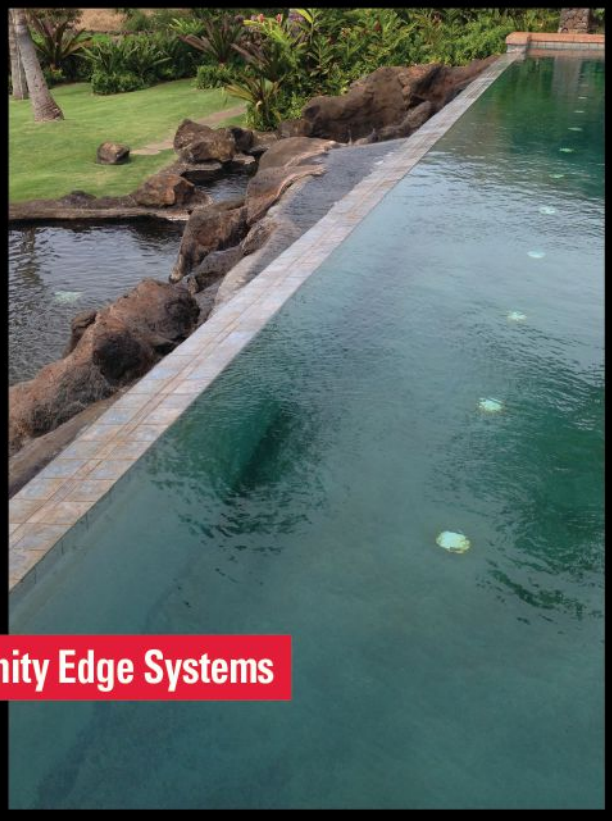
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A Masterful Parade



Joanne McClain
Editor-in-Chief, PSN

Welcome to our most beautiful issue of the year: Masters of Design.

This is the issue in which we celebrate pool and spa design in all its permutations, whether it's through the use of special or unusual materials, devising thoughtful solutions to space limitations, or creating beautiful spaces to highlight a waterscape.

This year, I'm excited to introduce a new category to the program — Stainless Steel. This is to acknowledge the excellent work in an established — and growing — medium that has never before been honored. Be sure to check out our first stainless steel winner on page 68.

This year was particularly difficult for our judges. I want to thank the hundreds of people who submitted their work for consideration. I regret that we're required to narrow it down to just 10 winners when there were so many deserving projects. We've chosen three additional pools as honorable mentions. Please check them out on page 90.

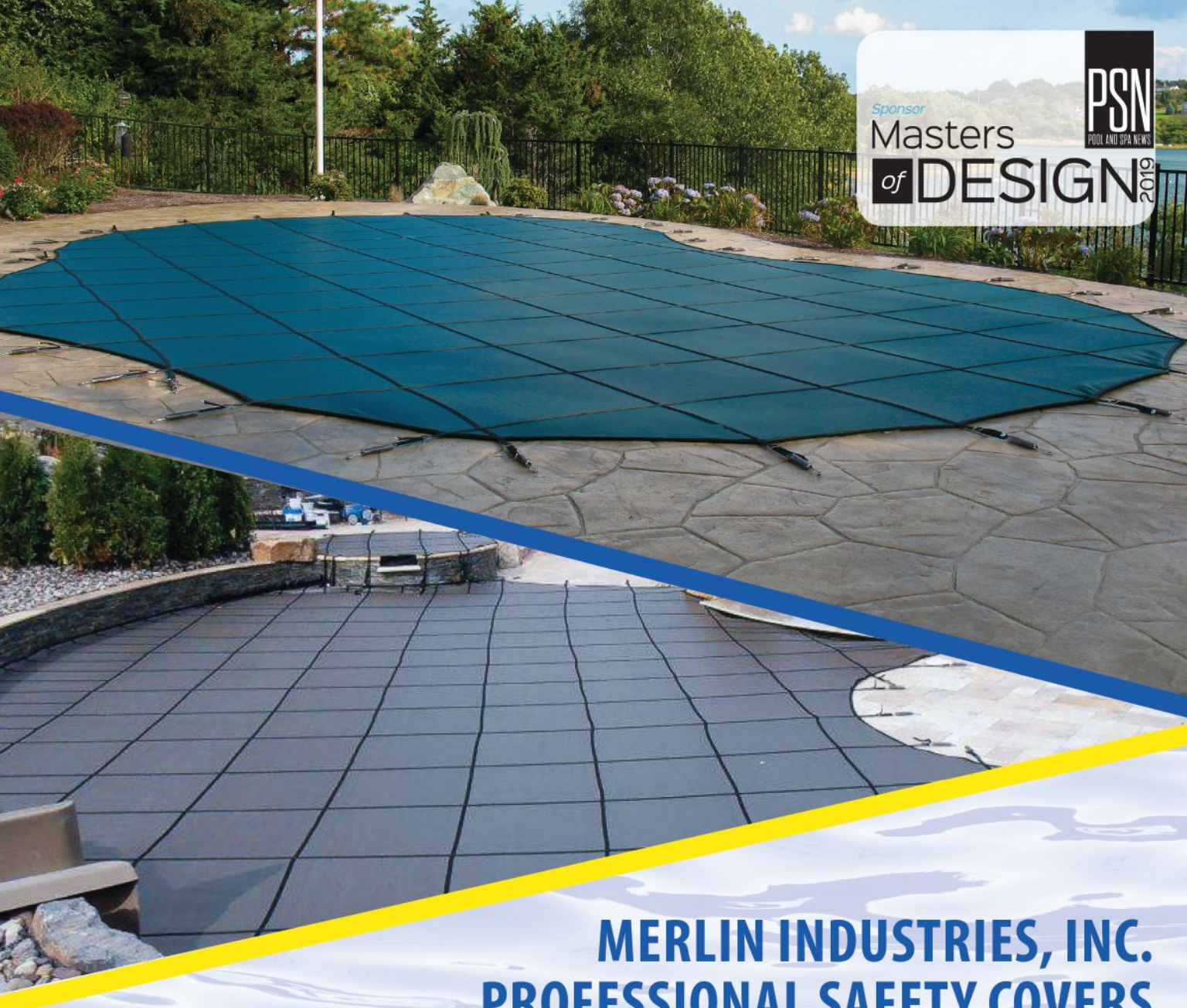
This special issue would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our deputy editor, Rebecca Robledo. Having previously served as our construction and design editor for many years, her experience and insight into the evolution of pool design has been invaluable.

Many thanks, too, to our three wonderful Genesis judges for taking the time out of their busy schedules to determine the winners of the concrete portion of our program. They are:

- Paolo Benedetti, principal and designer, Aquatic Technology Pool & Spa, Morgan Hill, Calif.
- Kate Wiseman, principal designer, Sage Outdoor Designs, San Diego
- Alison Felschow, vice president, Crystal Pools, Columbia, S.C.

And now, please enjoy the parade of stunning pools and spas in this issue, and congratulations to our winners. You are each truly a Master of Design!

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MAHC Committee Recommends New CYA Approach

BY REBECCA ROBLEDO

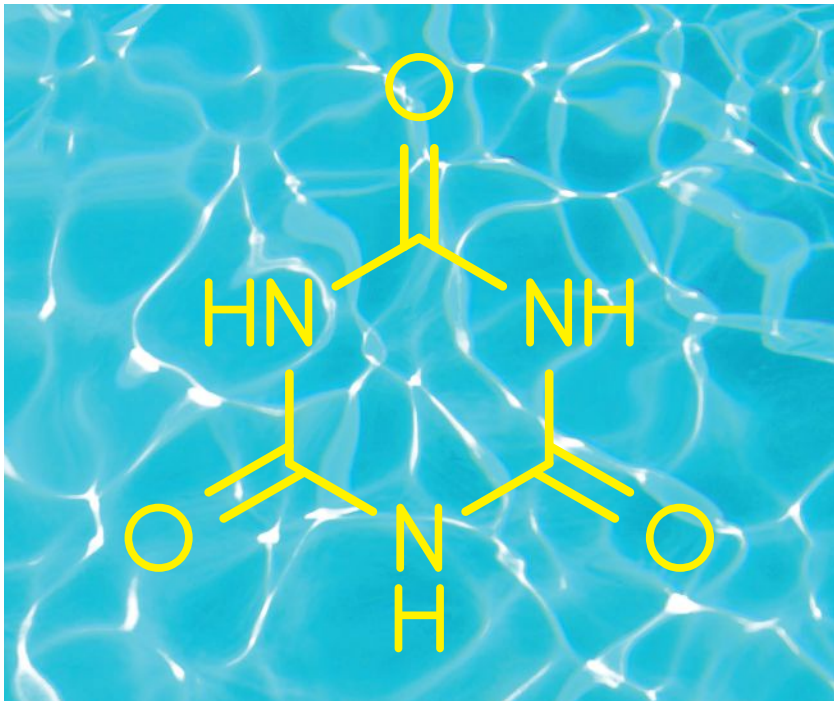
After exploring the matter for four years, a committee of the organization that writes the Model Aquatic Health Code has established a new position on appropriate levels of cyanuric acid (CYA) in pools.

As with the industry in general, the Council for the Model Aquatic Health Code has wrestled with the double-edged sword of CYA: Long considered invaluable for its ability to prolong the availability of chlorine after dosing, it also decreases the sanitizer's ability to eradicate pathogens because of the very process that helps it do its job. By binding with chlorine, CYA prevents the sanitizer from burning off almost immediately. But that means that, at any given time, a portion of the chlorine isn't working.

As awareness and concern have increased over waterborne illnesses, CMAHC members have worried about how CYA affects chlorine's ability to kill pathogens, especially resistant varieties such as *cryptosporidium*. So the group formed the CMAHC Cyanurate Ad Hoc Committee specifically to address this issue and help steer future versions of the MAHC. The group sought to determine the minimum free chlorine level needed to combat the spreading of gastrointestinal illnesses from fecal matter in water.

After a lengthy process, the committee is recommending that CYA levels be determined not by a straight-ahead parts-per-million (ppm) parameter, but rather by calculating the ratio of CYA to free chlorine. "It's a ppm-to-ppm ratio," explained Ellen Meyer, a member of the CMAHC committee and product safety and government affairs manager for Innovative Water Care. "So if you have 90 ppm of CYA and 2 ppm of free chlorine, then that ratio is 45 to 1."

This, the group believes, puts the focus on determining levels of hypochlorous acid (HOCl), the primary chlorine sanitizer.



The group suggests a maximum cyanuric acid:free chlorine ratio of 20:1, which would translate into 40 ppm of CYA to 2 ppm of free chlorine.

Determining this would require taking readings for free chlorine and CYA and calculating the ratio to make sure the water falls in the target range. This helps control the amount of HOCl in the water, rather than putting the emphasis on CYA.

"It's been a controversial issue for decades, and I think it will continue to be a controversial issue," Meyer said. "But I think the work our committee did was key in helping to add science to the arguments and provide a basis for evaluating what is the risk of illness with different levels of CYA."

While many likely will believe the change will help increase the efficacy of chlorine, others may experience difficulty with the new process. In her dealings with aquatics professionals across the country, Meyer has seen that some are more accustomed than others to performing calculations such as those needed to determine the CYA:free chlorine ratio.

Manufacturers also differ in their beliefs about appropriate CYA levels, so some may object to the CMAHC's position.

The CMAHC plans to propose its recommendation for the 2021 next edition of the Model Aquatic Health Code. For this to occur, the majority of CMAHC would have to vote it in during the ballotting process next year.

If passed, the change would take effect in those jurisdictions that would choose to adopt the 2021 MAHC.

CPSC Approves Drain-Cover Standard Update

BY REBECCA ROBLEDO

After a long wait, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has approved the latest version of the industry-generated drain-cover standard.

Compliance with the previous version of ANSI/APSP/ICC-16 was specified in the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. To update the code referenced in the federal law, CPSC must approve it. While the latest version of APSP-16 published in 2017, CPSC just took a vote earlier this summer.

Among the biggest changes, manufacturers must provide more thorough labeling and information on drain covers, sumps and frames. For instance, producers must indicate the manufacturing date of the unit, its service life in years and permissible flow ratings with different sump configurations. They must provide stickers and documentation for contractors to transfer that information.

When CPSC approved the standard, it also set a deadline for manufacturer compliance. Anything produced after Nov. 24, 2020 must comply with the new version of the standard. Products made before that date are not beholden to the change and can remain on the market after the deadline.

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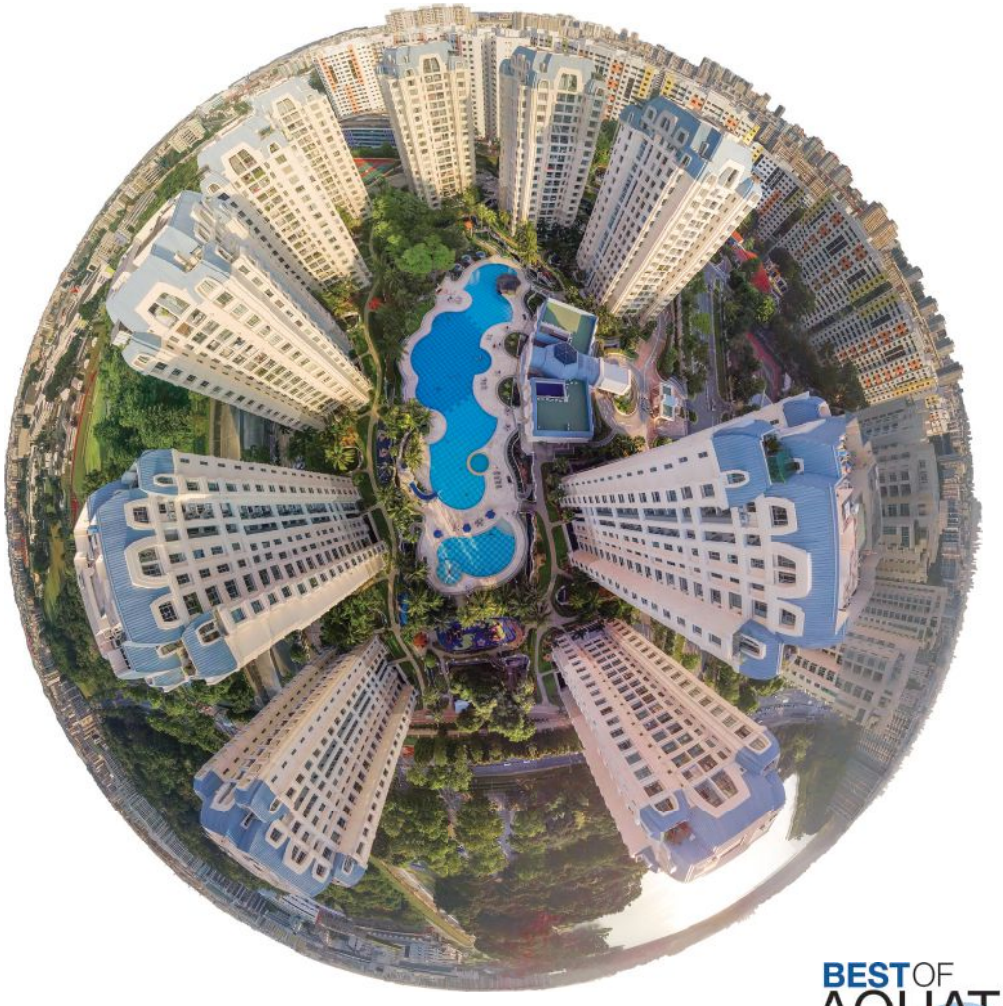
Applicants will be judged on a number of criteria in order to identify all-around excellence. This includes customer reviews, annual revenue, industry participation, education and certifications.

Winning service firms can leverage their Top 50 Service bona fides to signify that they are among the industry's best-of-the-best.

Ultimately, we're looking to honor companies who are engaged in the industry — and most importantly — excellent at what they do. If that's you, we encourage you to apply! The deadline is 11:59 p.m. ET Aug. 25. Go to *poolspanews.com* for details and to enter.



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Pool Electrocution Fatality Reported in California

A 9-year-old girl was the victim of a pool electrocution and drowning in July.

The incident took place in Citrus Heights, Calif., a suburb of Sacramento.

According to local NBC affiliate KCRA 3, the parents said an underwater light fixture was under repair in her father's pool. The girl and a few other children were playing, racing back and forth, when she grabbed a cord that was attached to the light fixture.

In response to their tragic loss, the parents took to local media to warn families about electrical safety.

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Waterpark Blamed for Another Amoeba Death

Another man has died after allegedly contracting the brain-eating amoeba at a waterpark.

Eddie Gray, 59, was on a trip with his church at Fantasy Lake Water Park in Hope Mills, N.C. when he contracted *Naegleria fowleri,* known as the brain-eating amoeba. He died 10 days later.

A manmade lake serves as the anchor for the facility, with water slides built on it and activities taking place in it.

This is at least the second incident in a year. The issue gained national attention in 2018, when a 29-year-old man died from the amoeba after visiting a Texas surf park.

Government officials have turned their attention to the issue of water quality in larger bodies of water such as manmade lakes and surf parks. Florida and Texas are both considering codes to regulate these installations.

PSP Expo Registration Open

The country's largest pool, spa and backyard products event is open for registration.

The International Pool | Spa | Patio Expo is set to offer more than 40 seminars, along with special education and certification programs from organizations that include the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance, Genesis, the American Shotcrete Association and the National Plasterers Council. More than 500 exhibitors are expected, as are more than 8,000 attendees.

The event takes place Nov. 5-7 in New Orleans, with the conference program beginning Nov. 2.

To register for the event, as well as hotel accommodations, go to *poolspapatio.com.*



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Consumers Likely to Rely on Professionals for Outdoor Kitchens, Survey Indicates

BY VINCENT SALANDRO

As outdoor living spaces continue to evolve, homeowners are increasingly likely to seek help from design and installation professionals.

Nearly two-thirds of homeowners consulted design professionals on outdoor kitchen projects and more than eight in 10 homeowners used professional installers, according to the 2019 Outdoor Kitchen Consumer Profile released by the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA).

Outdoor living space no longer just means a grill on a patio and a picnic table. Outdoor kitchen spaces typically include hardscaping to define areas for dining, cooking, and relaxing, built-in refrigerators, grills, sinks, cabinetry, plumbing, bar areas, shelter and overhead structures, and lighting.

As outdoor living spaces continue to include more elements, the budgets for such projects continue to expand. The NKBA report found the average spend among surveyed homeowners on outdoor kitchens is $13,000, with nearly one quarter of respondents building high-end outdoor kitchens — projects costing more than $30,000.

An additional 14% of respondents spend between $20,000 and $30,000 on outdoor kitchen projects.

"Homeowners increasingly regard their outdoor spaces as extensions of their homes, and therefore are building them more elaborately, taking design elements and creature comforts into greater consideration," said Bill Darcy, CEO of NKBA. "Although more than one-third of outdoor kitchens are in warm-weather states like Florida, Texas and California, homeowners in states like New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts are also making more use of their outdoor spaces for two or even three seasons, with amenities like fireplaces, fire pits, and patio heaters where needed."

The most common regret for homeowners is wishing they built better structures for shade and protection from inclement weather, according to the NKBA. Other common regrets include not designing a bigger space, not allocating more counter space, not installing atmosphere, lighting, or temperature control, and not including cabinets for storage.

The Outdoor Kitchen Consumer Profile report polled 303 homeowners who either completed an outdoor kitchen project in the past three years or were planning to complete one in the year ahead.

This article originally appeared in sister publication Remodeling.



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The Dealers Have Spoken

Part 2 of our survey coverage shows which inground and aboveground-pool brands get the most use.

BY REBECCA ROBLEDO



Do you know which brands your peers across the country use the most?

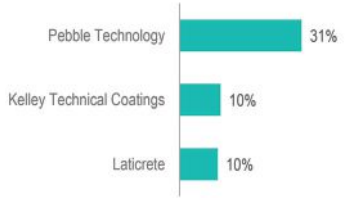
That's what *PSN* wanted to find out when we surveyed 887 pool/spa builders, retailers and service professionals. The study, conducted by Farnsworth, covered 20 product categories, with respondents indicating which brands they are familiar with, which they've used in the past two years, which one they use the most and which one they believe offers the highest quality.

In this installment, we cover the inground and aboveground pool-related brands used most and perceived as having the highest quality. For more results in these categories, see our online coverage.

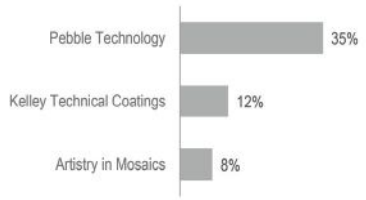
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Kelley Technical ranked as Brand Most Used in the Midwest, at 25%. In the rest of the country, Pebble Technology clearly dominated.

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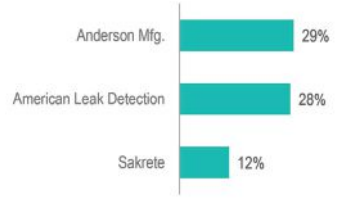
HIGHEST OVERALL QUALITY



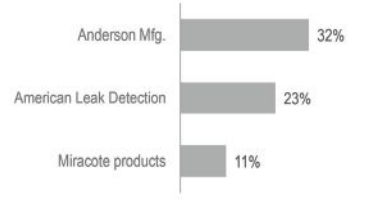
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In the West, American Leak Detection was considered the highest quality, at 34%. In other regions, Anderson scored highest.

BRANDS USED MOST



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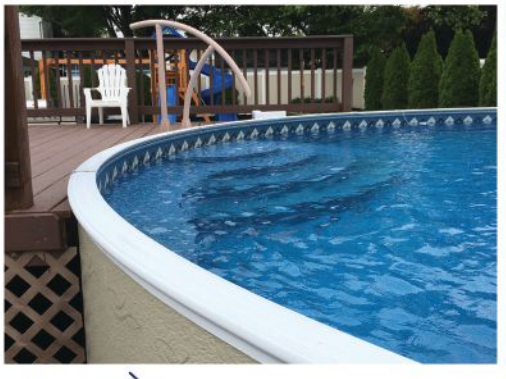
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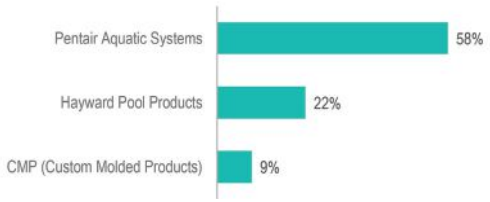


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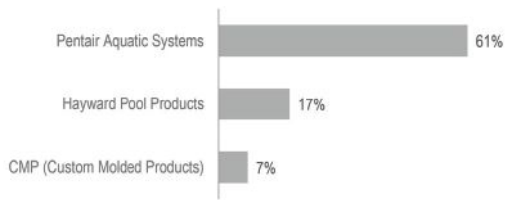
LIGHTING, WATERFEATURES, FOUNTAINS & PONDS

Pentair, Hayward and CMP maintained the same ranking among regions and industry sectors in both quality and highest use.

BRANDS USED MOST



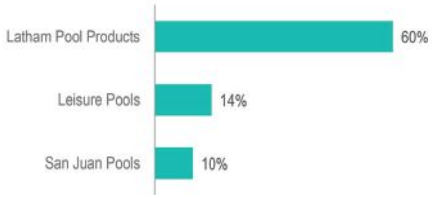
HIGHEST OVERALL QUALITY



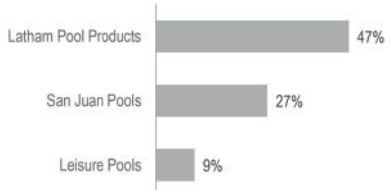
FIBERGLASS POOLS

Under Brand Most Used and Highest Overall Quality, Barrier Reef ranked fourth nationwide, at 7% and 5%, respectively.

BRANDS USED MOST



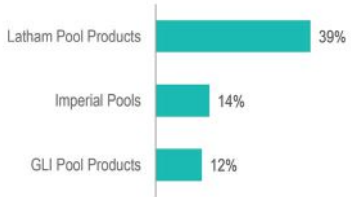
HIGHEST OVERALL QUALITY



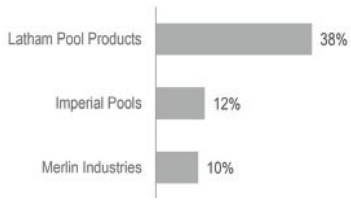
PACKAGE POOLS & VINYL LINERS

Latham carried a great majority in the South, Midwest and West, but scores were tighter in the Northeast, where Imperial Pools led at 23%.

BRANDS USED MOST



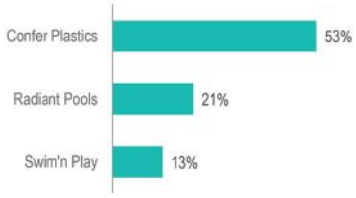
HIGHEST OVERALL QUALITY



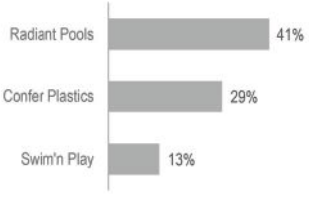
ABOVEGROUND POOLS & RELATED PRODUCTS

In this category, the West was clearly a different beast. There, Radiant scored 50% under Brand Most Used, as did Splash-A-Round Pools.

BRANDS USED MOST



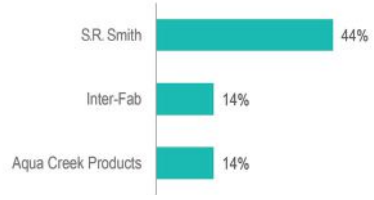
HIGHEST OVERALL QUALITY



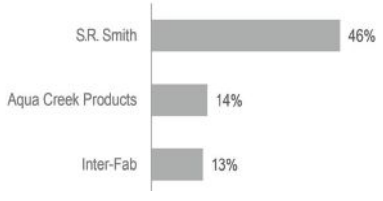
SAFETY & DISABILITY ACCESS EQUIPMENT

In this category, S.R. Smith maintained its dominance among regions, industry sectors and between residential and commercial specialists.

BRANDS USED MOST



HIGHEST OVERALL QUALITY



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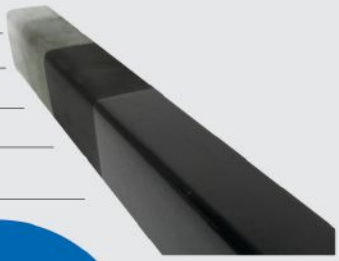
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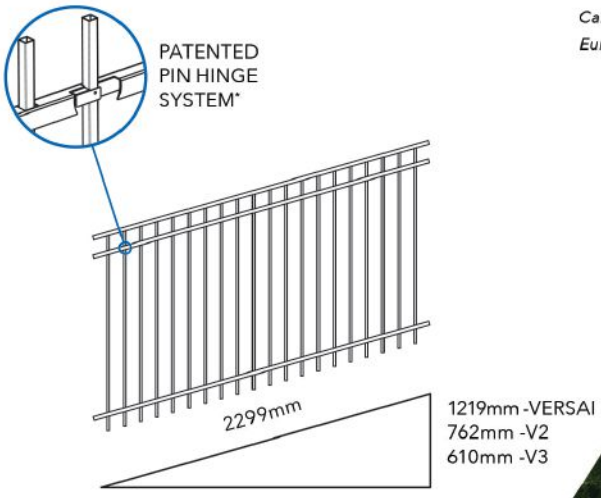
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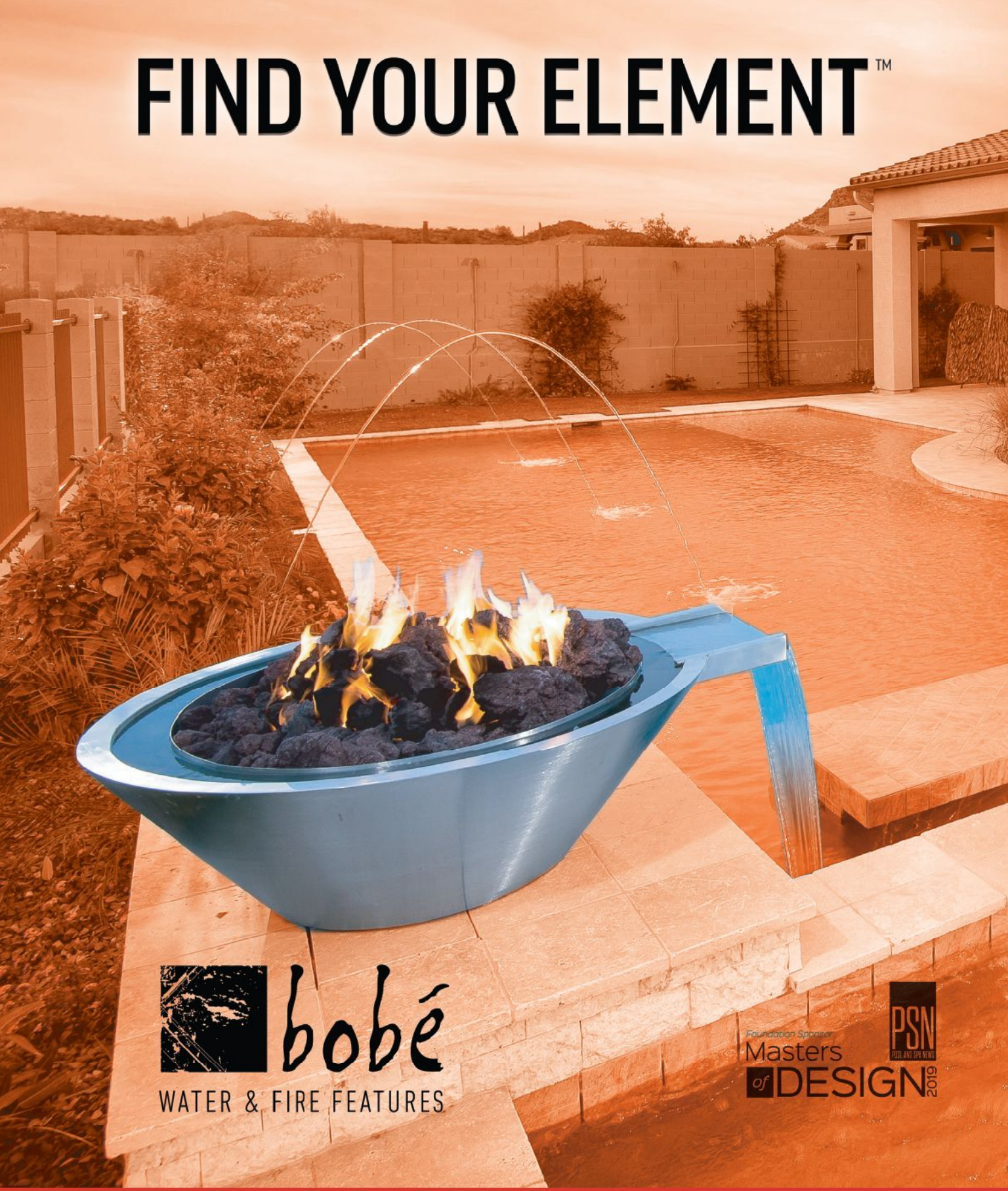
PHOTO: JIMI SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

BY REBECCA ROBLEDO

At this time of year, the industry is busy designing and building its masterpieces, while we at *Pool and Spa News* are honoring them. We introduce our 18th annual Masters of Design gallery, a tour showing some of the best work the industry has to offer in pools and spas of all formats.

For extended coverage and slideshows, visit *poolspanews.com*.

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PLAYGROUND FOR THE SENSES

Architectural elements combine to make the most of a problematic lot, while fun features appeal to all ages.

JUSTIN FOX, Principal Designer/Owner, California Landscape Studios, Irvine, Calif.

OPTICAL ILLUSIONS

While some may believe that the most creative output is achieved when no constraints are placed on a designer, others say restrictions actually inspire creativity.

That seems to hold true on this master creation, a modern playground that offers plenty of eye candy expertly laid out to distract the eye from shortcomings in the lot.

Designer Justin Fox met with a client who wanted an unabashedly modern design. "Their interior had already been done, and it felt like a New York hotel lobby," he says. "It was extremely clean, had precise edges and plenty of polished tile type materials."

They also requested multiple destination spots for seating and entertaining. Everything had to fit in a decidedly pie-shaped lot.

Fox used straight lines almost exclusively, with the only organic shape appearing on the statement wall and fire feature behind the spa. To manage the pie-shaped lot, he included several visual landing points, all laid out so the eye would veer from one to the other and sidestep the harsh narrowing of the yard.

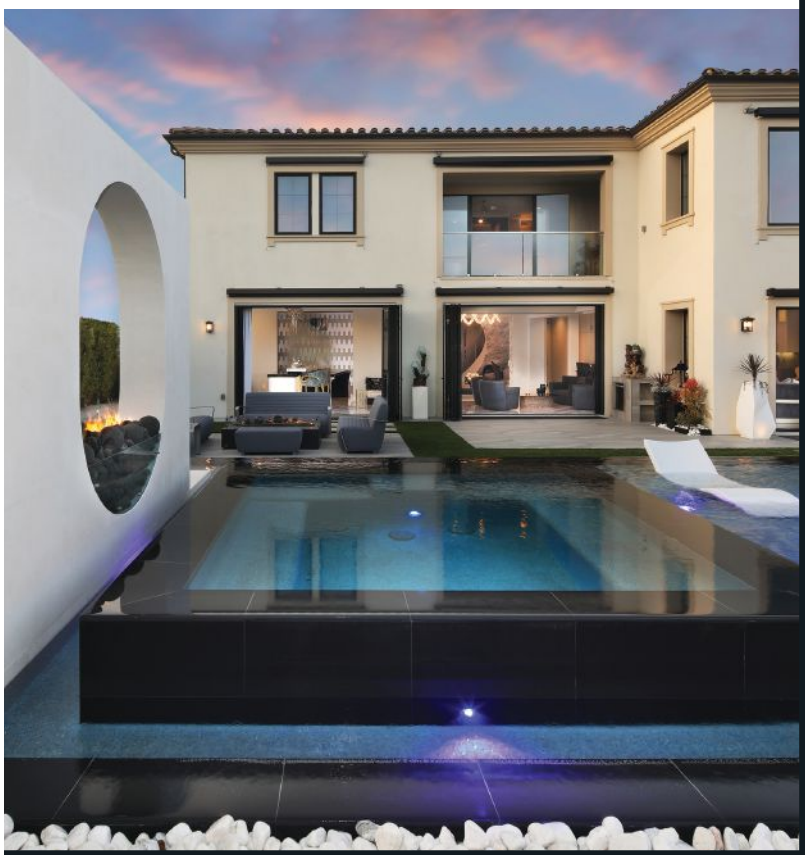
The poolscape starts wide with a step-up sunshelf grabbing the viewer's attention at the widest point of the yard. Polished-granite steps span the width of the pool and lead up to the shelf, which is finished with a lighter blue pebble material to enhance its shallowness. LED lighting highlights the steps and vertical bubblers.

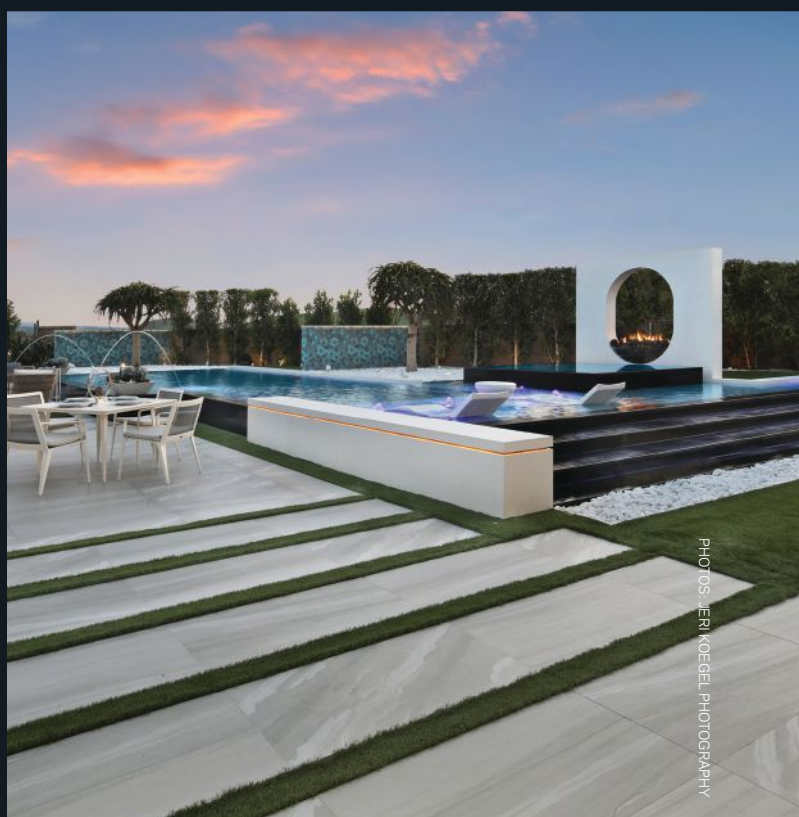
Next comes the bold perimeter-overflow spa with architectural fire wall. The white limestone of the wall contrasts with the blue pebble in the spa. The oval cutout contains ceramic fire balls on the bottom, sandwiched between clear glass panels.

Moving farther back, two screening walls are strategically placed to shield the view of the lot narrowing. Fox covered them in an Italian fiberglass wallpaper featuring a custom-made pattern. The design looks different depending on your distance from it: From far away, it looks like a floral pattern, but it actually depicts hexagon clusters, colored to match the light and dark blues in the pool.

Dragon's Blood trees cut very singular, architectural forms. With no plantings underneath, their dramatic silhouettes are reflected in the water uninterrupted.

On the house side, a lounging area is centered on the perimeter-overflow wall, framed by laminar jets and plant pots that appear to float on the raised negative edge wall. Cutouts in the floor reveal water in the buried perimeter-overflow surge tank.





PHOTOS: JERI KOEGEL PHOTOGRAPHY

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CONGRATULATIONS

to the 2019 Masters of Design **Winners.**

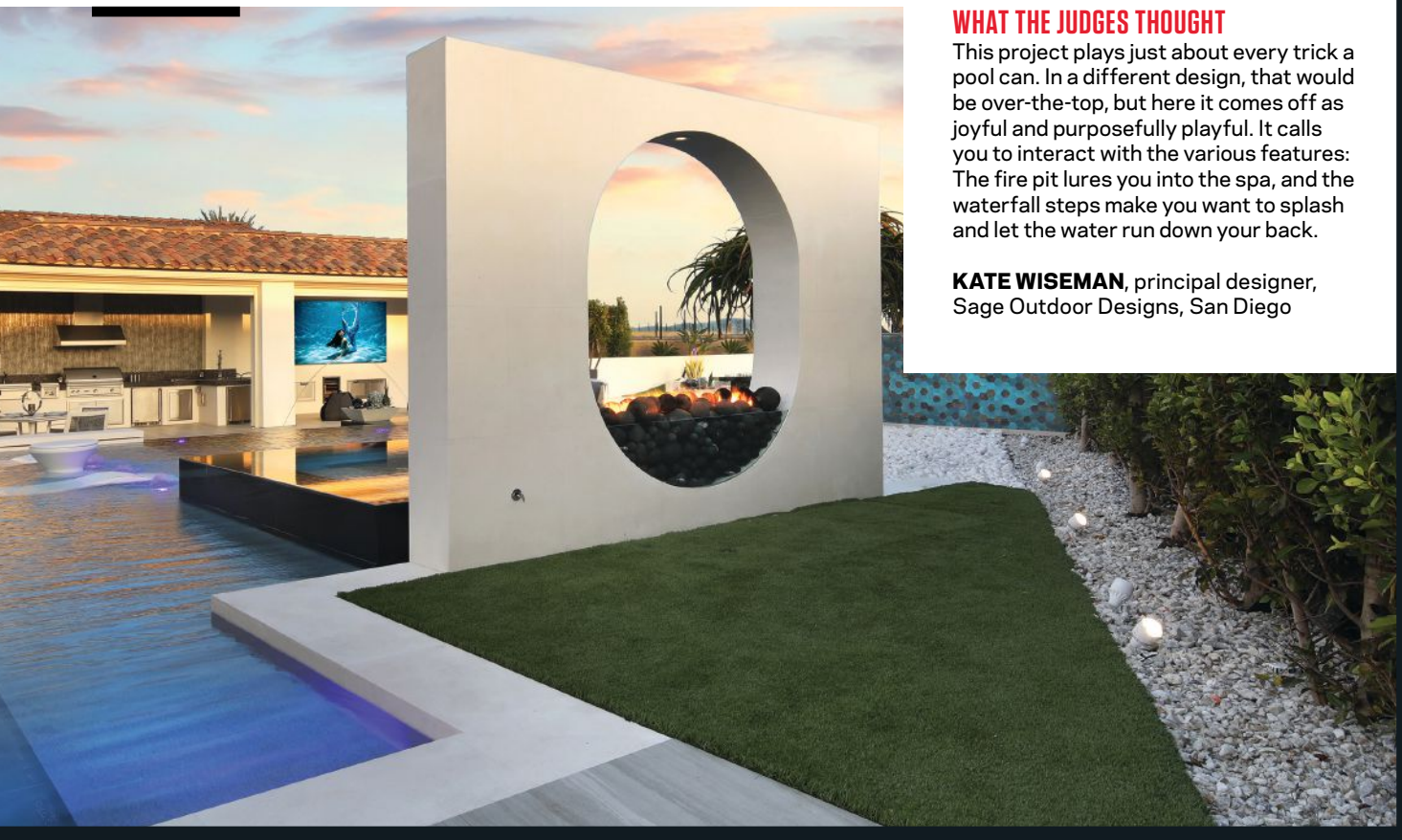
Pentair applauds the exceptional creativity and excellence that defines this year's entrants and winners. **Thank you on behalf of our industry and aspiring pool owners everywhere!**



Photo by Fluid Dynamics Pool & Spa Inc.

PENTAIR

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WHAT THE JUDGES THOUGHT

This project plays just about every trick a pool can. In a different design, that would be over-the-top, but here it comes off as joyful and purposefully playful. It calls you to interact with the various features: The fire pit lures you into the spa, and the waterfall steps make you want to splash and let the water run down your back.

KATE WISEMAN, principal designer, Sage Outdoor Designs, San Diego



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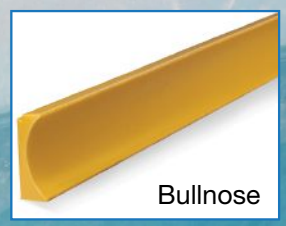
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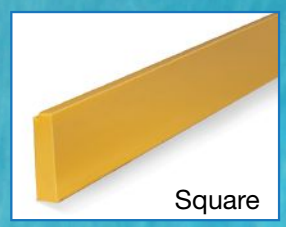

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STUDY IN PRECISION

Despite its myriad intricate features, this hillside installation comes together in a sleek finished product.

CHRISTINE LONDON, LTD, owner/landscape architect, Christine London, Ltd., Beverly Hills, Calif.
COREY RUPPERT, owner, Salt Mine, Topanga, Calif.
DAVID PENTON, CEO, Fluid Dynamics Pool and Spa, Fullerton, Calif.
MARK HOLDEN, Principal, HoldenWater, Fullerton, Calif.



KEEN EYE

This impressive waterscape covers 3,000 square feet, nearly every inch of which required the utmost in precision.

First, it includes more than 240 linear feet of perimeter overflow edge. Not only did this necessitate a 1/16-inch tolerance, but much of the perimeter had to line up precisely with the deck. The concrete pavers cut with an detailed radial pattern and designed by Lara Fishman, principle of Los Angeles-based Storm Interiors, required an exacting hand. Under normal circumstances, it would be enough that the pavers bore the pattern. This alone required that each piece be numbered and set according to a template to ensure that every component sat in its place and the lines connected perfectly from paver to paver.

In this case, however, the submerged perimeter-overflow coping also contained the pattern, so it also had to meet up perfectly with the deck — despite the fact that a different company fabricated each material. To make this possible, the pattern was rendered in Auto CAD, and the fabricators kept exactly to the drawings.

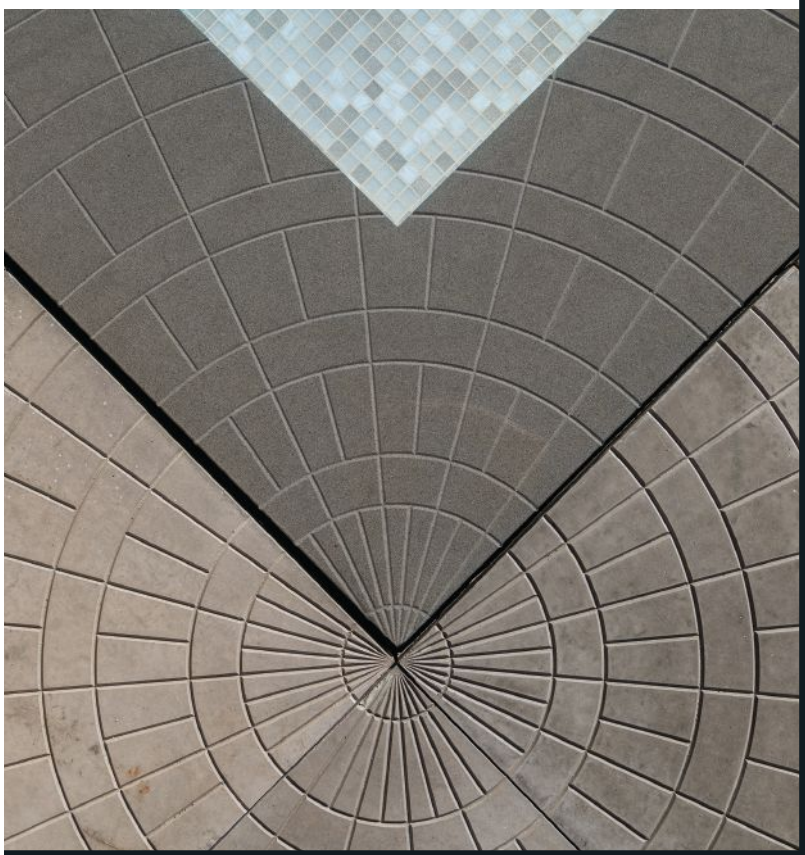
The pavers and coping were installed by a local team of contractors renowned for their work on museums such as the Getty. Shaw & Sons of Costa Mesa, Calif., installed the pavers, while Carnevale and Lohr of Bell Gardens, Calif., placed the coping stone.

The client also requested a starry night floor. More than 1,000 points of fiberoptic light were included in this loose interpretation of the Milky Way.

The perimeter-overflow spa is maintained year-round at 104 degrees Fahrenheit and sits right next to a cold plunge, which remains at 43 degrees. The dark brown glass mosaic, installed by Rock Solid Tile of Calabasas, Calif., contrasts with the lighter tones on the deck. Twenty-four-karat white-gold tiles provide accents. The spa also includes a custom toe-kick that conceals the suction ports, along with fittings color-matched to the glass tile.

For a touch of whimsy, the homeowner designed a glass mosaic tile mural with colorful zig-zag patterns, which was installed at the pool's deep end.

To make sure the whole thing stays put on the precarious hillside property, it is secured with 5-foot-diameter caissons delving approximately 65 feet into the ground.





PHOTOS: CHRISTIAN FERRY

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WHAT THE JUDGES THOUGHT

I like the smooth, clean, crisp lines and organic shape of the vanishing-edge pool and deck-level perimeter overflow. The Ipe decking softens the look of the adjoining concrete. The intricate patterns cut into the wood, concrete and coping stones show exemplary attention to detail.

PAOLO BENEDETTI, principal and designer, Aquatic Technology Pool & Spa, Morgan Hill, Calif.

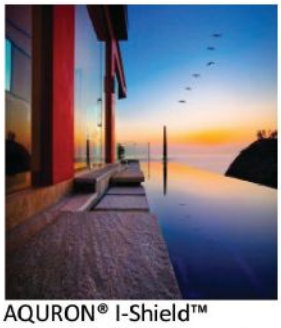
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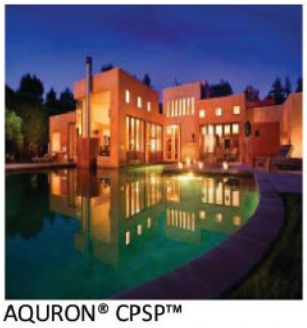
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COURTYARD REFLECTIONS

A simple design with sleek edges and a clear focal point makes comfortable use of a fairly tight space.

DANNY WANG, Principal Designer, Danny Wang Design, Newport Beach, Calif.

BEACHY CONCEPT

In many situations, placing a pool in this limited of a space can prove quite the gamble.

But designer/builder Danny Wang didn't have much choice. The unusually laid-out home has two courtyards, so Wang decided to tuck the pool in one of them, with an outdoor kitchen off to the side, so it seems an integral part of the home layout.

Then he relied on his tendency toward modern, minimalistic design. His strategy paid off: The clean lines and simple, bold forms create a sense of openness, allowing the pool to occupy most of the courtyard without overwhelming it.

The designer and his client had originally considered using a metal sculpture to accent the rectangular, rim-flow pool. But the homeowner lived in a beach community. To bring a bit of the ocean to her backyard, Wang created this water wall with a modern representation of a wave.

The glass mosaic figure is set against a field of beige tiles that were chosen not only for their contrast against the darker mosaic, but also for their texture, which creates a gentle turbulence as water slides down the surface and to the spa. The larger format minimizes grout joints.

"I didn't want that to steal attention from the detail on the mosaic wave," Wang says.

Palm trees bookend the wall to help scale it and create a transition between it and the considerable mass of the home structure. "Since we put a taller palm tree, it kind of puts everything more into proportion," he says.

A considerable Baja shelf with approximately 9-inch water depth sits opposite the spa.

Black porcelain tiles cap the submerged pool coping and the raised spa wall. Wang chose this for its contrast against the lighter, natural limestone deck. He used the porcelain product rather than a natural stone such as granite for its durability in the chemically treated water.

A black pebble finish is used on the pool.

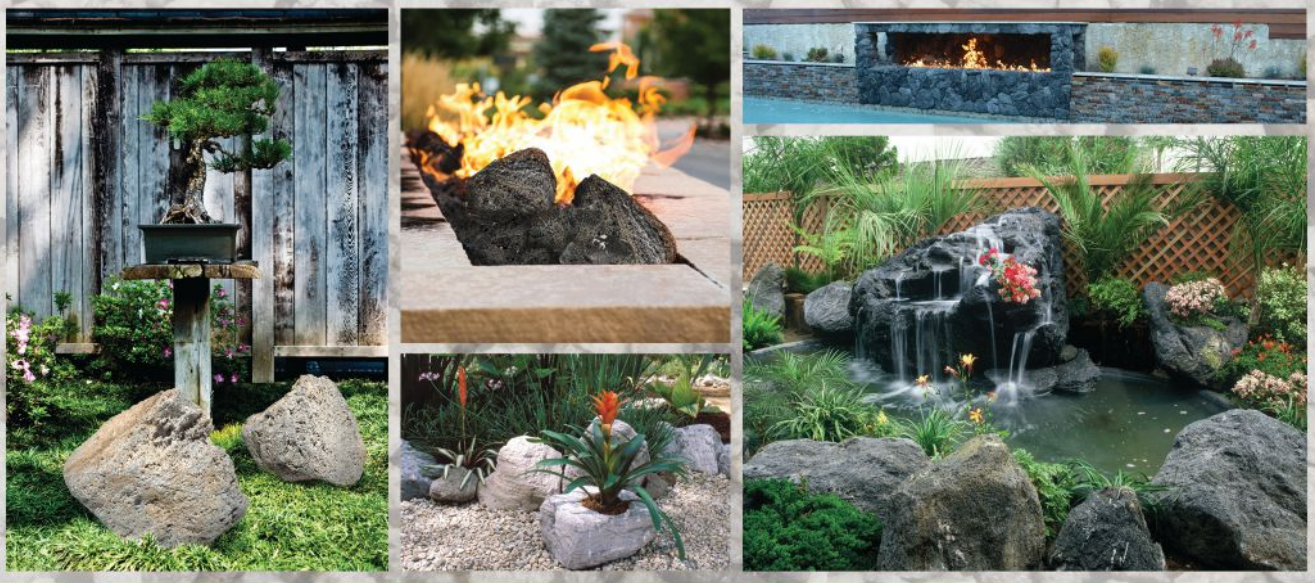
A natural limestone chosen for its similarity to the house veneer is used throughout the covered outdoor kitchen.





PHOTOS: JIM SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

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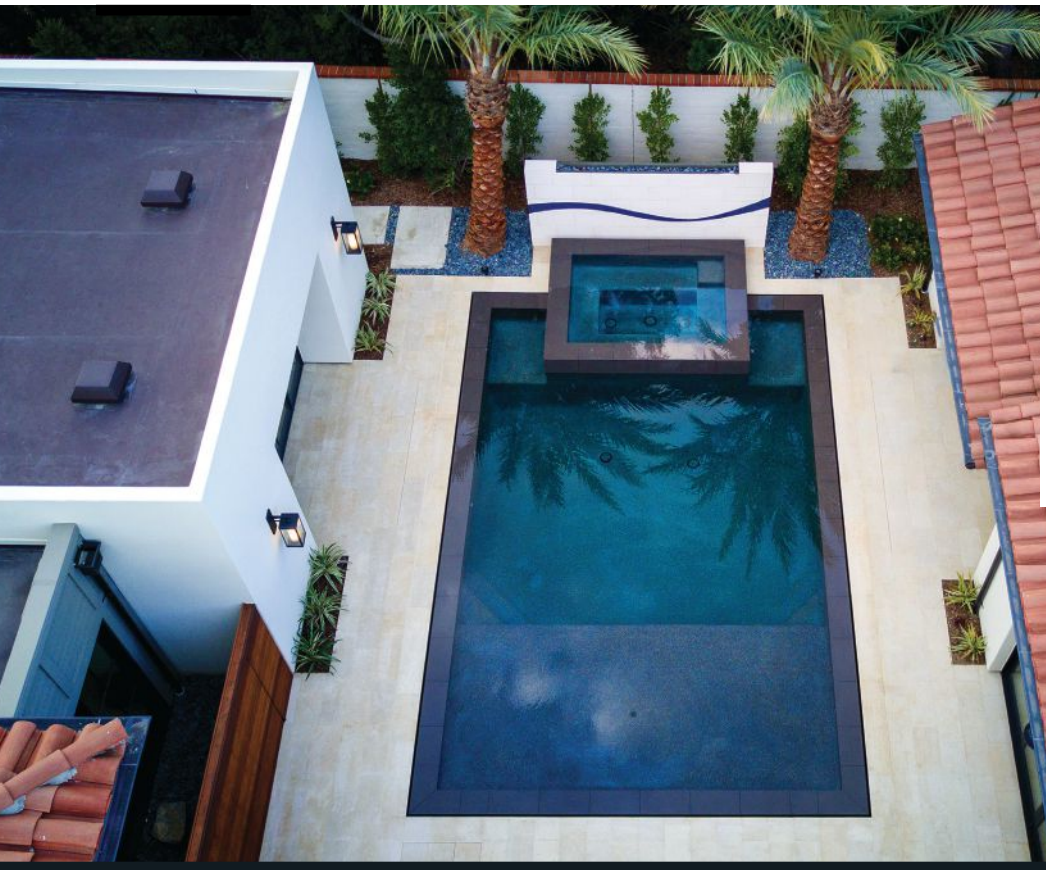
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WHAT THE JUDGES THOUGHT

I call this type of design shoe-horning, because the designer needs to fit a large thing into a small space — and make it look like it fits flawlessly. This pool does it so well. Since the space is small, it keeps things simple and doesn't add clutter. It does provide a focal point to make sure that it catches your eye from inside the house, and uses the contrast of a single curving line to make sure it stands out in an otherwise linear design.

KATE WISEMAN



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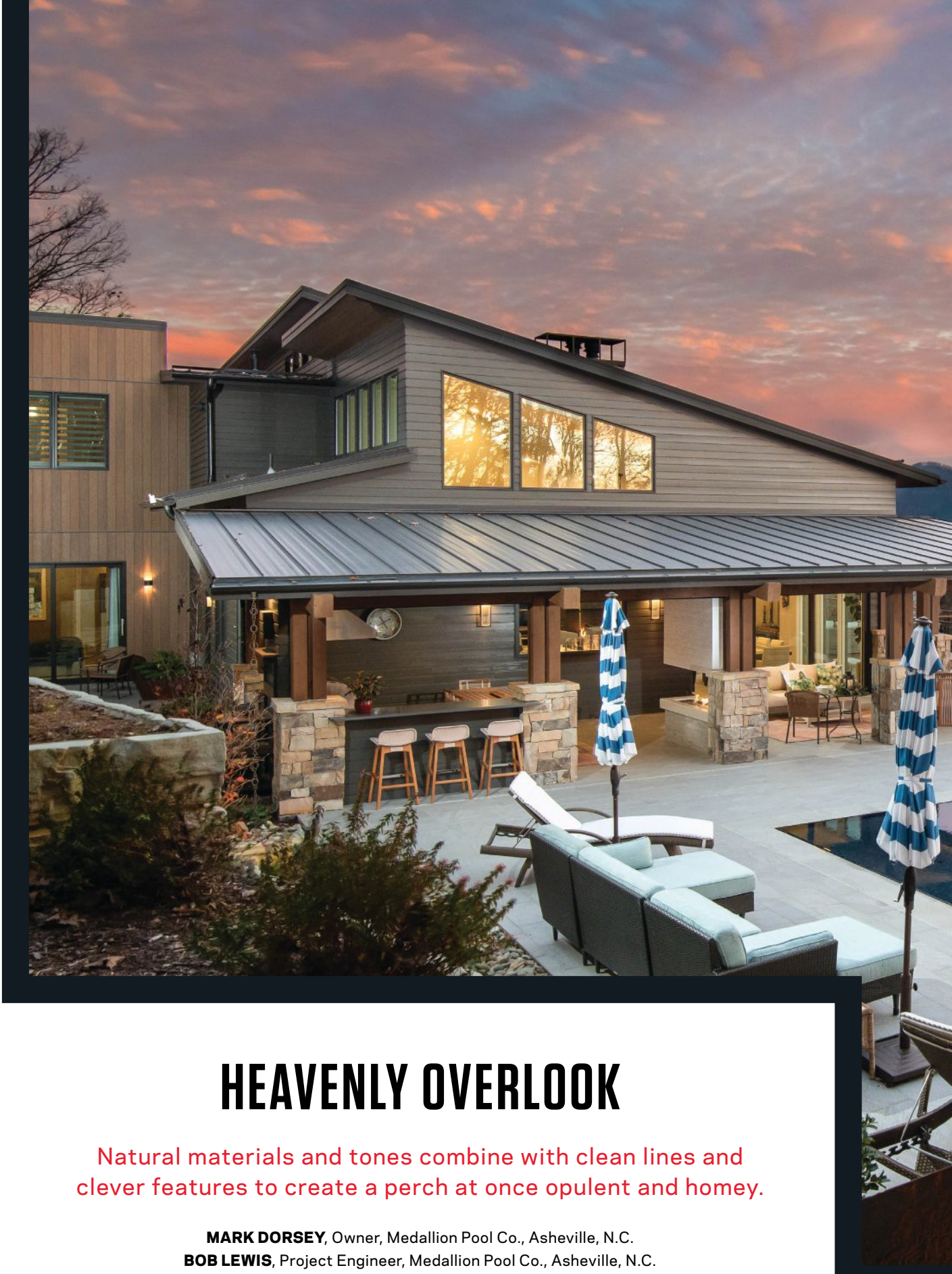


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HEAVENLY OVERLOOK

Natural materials and tones combine with clean lines and clever features to create a perch at once opulent and homey.

MARK DORSEY, Owner, Medallion Pool Co., Asheville, N.C.
BOB LEWIS, Project Engineer, Medallion Pool Co., Asheville, N.C.



ROOM WITH A VIEW

Some properties just have too much going for them. In creating this pool/spa combination, the designers had two beautiful views to work with — one of the warm modern home, the other of Asheville, N.C. and the nearby French Broad Valley.

In response, they developed this sleek pool with knife-edge detail on three sides and vanishing edge on the fourth.

The raised four-sided overflow spa with fire pit provides the centerpiece. And it sports a clever feature: The transparent swim-up bar hanging over the vanishing edge. In-spa stools sidle up to the bar so viewers can look directly from the overhanging spa edge to the long vista. The bar achieves two seemingly contradictory goals — making functional use of the best seat in the house while preventing the bar from interrupting the view over the vanishing edge.

To create the bar, the Medallion team cut and polished a sheet of 1-inch-thick plexiglass. It's set 1 inch above the vanishing-edge weir so water can run underneath it with the smallest profile possible. It is secured with stainless steel connectors normally used for glass railings.

The fire pit not only frames the vista, but represents a visual bridge between the deck and pool, using the same porcelain tile found on the deck, which is meant to replicate granite, and an accent strip of the mosaic used on the pool and spa. It works with the transparent bar to help protect users at the edge.

Designers Mark Dorsey and Bob Lewis largely followed through on the home's symmetry, pairing the spa with a sunshelf of the same footprint so they each take up half the pool's width. In addition, an outdoor kitchen and outdoor living room each share about half the covered patio space.

The team contoured the spa seating to resemble that found in manufactured acrylic spas. Recessed jets reduce the profile while increasing comfort.

An inset of wooden deck placed on the side opposite the home hearkens back to a similar material used in the architecture.

The finished product reflects the precision and sensibility of professionals with Dorsey's and Lewis' engineering background. In fact, even providing work site access required preliminary engineering, with forms and a walking platform calculated so crews could safely hang the 17 and 18 feet off the ground while working around the vanishing edges.





PHOTOS: RYAN HEED/MEDALLION POOL CO.



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WHAT THE JUDGES THOUGHT

The architecture of the pool is harmonious with the nearby structures. The inset of exotic Ipe in the deck softens the expanse of tile. The glass bar in the spa not only provides a functional place to rest drinks, but it also prevents bathers from sitting on the ledge.

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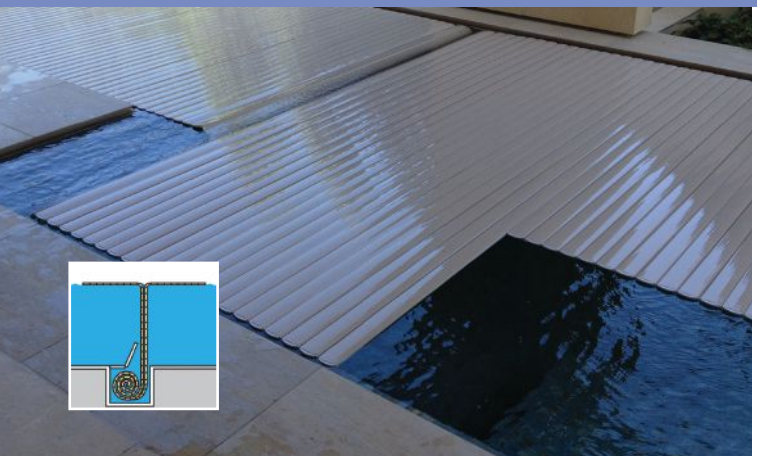
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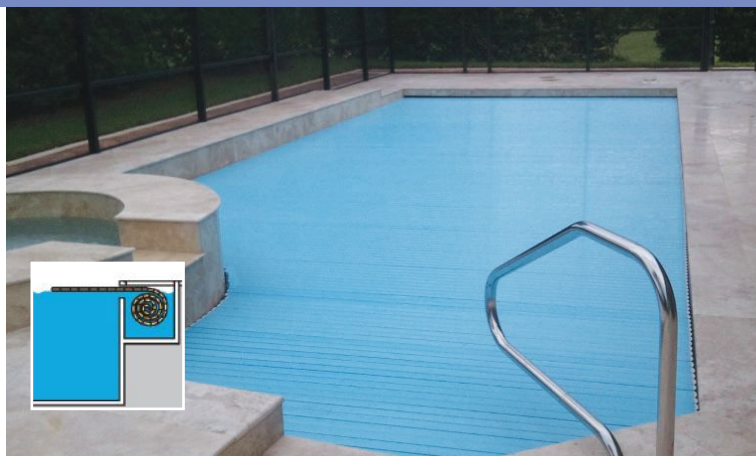


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PERFECT MOMENTS

A team transforms setback restraints into an opportunity to create a unique set of viewpoints and experiences.

CHRISTOPHER LAGUARDIA, Principal, LaGuardia Design Landscape Architecture, Water Mill, N.Y.
IAN HANBACH, Partner, LaGuardia Design Landscape Architecture, Water Mill, N.Y.
JUSTICE PHILLIPS, Partner, Pelican Pools, Southampton, N.Y.
JIM O'BRIEN, President, Pelican Pools, Southampton, N.Y.

ENTRY STATEMENT

In his design, landscape architect Ian Hanbach thinks in terms of creating memorable moments. That didn't stop when strict setbacks and a unique plot orientation ruled out the possibility of a backyard pool.

This property faced a different body of water on either side —the Atlantic Ocean in the backyard, and the freshwater Fairfield Pond in the front. While this creates an idyllic situation for the homeowner, it meant the design team had a very small footprint, given the strict wetland setbacks imposed by each of the natural water bodies.

The design team wanted to let the ocean view speak for itself in the backyard, so they decided to place the pool and spa in the front. Even so, they had another restriction to maneuver: FIMA rules stated that the home must be elevated 18 inches off the ground to help protect the abode from storms. This applied to the pool area as well, since it contained electrical components.

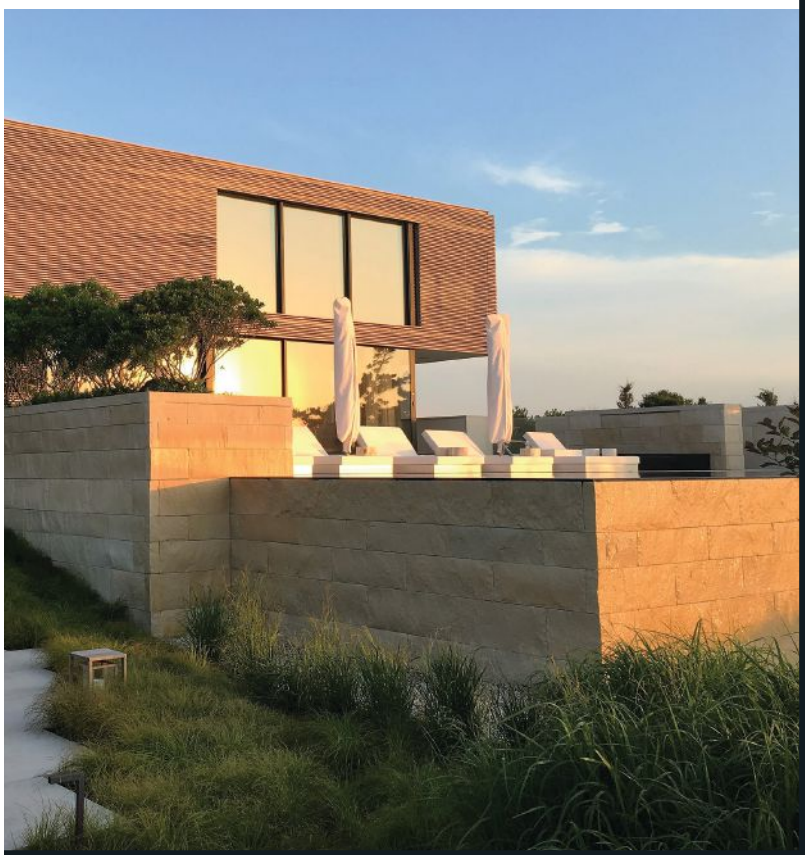
"The big struggle is how do you connect this elevated structure down to the ground?" Hanbach says. "You have to make your way up 15 feet to get to the front door. You want to do that in a way that's really elegant and thoughtful."

Additionally, the property would have no lawn. "The entire landscape outside the footprint of the house, terrace and pool was given back to native revegetation," Hanbach says. The clients love to entertain, so the hardscape would have to provide that capacity.

This elevated front yard poolscape made the statement the designers wanted. The higher elevation of the perimeter-overflow pool not only met FIMA codes, but also provided the opportunity to provide falling water at the entryway.

"We were able to get juxtaposition of those really crisp edges against really soft native landscape," Hanbach says. "So you get that moment where you walk up, see that lush greenery … and you get that water coming over the top of the infinity edge, and it feels like it's just disappearing right into those grasses."

The beige Valders limestone deck reflects the tones of the quartz-based sand found on the beach, and it stays cooler during sun exposure, making it more comfortable to walk on barefoot. For contrast, the designers used Zimbabwe black granite on the raised spa coping and on the pool's submerged perimeter.





PHOTOS: PELICAN POOLS

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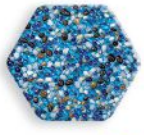
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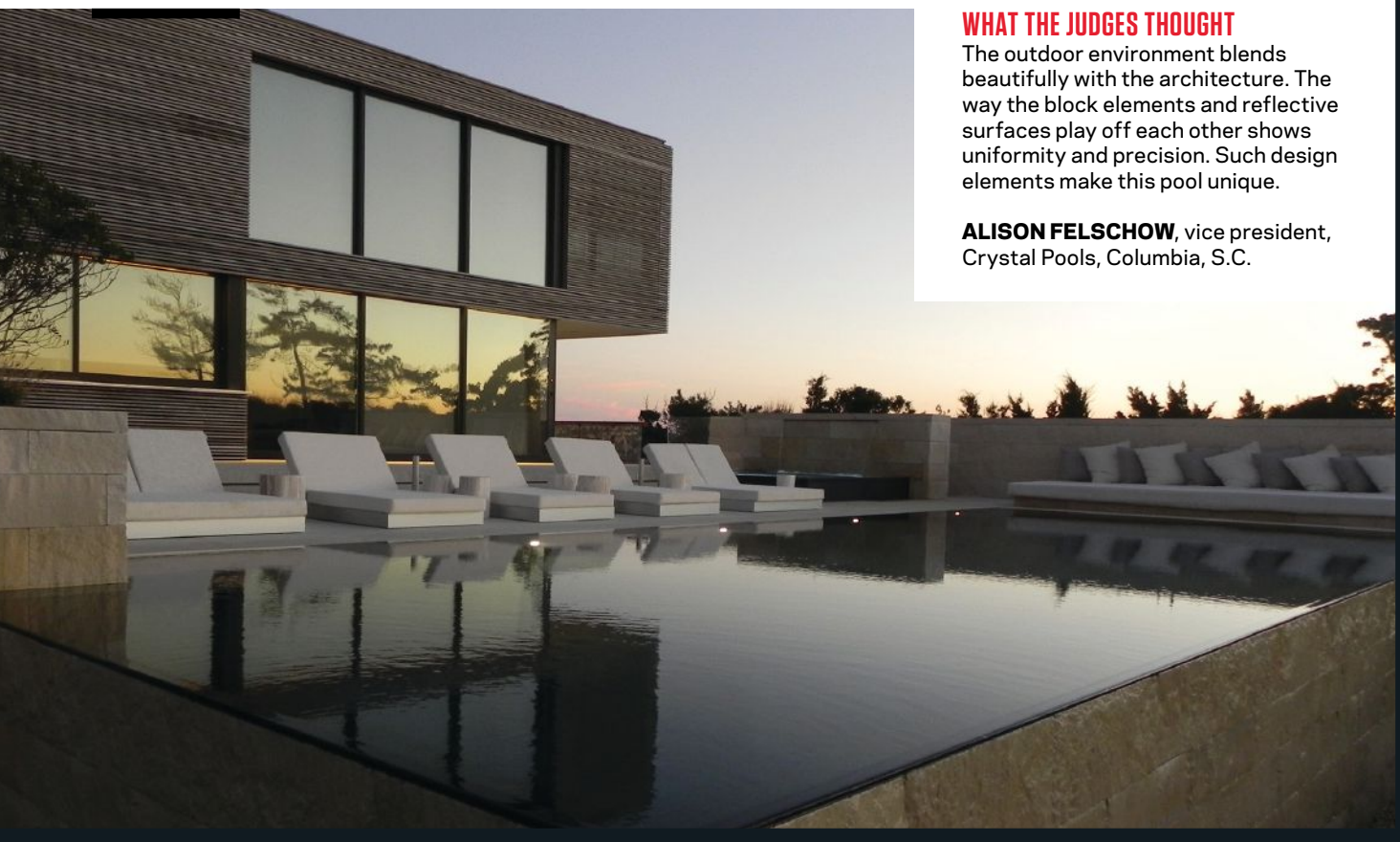


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WHAT THE JUDGES THOUGHT

The outdoor environment blends beautifully with the architecture. The way the block elements and reflective surfaces play off each other shows uniformity and precision. Such design elements make this pool unique.

ALISON FELSCHOW, vice president, Crystal Pools, Columbia, S.C.



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SHIMMERING CENTERPIECE

A perimeter-overflow spa and fire feature transform a courtyard into a cozy outdoor room.

JOSEPH A. VASSALLO, Vice President, Paragon Pools, Las Vegas
JOSEPH M. VASSALLO, Founder/President, Paragon Pools, Las Vegas

BACKYARD GEM

In creating this waterscape, the father/son team and namesakes were confronted with a unique dilemma: Whereas most courtyards are centered on the house or yard, this one was set off to the side, so the designers couldn't rely on the normal symmetry to make the visual connection between spaces and vessels.

"The challenge was what could we do to liven up the courtyard, use it aesthetically as well as functionally and, at the same time, tie the larger space in the backyard together so it all flowed and worked together," said Joseph M. Vassallo.

One decision seemed a shoe-in — placing the spa in the courtyard to anchor the outdoor room. Like the pool, the spa takes a rectangular form in answer to the modern home. A natural quartzite fire feature intersects the hot-water vessel. By placing it so close, the Vassallos saved space and provided a platform for glass and plates. The designers set it slightly higher than the spa edge so water wouldn't migrate onto it.

But they needed a way to connect the spa with the pool — both visually for cohesion and physically so they could share a circulation system. The Vassallos accomplished this with a light hand, drawing whisper-thin 6-inch runnels to join the vessels without detracting from their sense of separateness.

"We brought glass tile in through the whole area, so as that water is moving and the light hits it, it's shimmering and glistening as well," says Joseph A. Vassallo. The tile also saved the local plastering subcontractor from having to work a trowel in such a tight space.

Light pavers helped brighten the courtyard, while a white plaster had the same effect on the spa interior.



WHAT THE JUDGES THOUGHT

With responsive placement and shared materials, this luminous spa seamlessly bridges the pool with the courtyard while simultaneously maintaining its own distinct identity.



PHOTOS BY MARY VAIL

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One person who has closely followed the equipment pad revolution over a 30-year career in the pool supply and maintenance business is John Mericle, general manager of 1 Stop Pool & Spa Store, a leading pool supplies retailer serving the north Dallas, Texas market. Mericle says most pool service companies avoid pad construction. "They've got to make a trip out, take all the equipment off, then another trip back to form the pad and put the steel in, and probably another trip to pour it. Then you have to come back after the concrete is set and re-plug it all," he explains. Lots of trips means lots of time and money.

IMPROVED WORKFLOW

Another long-time pool and spa industry veteran who has closely followed the shift from field-built pads is Kevin Wilkinson. Wilkinson is a brand manager at DiversiTech, North America's largest equipment pad manufacturer. "There's a far simpler and easier solution now available that saves substantial time, trouble, and expense," he says. "Pool builders make money building pools, not pouring pads."

The alternative is prefabricated equipment pads. It's easy to see why. Prefab pads not only eliminate backbreaking form set-up and pour, but also deliver benefits traditional concrete can't match. For example, DiversiTech manufactures more than 8 types of prefab products with CladLite and BlackPad being two of the more innovative. The BlackPad is also drillable, compliant to ICC Standard Swimming Pool Code Section 305.2 and Section 405 Equipment Foundations and Enclosures.

For builders, the switch to prefab equipment pads also helps with:

- **Profitability.** A pool builder can save up to 5 hours on every pool project, time and labor expense that can be applied to the next project. Next-generation equipment pads are available for a fraction of the expense of traditional site-built methods.
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GEOMETRIC INSPIRATION

The client's watch inspired this placement of circles, arcs and line.

DANNY WANG, Principal Designer, Danny Wang Design, Newport Beach, Calif.

WATCHMAKER'S EYE

When Danny Wang first met about this property, he couldn't keep his eyes off the homeowner's watch.

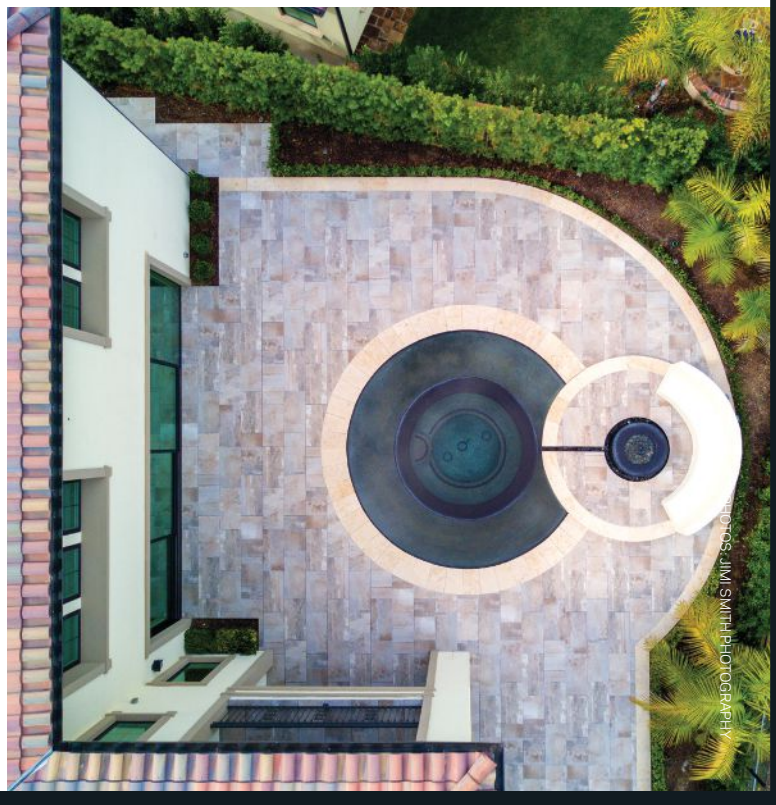
Inside its dial, the A. Lange & Söhne timepiece featured a smaller circular dial with a half-circular element almost touching, but not quite.

"For some reason that really got stuck in my head," he says. "That night, I went home and drew a really quick sketch."

Taking that inspiration, Wang drew up this pair of intersecting circles — one the perimeter-overflow spa, the other the slightly raised deck pad for an arcing bench and circular firepit.The only straight line comes in the form of a narrow runnel flowing from the fire feature to the spa.

Wang enhanced the mirror-like effect of the spa by incorporating two types of perimeter overflow. The raised spa itself spills all around, while its catch basin flows through a Lautner edge, with its thin slot. That catch basin serves double-duty as a Baja shelf for the clients' children.

The fire feature is submerged in the pot, so the flame springs directly from the water. Knowing these installations can be tricky, Wang installed a check valve to prevent water from backing up into the gas line. The deck pad surrounding it also provides easy access to the spa.



PHOTOS: JIM SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY



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WHAT THE JUDGES THOUGHT

The symmetry of this installation, along with the sleek materials and dual overflow edges, cut a dramatic figure in a fairly limited space.

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EXOTIC PARADISE

Luxurious materials and features take these homeowners back to some of their favorite travel destinations.

GREG MASH, Creative Director, Bradford Products, Leland, N.C.
ANDREW POTTER, Director of Engineering, Bradford Products, Leland, N.C.
DALE BRODEUR JR., President, Bradford Products, Leland, N.C.
TONY WOODARD, Production Manager, Bradford Products, Leland, N.C.

BALINESE INFLUENCE

The well-traveled homeowners asked the design team for a waterscape that evoked two of their favorite destinations — Bali and Indonesia. However, it also had to make stylistic sense against a home that blended Tuscan and Spanish architectural elements.

They responded with this creation that features exotic amenities, natural materials and some slick visual tricks.

Sitting on a cul-de-sac and hemmed in by a secondary road, this property took on a unique, six-sided shape. "It almost looks like a parallelogram and a diamond were combined," says Greg Mash. "It was tapered at the front, then it became wide, then it tapered again."

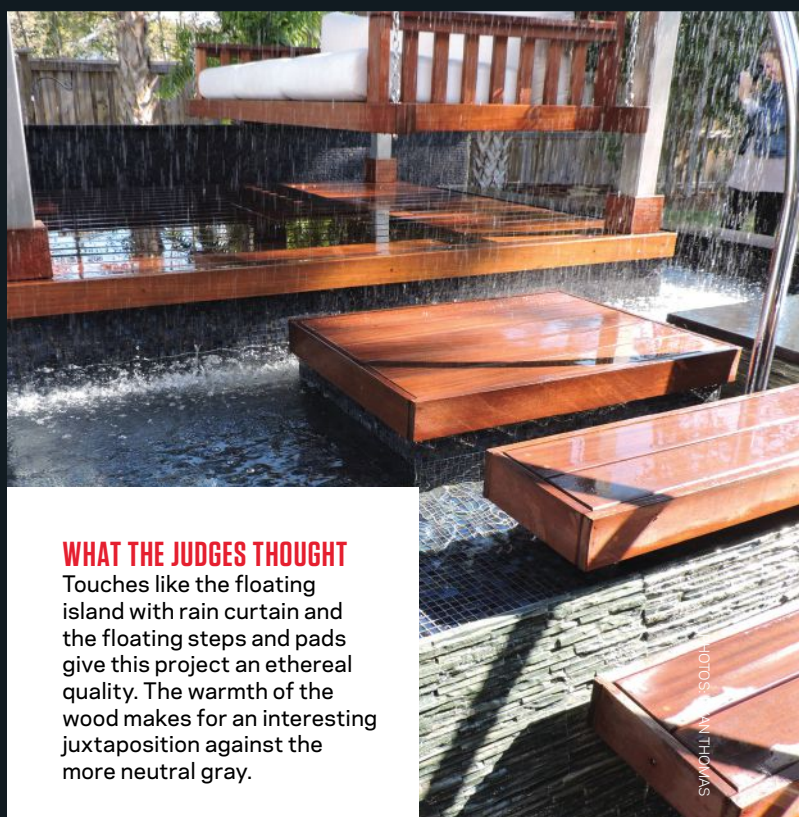
To fit the pool in this space and orient it to offer views from various spots in the home, the team developed a layout that has users enter on a set of exterior steps, where they are met by a fork in the road: Go directly right for the spa, left for the pool, or straight for the covered island with a Balinese daybed.

The island forms the centerpiece. The wooden structure was custom-made with an ornately patterned roof supported by stainless steel posts. A four-sided rain curtain was installed on the structure for multiple reasons: Besides the obvious aesthetic enhancement, it helps combat insects at night. The team adjusted the system to weight the water drops more heavily to better withstand winds.

The elevated pool's vanishing-edge wall is pointed toward the house to serve as a waterfeature. A stacked ledgestone veneer creates a gentle whitewater effect on the overflow. The team didn't want to interrupt the falling water, so they spilled it into gutters on the ground, to avoid the visual obstruction of a catch basin. The stainless steel entry steps cantilever off the vanishing-edge wall so they appear to hover and leave room for the water to fall behind them.

The pool was oufitted with a swim current, so the team had to account for surge going over the wall. To accommodate the extra gallonage, the floor grates go back farther than normal, with some featuring wood insets.





PHOTOS: JOHN THOMAS

WHAT THE JUDGES THOUGHT

Touches like the floating island with rain curtain and the floating steps and pads give this project an ethereal quality. The warmth of the wood makes for an interesting juxtaposition against the more neutral gray.



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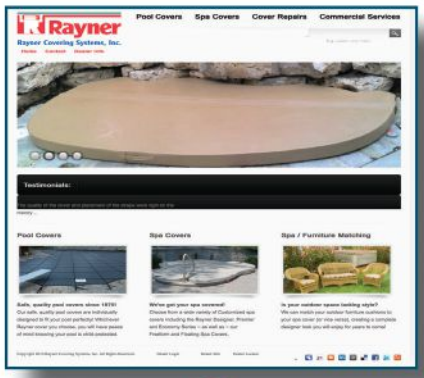
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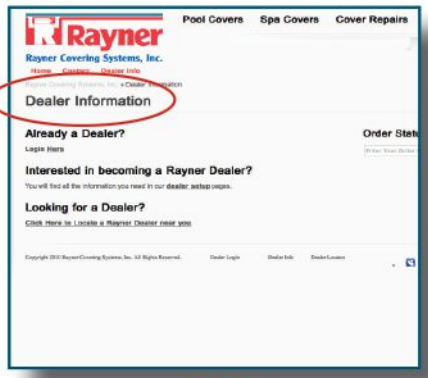


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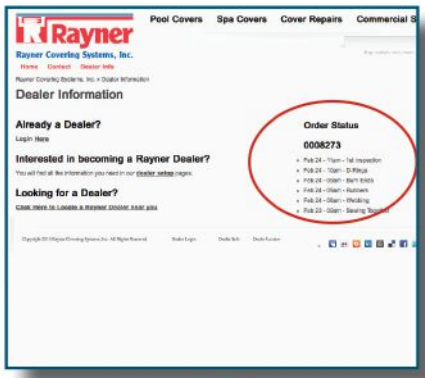
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INTEGRAL BEAUTY

This poolscape connects with the home in clever ways that transcend mere proximity.

BRADLEY CROSS, Designer/Project Manager,
Waterworks Pools & Spas, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada

UNFOLDING STORY

The owners of this drastically sloping property wanted Bradley Cross to backfill and flatten it. But instead of counteracting the incline, the designer wanted to use it.

Within minutes the clients signed on to his idea to develop a series of terraces and outdoor rooms for the backyard.

The pool sits near the house, wrapping around a raised patio so it interlocks with the architecture.

Cross expected reflections from the tanning ledge to bounce off the living-room ceiling during the day. To enhance this, he placed bubblers on the shallow shelf. Now, dwellers can enjoy the pool even when not looking directly at it.

Cross thought the three-story house cut too imposing a figure on its own. To bring the space more to human scale, he included a covered pergola near the pool with the same material that's used on the house siding, and oriented it to look away from the home.

"When you walk out the back door and go toward the pool, you quickly see something that's 8 feet high, not 30 or 40 feet," the designer says. "It gives you a little place to go, have a simulated roof over your head and get the feeling that you're not standing next to a skyscraper."

From there, a series of gathering spots tier down to the lowest point at the back of the lot.



PHOTOS: MARTY MELANSON/INCOLOR

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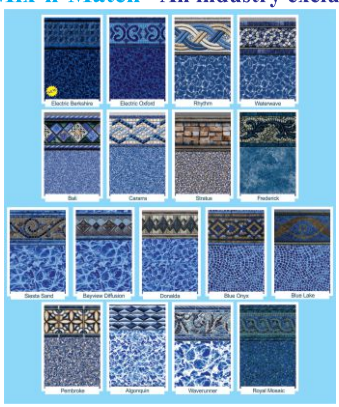
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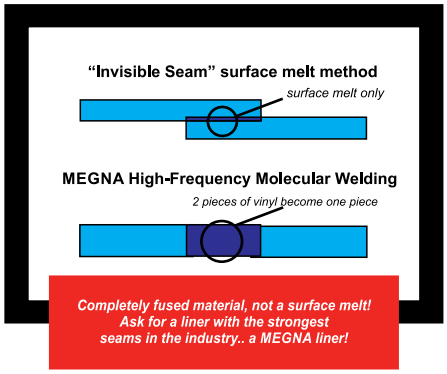
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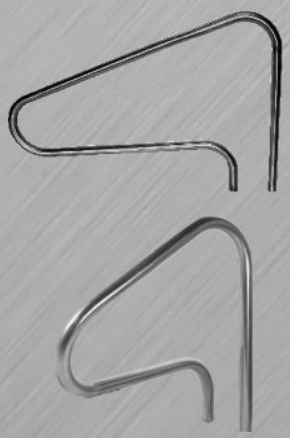
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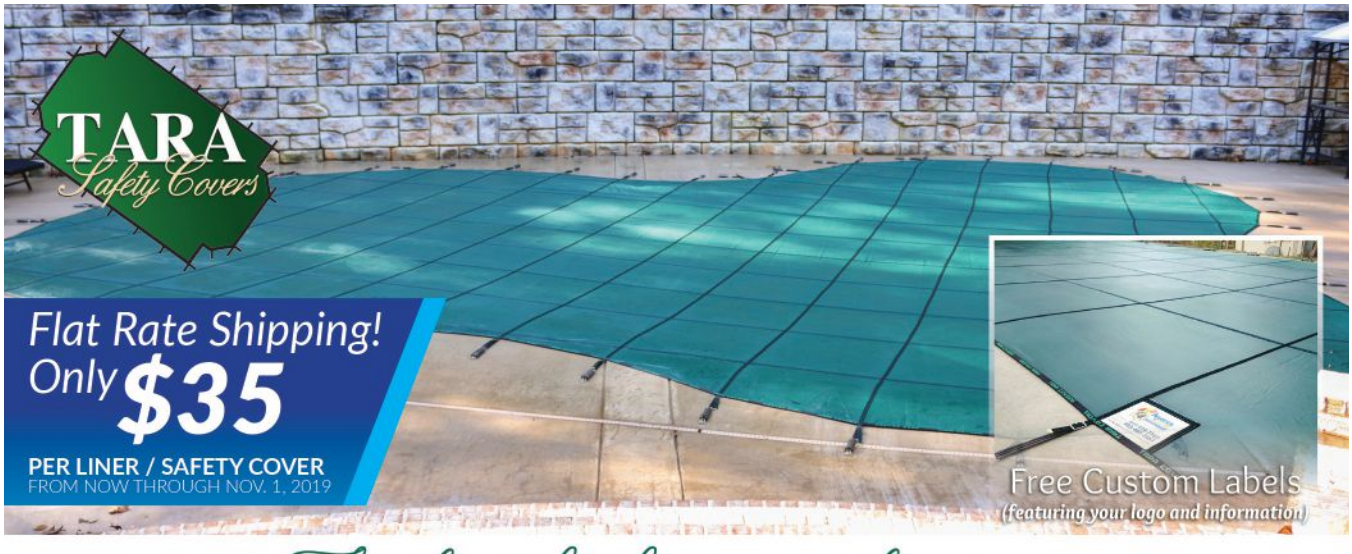
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WHAT THE JUDGES THOUGHT

This pool makes a perfect accompaniment to the massive modern home. The see-through fencing preserves the views and sense of spaciousness, while the progression of outdoor rooms almost offers a tour of the property.



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LAKESIDE SHOWSTOPPER

With some design flourishes, a traditionally shaped fiberglass pool takes the spotlight.

GENE COTILLO, Construction and Renovation Specialist, All Seasons Pools, Spas & Outdoor Living, Manhattan, Ill.
DAN LENZ, Vice President, All Seasons Pools, Spas & Outdoor Living, Manhattan, Ill.

SUBTLE GLITZ

The clients didn't have a big budget, but they wanted their pool to draw a certain amount of attention.

They live in a nice community on a man-made lake, where occasional boat parades take place. The homeowners wanted to provide some night-time eye candy to the paraders and, to a certain extent, keep up with the Joneses.

They liked the idea of a vanishing edge pool but didn't think it appropriate for them. To provide a similar feel, the design team pushed the pool far enough back on the elevated lot so, from certain angles, you can't see what's on the rest of the property, and the pool seems to connect directly with the lake.

The clients and design team chose a Roman shaped model so they could have a spa on one side without interrupting the pool's footprint. They raised it about 24 inches to ensure the shell sits 4 to 5 feet above the water table even during the rainy season. Brick pavers and coping maintained the traditional feel, while landscape lights around the raised wall created some intrigue for sailing onlookers.





PHOTOS: DAVE TOMKY/ ALL SEASONS POOLS, SPAS & OUTDOOR LIVING

WHAT THE JUDGES THOUGHT

The traditional materials and symmetric shape of the pool create a cozy and familiar atmosphere to frame the lake beyond.

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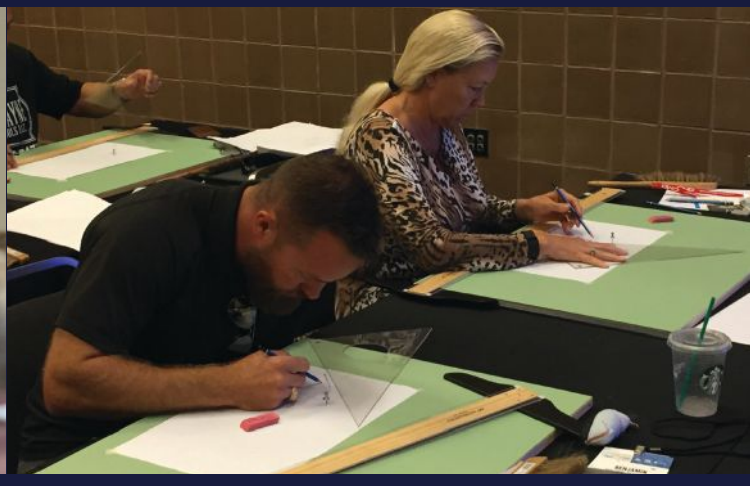
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~ Benjamin Lasseter, SWD Registered, Design Ecology, Austin, TX

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BLAKE FRENCH, owner
Millennium Pools, Austin, Texas



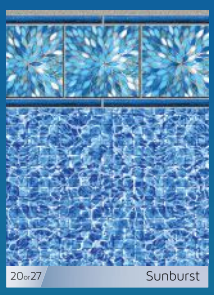
▶
SPAS
ERIK "IKE" EIKEVIK, vice president
Ikes Carter Pools, Oakland Park, Fla.



◀
VINYL LINER
HARRY BOOTH, designer
MARK SMITH, construction
Aqua Blue Pools, Taylors, S.C.

PHOTOS: TOP, TRE DUNHAM / FINE FOCUS PHOTOGRAPHY; MIDDLE, JIM SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY; BOTTOM, JARED S.

PEGASUS
Vinyl Liners


20x27 Sunburst


20 Electra


20x27 Harlequin



20x27 Rocklyn


20x27 Sanibelle


20x27 Twilight

Exclusive Designer Patterns

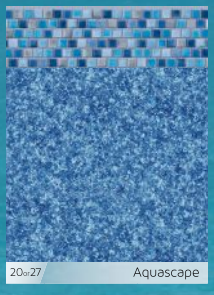

20x27 Lakeview

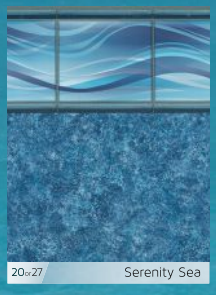

20x27 Bayview


20x27 Blue Opal

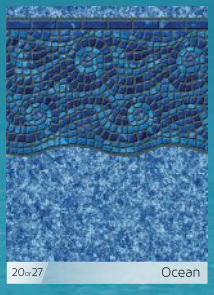

20x27 Diamond


20x27 Stonebridge


20x27 Aquascape


20x27 Serenity Sea


20x27 Mountain Top


20x27 Ocean


20x27 Luminous



20x27 Braid

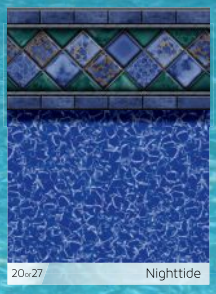

20x27 Lucid Sea


20x27 Baltic Sea


20x27 Brenton


20x27 Sea Gate


20x27 Argyle Slate


20x27 Nighttide

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