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POOL AND SPA NEWS



2023 Masters
of Design

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JOLLA POOLS

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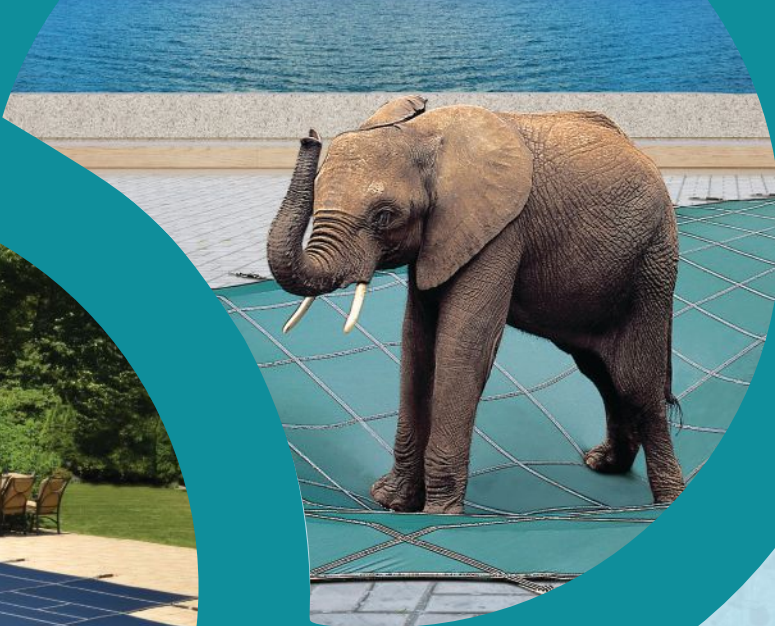
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For Awards Season and Beyond



Rebecca Robledo

Deputy Editor, PSN

It is awards season here.

As you can see, we have just finished our annual Masters of Design issue. Congratulations to this year's honorees!

At this time of year, our sister publication, *Aquatics International*, releases its Dream Designs issue, honoring commercial and public aquatic venues.

I've also been lucky enough to help in judging other design contests within the industry. In doing so I've seen firsthand the increased use of a relatively new technology for capturing and sharing pool and spa projects.

Drones have been a godsend for those struggling to contain a whole backyard composition in one frame, or photograph a pool when access to the best vantage point is difficult. Used for video, they've also helped so many builders give a real-life representation of how the pool looks from the inside and other interesting angles that wouldn't be easy or even possible with a handheld camera on dry land.

However, I want to suggest that some uses of this technology are more effective than others, and to offer a suggestion or two, especially for their place in design-contest entries.

I've seen plenty of drone stills taken from straight above the project, with a birds-eye view. These really can convey one thing: The layout of the yard. Sometimes that's really important, like if you have a big plot or complicated layout. Maybe you want to show how key features line up with

certain axes of the home, or perhaps the walkway and pavers form a pattern that you can't see from ground level. This can become more apparent with an overhead view.

It's basically the real-life version of a drawing done in plan view. In making your case for an award or showcasing your work to prospective customers, shots taken from that angle should not be treated as the primary photo. These should be secondary, meant to show the layout. If you're entering a contest that only allows one photo, you'll want to forgo that overhead drone shot in most cases.

From that vantage, consumers and contest judges can't see how the vanishing edge frames the view or appreciate the precision work of tilesetters and other trades.

If you're going to use a drone to get that hard-to-reach angle, shoot almost as if you're handling the camera on the ground: Choose a flattering angle, and position the drone lower, to provide the viewer a sense of how it feels to inhabit that space.

On the following pages, you'll find some great examples of drone use, especially for those hard-to-frame hillside projects.

Enjoy!

Rebecca Robledo
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Pool Scouts Reports Significant Gains in 2023 So Far

In addition to adding new territories, the pool/spa maintenance franchiser reports higher sales among existing locations.

BY REBECCA ROBLEDO



The pool/spa service franchiser Pool Scouts experienced significant growth in the first half of 2023 and expects that trend to continue through the year.

Overall, the company showed a revenue increase of 55% over the first quarter of 2022, said Michael Wagner, President of Pools Scouts, based in Virginia Beach, Va..

The company now has franchisees in 18 states. Unlike several of the other franchises or consolidators, this company spans into more seasonal states, including northern Virginia and Maryland, Connecticut, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Kansas, Idaho, and Utah.

The first half of the year saw six expansions and the addition of four new franchisees. In making these

changes, Pool Scouts made its first entrances into Missouri and Illinois.

The company added approximately 5,000 new customers to its collective rosters.

“Almost 50% of our customers are brand new to Pool Scouts, and we’ve gotten more revenue per customer of those we already had,” Wagner said.

It establishes franchise territories in areas with single-family homes that have inground pools and where families tend to earn more than \$100,000.

In addition to adding new franchisees, the company reported that sales for existing franchisees grew 39% over the same time last year. “That’s always a really healthy indicator of a

business,” Wagner said. “It’s not just about new [franchisees], it’s about the existing locations.”

While inflation did play a part in that, he also attributed the growth to customers requesting more services than before. This includes repairs, as the company has put a greater emphasis on training franchisees on repairs earlier in the process than before. Average revenue per customer rose 16% over last year, he said.

In its more seasonal states, Pool Scouts has seen a benefit that others don’t necessarily present. “A tremendous customer-acquisition opportunity occurs during pool openings and closings,” he explained.

Pool Scouts now has a total of 47 unique franchisees. This year, it hopes to increase that count by 18, with each holding up to two territories.

The firm is making aggressive moves to increase that number, targeting the Northeast and Southeast. It is close to selling out all its territories in North Carolina and South Carolina, and soon will open operations in San Antonio, Texas to expand its reach in the Lone Star State.

The company has been happy with the performance of its territories in Salt Lake City and Boise, Idaho, so it is looking to expand into the Denver market as well. It also hopes to expand its Ohio footprint beyond Columbus, and it is strategizing an entry into the dense Las Vegas market.

PSP Expo Opens Registration, Adds New Highlights

BY REBECCA ROBLED

Pool/spa and deck professionals now can sign up for this year's International Pool | Spa | Patio/Deck Expo.

Online registration has opened up for the event, which takes place Nov. 13-15, 2023 at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas.

This year, for the first time, the World Aquatic Health Conference, sponsored by the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance, will take place along with the Expo. WAHC will be presented as an educational track covering topics more particular to commercial pools and aquatics, including in water and

air quality, aquatic facility management, and water safety.

This year also sees the introduction of the Retail Innovation Zone, an area for attendees to explore innovative ideas, products and technologies for the retail environment.

A Women's Networking Event will provide education and connection opportunities to promote success for women in the pool/spa industry.

Returning highlights will include the Power Panels that kick off the event with in-depth conversations

including prominent industry experts in the industry's construction, retail and service segments.

Once again, PHTA, Genesis and the North American Deck & Railing Association will provide educational programs.

The Million Dollar Pool Design Challenge also will return. Here, participants design for a fictitious client with a \$1 million budget.



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Chrissan Joins AquaStar

Pool equipment manufacturer

AquaStar Pool Products has hired long-time industry veteran and former service professional Bryan Chrissan as its national technical sales manager.

In this newly created position,

Chrissan will oversee technical application support for pool service professionals and provide field insight to help inform the company's product development.

Chrissan most recently worked

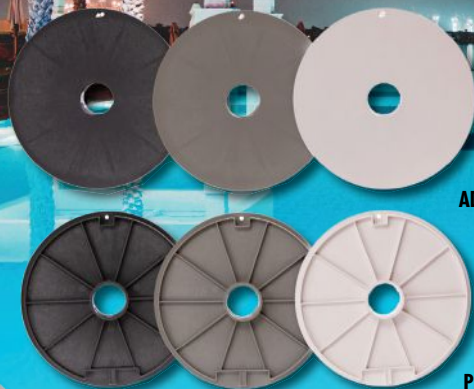
for Hayward Industries in several training and technical support roles. Before that, he held his own pool/spa service firm.



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PHTA Prepares to Revise Standards

The Pool & Hot Tub Alliance

has created committees and is seeking input for the cyclical revision of two standards — one guiding the design and construction of commercial pools, the other guiding the manufacturing of pool and spa suction outlet fittings.

Those who are interested may attend meetings as observers and submit Change Request Forms for consideration by the respective committees. More information can be found phta.org/standards.

Change requests for PHTA/ICC-1, the commercial design/construction standard, will be due by Aug. 14. The suction-fitting standard, PHTA-16, must be approved by the Consumer Product Safety Commission for compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act.

Correction

In the July 17 issue of Pool & Spa News, it was reported that new changes to the Florida Building Code included a requirement for all pools to include ORP/pH controllers. However, the change only pertains to commercial pools.



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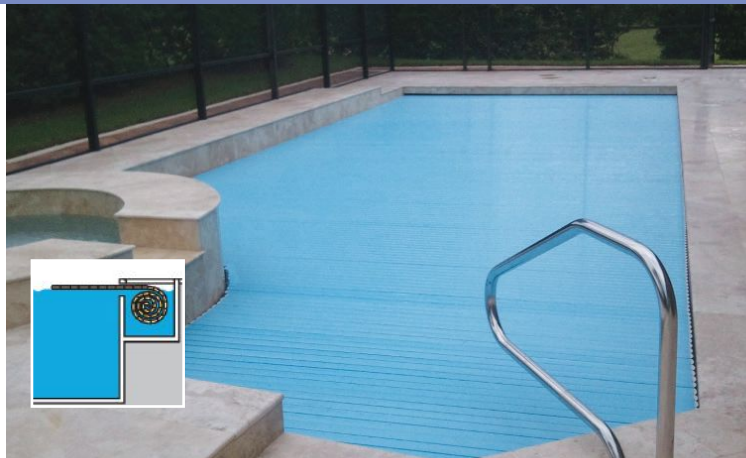
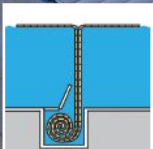
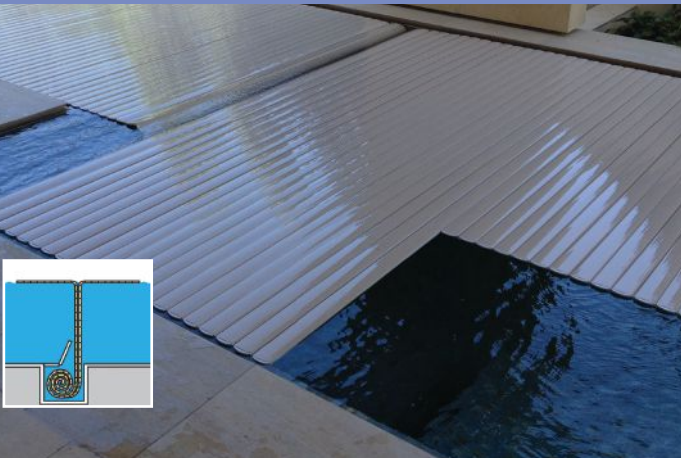


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ORGANIC FLOW





Knowing when to borrow from the home architecture and when to take a little detour helped this designer layer a Zen-inspired waterscape with hard lines and soft edges.

Randy Angell, CEO
Brad Holley, Designer
Matthew Larkam, Landscape Designer
Randy Angell Designs,
Plano, Texas

Justin Brown, CEO
Elite Outdoor Concepts,
Frisco, Texas

While this site was set in a neighborhood consisting mostly of traditional architecture, the home featured all the markings of modern design, such as clean lines, white stucco and glass walls that opened up in the back.

Unfortunately, a nearby home put a substantial damper on the aesthetic, with a heavy brown roof that the clients wanted to conceal. Additionally, the pool would sit on a narrow lot — only about 25 feet deep and 70 to 75 feet long.

“They wanted a very modern, kind of Zen feel to everything,” says Randy Angell, CEO of Randy Angell Designs in Plano, Texas.

From the start, Angell knew he wanted an eye-catching waterfeature



near the back wall of the property, aligned with key views from the home. This would help conceal the neighboring roof.

His specialty aesthetic — organic modern — made perfect sense in this application. The structures themselves would bear straight lines. But through the plants and materials, he would introduce nature into the mix.

That vision directed the combination of shapes, lines, textures and colors. With this as his guiding principle, he was able to create a feature wall that juggled several textures while looking cohesive and even simple.

White stucco like that used on the home was applied to the panels flanking the rain curtain. But laser-cut steel panels, coated in a color nearing lime green, not only added a pop of color to the neutrals, but tied in with the home interior, which included gold, orange and blue.

While the color choice wasn't obvious, there was a solid line of logic: He wouldn't use the same colors as those in the home, but he would choose a green of the same color value as the interior accents. "It creates this really striking draw as you're walking through the house," Angell says.

The leaf pattern cut into the steel was meant to contrast the harder neutral materials borrowed from the home architecture while making a visual connection with the trees planted at the back fence to help conceal the neighbor's roof. "That leaf pattern in the laser-cut steel evokes the softness of those plants," Angell says.

The texture combinations on the wall also strayed from

the safe. The gray stacked stone created a distinct horizontal line, while the vertical pattern of the rain curtain goes against that grain, boosting the impact of what can be a subtle waterfall. "A lot of times, rain curtains are not as showy as you might expect," Angell says. "I think the differentiation between the horizontal line of the stone and the vertical line of that water makes the water feature stand out more than it would otherwise."

A gray stucco plinth reflects the same color as the stacked stone, topped by a concrete planter colored in the same green as the steel panels. The plinth is topped with steel succulents to add height and natural forms, without the maintenance of natural plants.

A grayish-brown composite wood on the deck and bench add a warmer, natural element that blends with the cool-toned stacked stone. A raised planter of black painted steel sits on the other side of the feature wall.

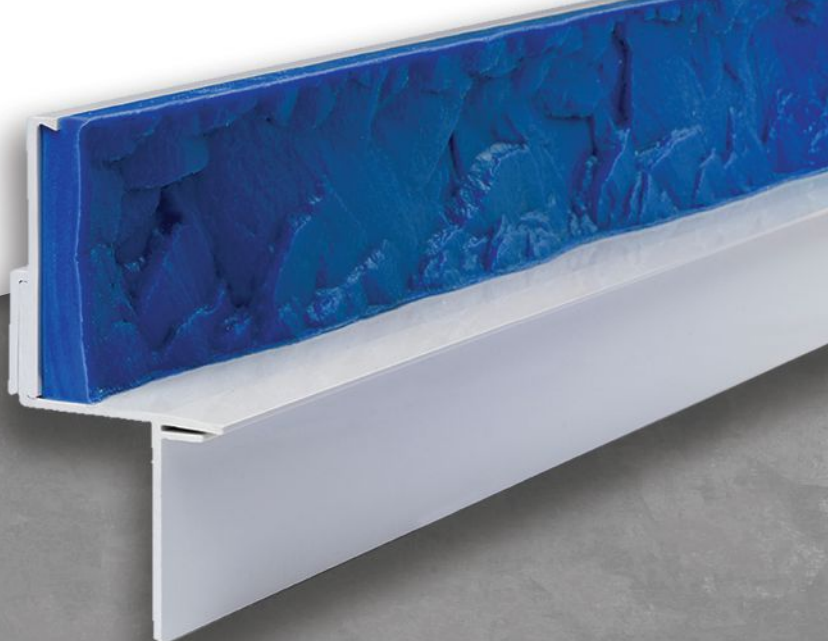
Color-changing lights are placed at the top of the rain curtain and under the wood bench next to the wall.

Angell carried the laser-cut leaf pattern to other parts of the yard. Larger steel panels stand near the end of the pool, except these are coated in white so homeowners can wash them in color from LED lights. Similar panels were repeated on the patio shade.

Bubblers on the pool's two wet decks add sound near the house. Individual valving allows them to run separately, so they can run separately or together.



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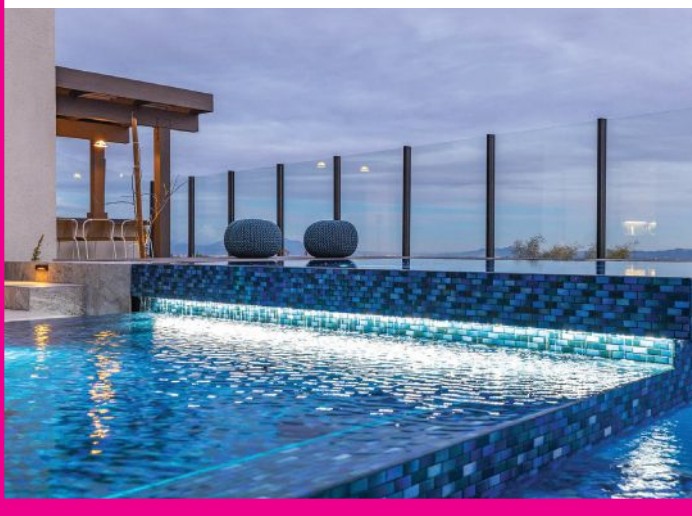
Jose Hernandez, Drafter

Frank Larios, Superintendent
The Green Scene, Chatsworth,
Calif.

For this lot overlooking Los Angeles’ San Fernando Valley, the clients wanted to capture the view, both from outside and through the glass walls at the back of the home. This meant little to no interruptions in the sight line. Additionally, they wanted the waterscape to match the abode’s contemporary style and serve as a water feature at least as much as a pool and spa.

For Scott Cohen, framing the view would require elevating the back of the site 18 inches to hide certain elements below that the homeowners didn’t need to see. This extra height would provide other design benefits.

“I was going to need to be up three steps,” Cohen says. “And 18 inches is



kind of a magic number because that's your industry-standard seat height. So this allowed me to put the firepit on the backside, have the raised bond beam serve as a seat bench, be flush with the rim-flow spa, and have a spa that reflects the horizon and views of the valley."

Raising the spa also made the firepit feel as if it were recessed and more intimate.

For the deck directly next to the spa, Cohen used artificial lumber for its easy upkeep, and to add another natural texture.

To create more terraces of falling water, Cohen separated the sunshelf, making it a freestanding perimeter-overflow square, set at an elevation between the spa's and the pool's. Placed directly next to the pool's entry stairs, the sunshelf can provide a point of entry into the larger vessel.

Cohen had another reason for addressing the sunshelf this way. "Now each of these [elements] feels like an individual space — a go-to destination," he says.

The spa spills into the sunshelf via a cantilevered spillway, which Cohen underlit with submersible LED lights. To create the spillway, the crews created a mold and shot to it. A groove on the underside accommodates the lights.

Most of the interior surfaces are covered in 1-by-2-inch blue ceramic tiles. A silver marble covers the pool's raised bond beam and the steps leading to the raised wood deck. The same stone is used to veneer the high wall to the side, which conceals the equipment set and provides screening for the waterscape.

Plank pavers, which resemble longer bricks, were chosen for the deck to help make the area feel larger. "When you're dealing with narrow patios, and you have a nice, long clean line, that enhances that line," Cohen says.

A strip of lawn inset with stepping stones sits to the side to break up the hard materials. At one point, the client wanted to take the lawn out of the plans and set more pavers instead.

"I did have to fight for that," Cohen says. "I said, 'We need to break up the hardscape, and it separates out the living area of the covered loggia from the rest of the yard, and it allows me to get just a touch of green back here that I feel is really important.'"

With the project done, the client was glad they stuck with the original plan.

PHOTOS: IRVIN PACHECO/IN VIEW MEDIA



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Achieving this luminous perimeter-overflow rectangle on a limited lot didn't just require the right material choices, but also thoughtful planning of the hydraulics.

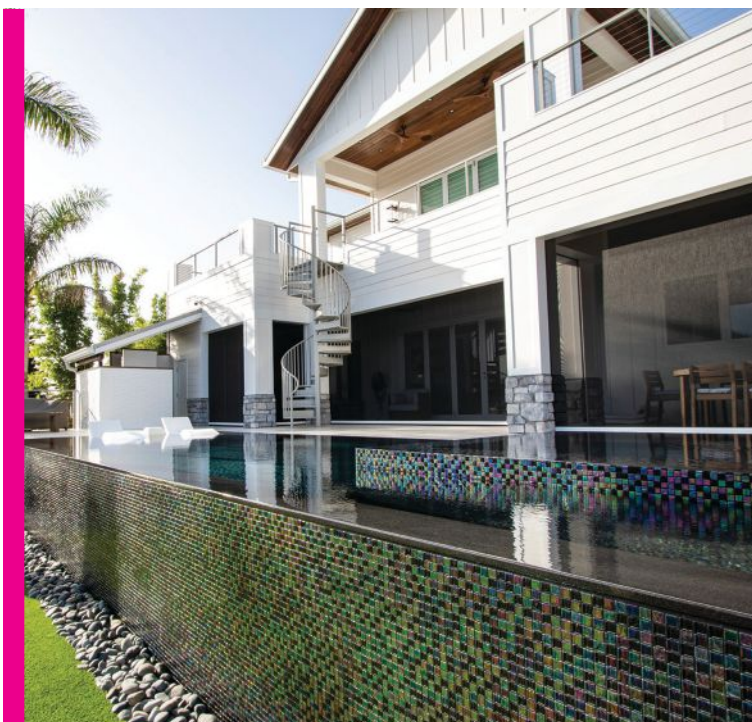
Nils Erickson, CEO
All Aqua Pools, New Smyrna
Beach, Fla.

Perimeter-overflow pools are complicated enough. But, thanks to space restrictions and groundwater issues, this particular project required special measures.

The home is set near Florida's Intracoastal Waterway. Not only did this bring gorgeous, unobstructed views of the water, but also tight setbacks and higher than normal groundwater.

To top it off, the clients wanted a pool/spa combination to spill around the entire perimeter, but they didn't want to see any troughs or catch basins. As it was, the 10-foot setbacks off the seawall also precluded a typical vanishing-edge catch basin.

A rectangular pool made the most sense with the modern home. The team at All Aqua Pools oriented the 12-by-38-



foot vessel to run parallel with the home and place it to frame a view of the river only, without the nearby boat or dock. To keep things simple, the spa would be built inside the pool's footprint, with a mere 4-inch elevation from the pool's water level to minimize water disturbance from the spillover. The pool itself would stand 4 feet 6 inches above the seawall.

The deck is finished in white limestone shell, while the 38-foot-long, 4-foot tall vanishing-edge wall is covered in 1-by-2-inch multicolor glass iridescent tiles, with black as the base. Water over the vanishing-edge wall in back would fall through 10-by-10-inch commercial grating concealed by pebbles.

A substantial sunshelf was placed in the pool, set 30 inches away from the vanishing-edge wall to reduce the chances of falling over the weir.

For this design to materialize, the team had to make some adjustments to the normal ways of delivering water through the perimeter-overflow system. Because the homeowner didn't want to see troughs or catch basins, all the displaced water would have to travel to a remote surge tank. But because of the high water table, the team had to address the potential of it popping.

Traditional tanks wouldn't work: Because of their depth, they would sit in the water table. Instead, the designers chose a fiberglass septic tank. With its horizontal orientation,

the tank would stay relatively close to grade, with less of a chance of popping out of the ground.

They set the suction line and the auto fill in the tank high enough to ensure the tank is always 2/3 filled to prevent popping. They also outfitted the tank with a sump pump system with a float to pump rainwater out of the tank. A sump alert will send an email and text to the homeowner if the tank's water level drops below a certain level.

The vanishing edge at the back spills into a shallow, narrow trough that also flows into the surge tank. To ensure that the trough always drains toward the tank, the tank was set at an elevation just below the trough's.

A variable-speed booster pump operates the vanishing edge/perimeter overflow system 24/7, with lower flows at certain times of the day.

When it had first been installed, the system created a slight noise — "just enough to where the owners could hear it in dead silence," says Nils Erickson, CEO of All Aqua Pools, in New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

To fix this, crews spent hours grinding and polishing the edges so they were completely level. This way, the system would need less water to spill over the edge in order to achieve full coverage.

The finished product speaks for itself. "It looks like a black granite cube," Erickson says. "It's beautiful ... It's water art."

PHOTOS: CHRISTIAN MARSCHE PHOTOGRAPHY

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Concrete

PACIFIC STUNNER





Careful craftsmanship resulted in this perimeter-overflow gem set in one of Southern California's most gorgeous beaches.

Matt Deal, owner and CEO
La Jolla Pools, La Jolla, Calif.

As part of a significant remodel to this hillside property, set against one of the most beautiful beaches in the San Diego area, the clients wanted a pool and spa.

The 45-by-16-foot rectangular perimeter-overflow/vanishing-edge combination would be aligned with the great room so it could be appreciated from indoors through glass walls that could completely open up, turning that part of the home into an indoor/outdoor space. A sunshelf would sit toward the center of the pool, against the wall closest to the home, to afford the best view from the chaise longues.

The spa, placed in a corner within the pool's footprint, would sit about 1 inch higher than the pool to minimize disrupting the mirror effect.

Of course, creating this simple, elegant effect is more complicated than



it looks. Fortunately, La Jolla Pools invited the challenge.

“The steep hillside presented construction problems,” says Matt Deal, owner and CEO of the La Jolla, Calif.-based pool/spa construction firm. “It’s in unstable soil.”

To support the vessel, crews drilled and installed approximately a dozen caissons, which delved 30 feet into the ground, with the network connected by grade beams. This left certain portions of the backyard propped about 20 feet in the air.

The homeowners envisioned a perimeter-overflow pool sitting flush with the deck and didn’t want to see flooded coping, so Deal designed it with a Lautner edge detail.

The project required precise work. Large-format black tiles were used around the edge, including on the face of the elevated portion. The team mitered each of the long tiles so that they joined completely, ensuring a true knife edge. The same was done on the spa.

“The stock was 2 feet by 4 feet,” Deal explains. “So on the rim of the spa, which is 6 inches wide, we had to cut these tiles out of these larger tiles, then we had to miter each edge. So it was very time-consuming, very precise work.”

No doubt it was worth it. “The end result is wonderful,” Deal says. “The pool surface is flush with the deck and shimmering in the light like a mirror. It’s gorgeous.”

PHOTOS: GREG HOXSIE PHOTOGRAPHY



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Concrete

BALCONY VIEW





Tucked amongst the trees in the hills of Austin, this pool adds even more light to the home while following in the spirit of the site's topography.

Dick Clark + Associates,
Austin, Texas

Jan Garcia-Sotelo III,
Principal
Modern Pools, Austin, Texas

The Austin, Texas-based architecture firm Dick Clark + Associates designed this house to blend in with the hillside, tucked neatly into the trees. In fact, you almost have to drive up to it to see it.

The horizontal lines and terracing of the rooftops seemed to follow the hill's contours. Modern Pools' approach to the pool not only continued on that idea, but accomplished other objectives as well.

They were restricted as far as pool placement and space. The architects had designed a covered, partially enclosed and below-grade entertainment space that they referred to as the man cave. It would be covered on top and have two walls, with the rest being open to the air. The pool would go on top of the man cave.



Additionally, a wall would extend from the guest room to the pool space, cordoning off the grill space for caterers. The pool needed to sit on the other side of this wall, which Modern Pools was to turn into a waterfeature.

“We basically had a box to work with, so everything had to align,” says Jan Garcia-Sotelo III, principal of Modern Pools, in Austin, Texas.

Additionally, they wanted lawn between the home and pool, which could potentially subtract from the latter’s footprint.

Garcia-Sotelo knew from the start that he wanted a perimeter-overflow pool to reflect the sky and trees, as well as to create the illusion of added space.

To fit the pool into the space while suiting the home architecture, the team cantilevered the pool and deck over the sloped lot. This not only extended the square footage of flat surface area and placed the pool above the man cave, but it also continued the terracing from the home’s roofline to the covered patio’s, then the pool deck.

It also created another living space, as the team placed a second deck — this one wood — down at the lower catch basin. The vanishing-edge weir would slope down toward

the main pool interior to create a gentle wet-wall effect rather than a more powerful sheet.

“We wanted to reduce evaporation and also change the sound quality behind the pool when you’re in the lounge space,” Garcia-Sotelo says. “They just wanted a really calming sound.”

At the main pool, the large feature wall extending from the home adds privacy for those getting in and out of the spa. It is finished in hexagon-shaped white porcelain tile and capped with the same Lueders stone used throughout the walking spaces.

With a relatively tight space between the home and pool, the team took certain measures to maximize walking area. First, Garcia-Sotelo brought the deck directly up to the perimeter-overflow slot, rather than using coping there. Then extra-wide stepping stones were floated in the lawn. Measuring about 20-by-48-inches, they were placed horizontally and 6 inches apart. “You can walk hand-in-hand with your partner across them, and the gait is such that you walk across the grass portions more easily,” Garcia-Sotelo says. “It’s one step per pad, versus on a square you have to change your gait to walk across.”

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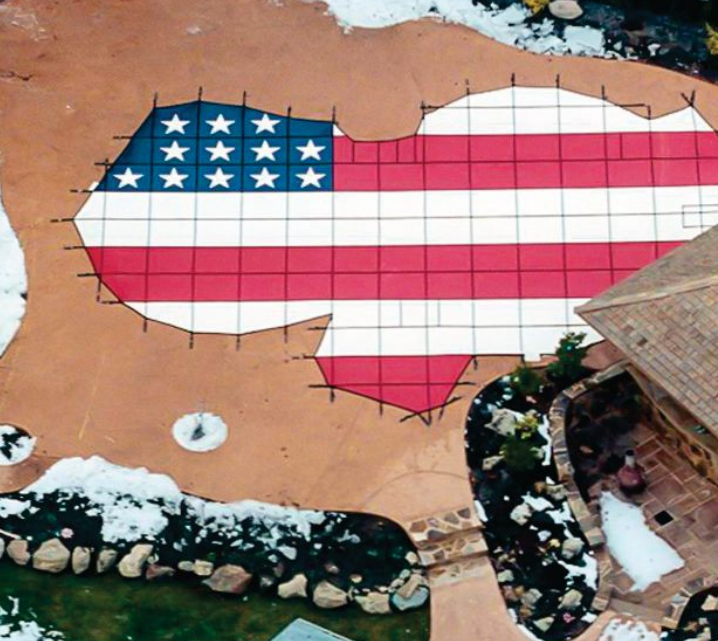


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BEAUTIFUL BARRIER



What started as a plan to mask the neighbors' visual and auditory noise develops into a modern beauty with subtly dramatic touches.

Nick Hawk, owner
Pure Design
Plano, Texas

This modern waterscape was truly a case of function directing the course of form.

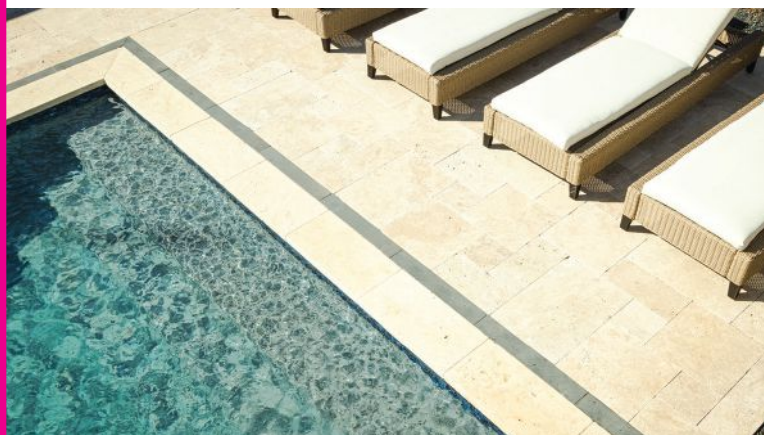
The clients had a lovely home in a rural area near Plano, Texas. "It was out in the country — beautiful house, beautiful property, great location," says Nick Hawk, owner of Plano-based Pure Design. "But they backed up to some neighbors behind them who just didn't really keep the backside of their property tidy. So a lot of the design was built around hiding the neighbors."

And they needed to be masked both visually and auditorily. "They had dogs barking, and the client wanted to drown out the noise as much as possible," Hawk says.

But the clients' property also sat on a creek, so the homeowners wanted to preserve the views and direct the eye toward that area.

This goal guided a number of decisions. First, the team placed the pool fairly close to the home, even though the property was expansive. "The farther we pushed it out, the closer we'd get to the neighbors behind them," Hawk says, explaining why he avoided that strategy.

A large wall would be needed as both a visual and sound barrier,



and a waterfeature would further mask the barking dogs.

But even with these practicalities in mind, the design team paid special attention to the aesthetic aspects of the yard. The white stucco, dual-level wall is taller in the sight line of the neighbors. The rectangular cutout not only adds interest but helps connect the space with the back of the substantial yard.

"I wanted it to not feel like a giant wall but also to have a void in the wall to see some daylight, so it doesn't feel like you just have a random wall in the middle of the yard," Hawk says. "I wanted to leave a void in the wall so you could get a sight line through it."

Three copper scuppers below the cutout help obscure the sounds coming from beyond the clients' property. Hawk wanted more than one scupper: He knew they would throw interesting shadows when the sun reached certain positions, and figured multiple narrow scuppers would be creating a striping effect with their shadows. He likes to work with odd numbers, so he chose three.

Below the waterfeature, he placed Tejas black gravel to create a sense of depth when contrasted against the light materials surrounding it.

"It gives it the feeling of almost a three-dimensional effect, where these water features feel like they're almost jumping out at you," he explains.

The spa stayed flush with the pool. With it close to the home, Hawk didn't want to elevate it, lest it detract from the wall and waterfeature. "I also don't like to elevate any spa vessels when they're that close to the house because it tends to feel a little tighter," he adds.

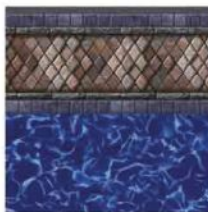
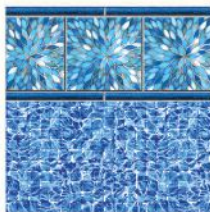
To the side of the long, narrow pool area, between it and the creek, Hawk placed a firepit and seating area.

The deck and coping are made of a beige travertine. An accent strip of black volcanic basalt stone behind the coping adds contrast and provides a nice transition from the large-format coping to the more intricate Versailles patterned deck.



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MAXI MINIMALISM



Combined with a seated firepit, uniquely lit bar and eye-catching materials, this concrete spa proved a showstopper.

Scott Cohen, Garden Artisan/
President
T.R. Mills, Vice President
Tyler Clark, Designer
Jose Hernandez, Drafter
Frank Larios, Superintendent
The Green Scene, Chatsworth, Calif.

While the clients said they preferred a minimalist environment, Cohen sussed out relatively quickly that they were looking for anything but.

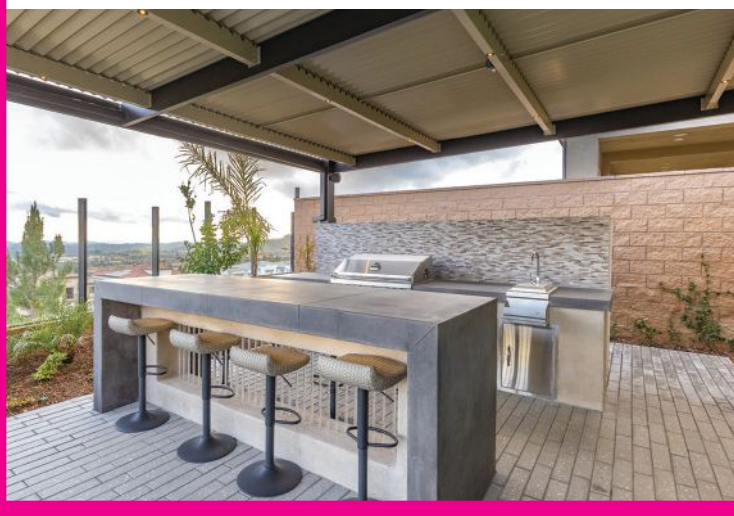
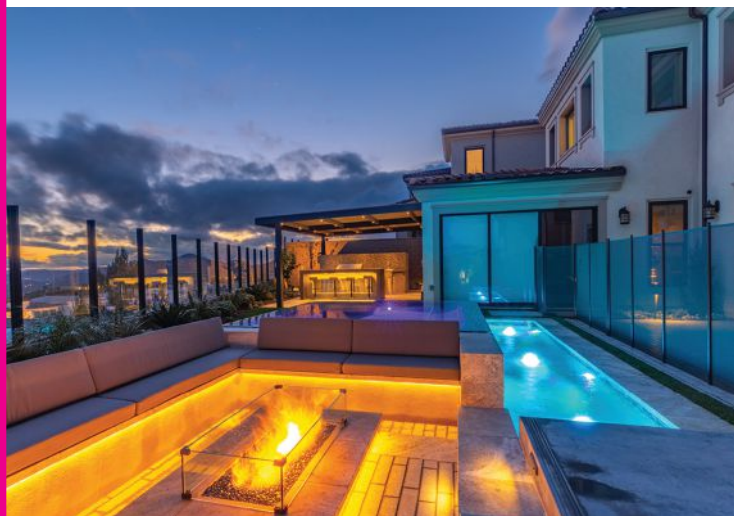
“You have to listen between the lines,” says Cohen, president and garden artisan with The Green Scene in Chatsworth, Calif. “Because what somebody says and what they really mean are different.”

While the homeowners wanted to keep some aspects of the design reserved, they still expected strong impact.

“I interpreted that they were looking for something modern, with clean lines. And it could be minimalist in that there aren’t 10 different materials or a lot of different colors, and they want to keep it toned down. But they wanted it still to be a showpiece so that when people come over, they go, ‘Wow!’”

Simple, clean lines would mesh with the home architecture, however the clients wanted no shortage of features. So Cohen designed a yardscape that he dubbed “minimalism to the max.”

Like many lots in the area, this didn’t present much room, but it boasted a gorgeous view of the valley below, which could be seen



through the floor-to-ceiling windows in the back of the house. The clients felt a spa would best meet their needs, but they wanted to accommodate up to 12 people. And they hoped for multiple living spaces in the small yard.

For Cohen, a raised perimeter-overflow spa was a no-brainer.

“I [explained], ‘I’d really like to lift the spa, maybe do an infinity spa here, take advantage of these great views. And when you look out, you’re going to see that the reflective quality of water is going to show off the clouds and the sun and the sunset and sunrises.’”

The spa’s square shape would be met with a similar form outlining the firepit area directly adjacent. The hillside lot was subject to high winds, which Cohen had to consider when designing the fire feature. The pit is recessed a touch so the flames won’t blow around, plus the designer added a glass wind screen.

The catch basin for the spa overflow extends in front of the firepit area to offer a visual element and tie the two spaces together. Five bubblers with LED color-changing lights form a line down the trough, which was built at wading-pool depth.

Three cast-in-place concrete elements reinforce the modern look. A concrete slab bridge, which Cohen refers to as a Jedi bridge, leads across the water to the firepit and seating area. A set of three concrete steps carries individuals up into the spa. They were cantilevered and built separate from the spa to allow water to flow between and to avoid water-migration issues between the spa wall and steps.

“We tiled the spa first, put a foam board against the spa tile, and cast our concrete up against that foam, and then melted the foam out,” Cohen explains.

In the covered kitchen area, the team cast a “waterfall counter,” meaning the sides come down from the counter top. Below the counter top, Cohen placed 30 acrylic rods and lit them with fiberoptic cables.

A selection of low-lying drought tolerant plants and succulents keep the valley view in tact.



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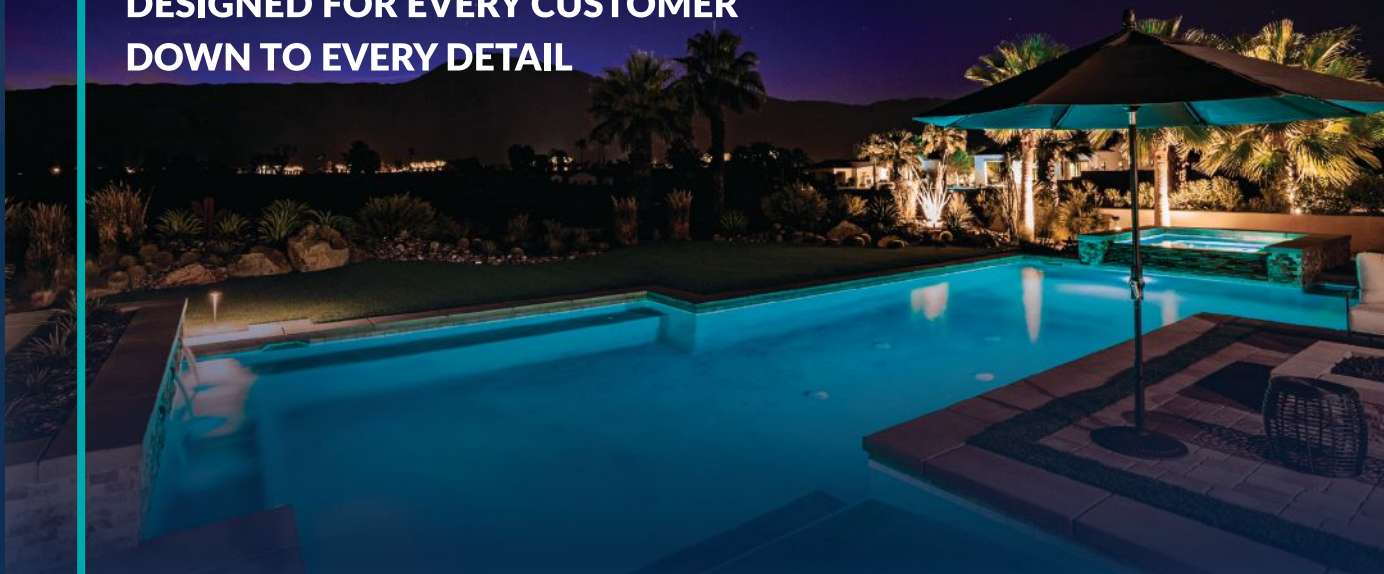
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RELAXING NOOK



Earth tones and natural materials surround a swim spa to create a soothing backyard retreat.

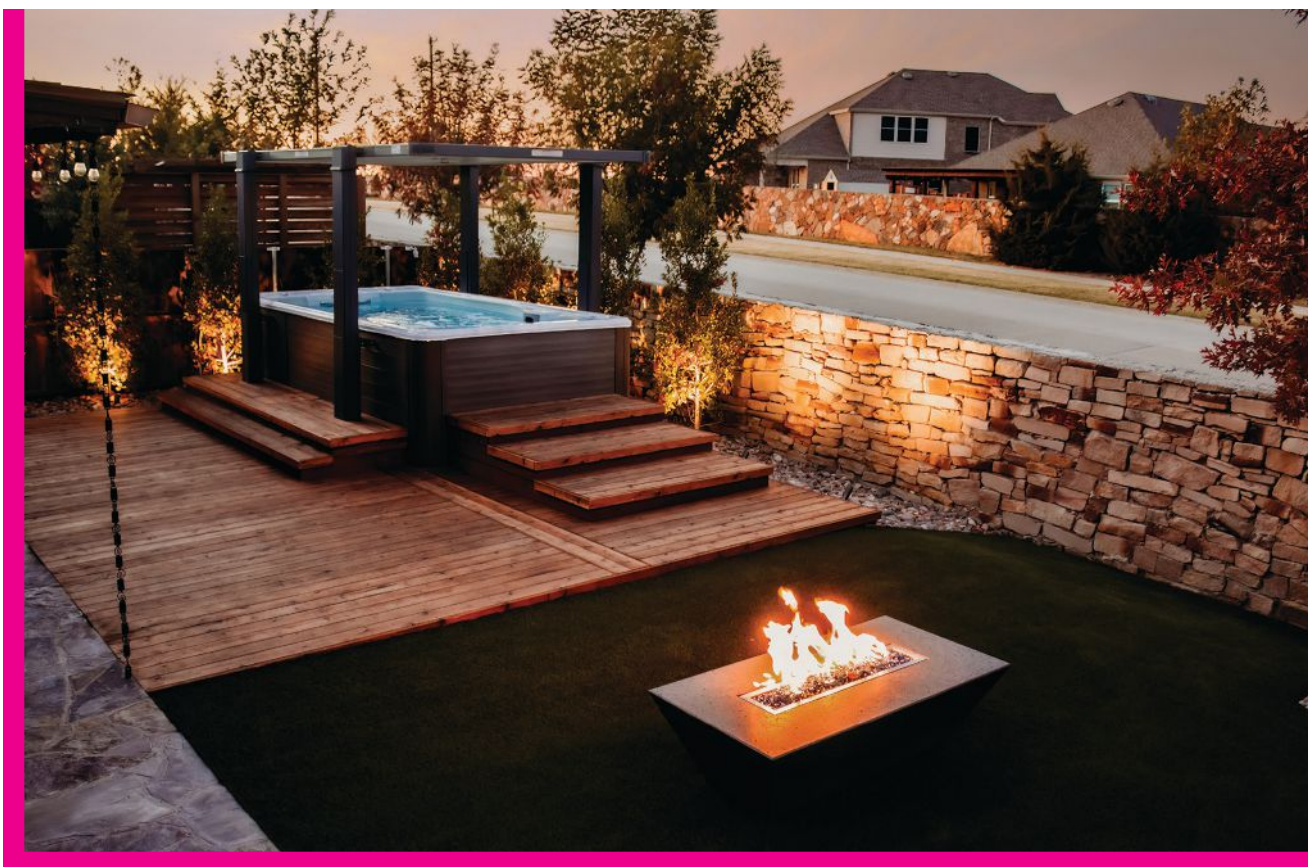
Wesley Gohlke, Lead Designer/
Project Manager
Gohlke Pools, Denton, Texas

Swim spas aren't usually the centerpiece in a backyard, but this one had to carry an unusual aesthetic burden. The client had originally wanted an inground pool but, because of permit restrictions, a swim spa was the best option available to them.

The task was to install the manufactured swim spa in a way that could be integrated into a backyard with some other comfort elements.

For this project, the swim spa's distinct manufactured, modern look needed to fit seamlessly into a backyard with natural, warm-toned materials wood and stone. Choosing a unit with wood grain made for a good first step. They would set the swim spa in a corner with wood decking and near a stone wall to create an intimate space, with a firepit set on turf nearby.

Wesley Gohlke, pool designer at Gohlke Pools, noticed an existing cedar patio cover and opted to use the same material for the spa deck. It was a move that would bring cohesion between the new



space and preexisting elements.

The project was something different for Gohlke, who says it was the first time his team had given a spa this type of treatment.

“You typically just pour concrete and set those, and they are what they are,” he says.

But this project went deeper — literally and figuratively.

When digging for the foundation, the team hit rock about 5 inches below the soil, while they still needed to dig another 4 or 5 inches. Normally, Gohlke said, the team would use an extension on the excavator to break up the stone and remove it, but they weren’t using an excavator on this portable-spa installation. With the area being as tight as it was, the team opted for a jackhammer to cut through the material.

It took “a little bit more time and manpower than a pool,” Gohlke says. The process lasted about a day before they were ready to pour concrete.

Because a swim spa filled with water is much heavier than a hot tub, Gohlke’s team built a more substantial foundation than normal — an 8-inch-thick concrete foun-

ation, reinforced with steel rebar set 12 inches apart.

“We didn’t want to do just the 4 inches of non-structural concrete that you typically would for pool decks,” Gohlke said.

The goal was to avoid any cracking or leveling issues that could be caused by the weight of the spa when filled with water.

After the foundation was complete, the portable spa was brought in with a crane, and the automatic cover was installed.

Once these were in place, carpenters built the cedar deck around the swim spa. The deck provides an elevated platform for a sitting area. The deck steps, while adding to the aesthetic, also serve a purpose: They allow the client’s young children to stand and watch while someone swims laps.

Gohlke replaced grass in the yard with turf and landscaped the perimeter with river rock and trees. The client expressed concern about bugs with the use of live grass, so he chose synthetic turf under the firepit for a grass look with low maintenance.

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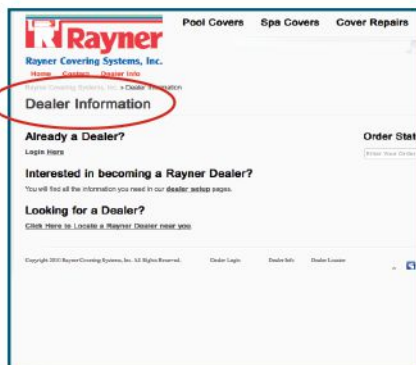


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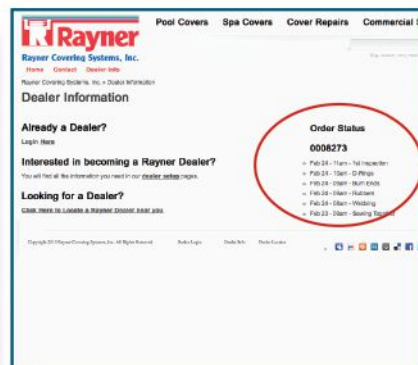
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BACKYARD CLASSIC



A few careful terrain modifications allowed for a more functional backyard, including a new pool that's seamlessly integrated between a basement exit on one side and wooded area on the other.

Patrick Studley, Sales
Amanda Miller, Design
Casey Hutchins, Design
J&M Pool Co., Senoia, Ga.

Having older children for this couple meant no more need to create a play pool. So when consulting with builder J&M Pool Co., they put the emphasis on aesthetics, seeking a highly custom look in their vinyl-liner installation. They didn't want very much decking, but were seeking some ornamental touches.

The team delivered, with a geometric pool, tiered wall veneered in large-format travertine, and two sheet waterfalls.

In developing its overall plan, J&M largely took its cues from the site.

The yard on this project sloped from one side to the other, with a drop-off in the back. Much of the space had been unusable to the client as it was. The team would have to build up portions of the yard to create enough flat, usable area.

Often, working with varied terrain requires removing or adding soil. But this builder was able to regrade by repurposing dirt from the yard, transforming it into a summer hangout spot with a pool, seating, and fire pit.

"We didn't take any dirt off this project," explains Michael Durand,



an owner of J&M Pool Co. “We were able to push it back and create space that was usable.”

Durand’s team created multiple tiers in the backyard and built a wall on the side of the pool, which allowed them to shore up the earth and create a raised, flat seating area and a space for the firepit.

The wall was finished with sheets of travertine used to match the coping and topped with a pair of fire bowls on the ends for visual interest. The wall allowed for a separation between the pool area and the space above, fulfilling the client’s request not to have too much deck while also giving them another usable room in the yard.

A pergola provides shade in the new elevated seating area.

That particular space used to be a hill that never got any use. So the team had to remove earth there. Some of the dirt went behind the wall to create the pergola space. But a lot of it was pushed behind the pool to level out the drop-off.

“By pushing the wall all the way down the side of the pool, we were able to create an area where we could flatten that out,” Durand said.

A simple concrete deck in dove gray includes a cantilevered edge as well as a monolithic poured coping. Durand intentionally used a basic color palette and few different types of material to give the project a relaxing feeling.

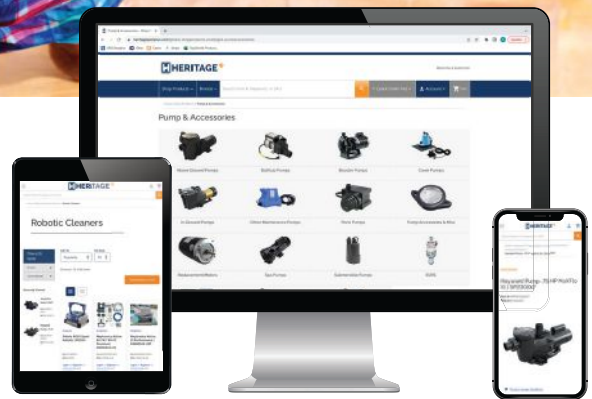
The pool itself was centered on the house, with the shallow end near the home. Its pool’s large shelf, made using a stainless-steel form to mold the concrete, is intentionally positioned close to the home to allow for easier entry and a space for the client’s grandchildren to play.

At the far end of the project, oversized concrete squares with synthetic turf between them create a visual break to transition from the pool area to the wooded area behind it.



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COURSE REFLECTION



Tiered walls and clean lines help this classic rectangular pool and spa to showcase the golf-course lake beyond.

Dan Inderbitzen, Construction Manager

Rob Shaub, Sales Manager/Designer

Rob Goodall, Owner
Goodall Pools & Spas, Camp Hill, Pa.

These homeowners wanted to convert their existing concrete pool into a pool/spa combination. The two bodies of water needed to be plumbed separately to allow for year-round use of the hot-water vessel.

The home sits on a golf course, with a lake behind it. The clients requested a design that would showcase that body of water, as well as accentuate the natural views rather than distract away from them. The home architecture showed Mediterranean influences, so the designers at Camp Hill, Pa.-based Goodall Pools & Spas decided to create a waterscape reminiscent of that region.

Considering that the plot was long and narrow, the team decided a rectangular pool would make most sense. This also would suit the house. The crisp, straight lines of the pool and spa serve as a contrast to the curved edges of the lake.

An elevated inground fiberglass spa would add a note of elegance. Stone veneer on the outside of the raised spa and the steps leading into it would add a little of the Old World.



To create the effect of a spillover spa, while keeping the two bodies of water on separate filtration systems, the team installed a 3-foot waterfall in front of the spa that spills over into the pool.

The spa's exterior steps run across its width, echoing those of the pool interior. In addition to providing easier access, the spa steps create visual interest, drawing the eye into the pool and spa area.

To create this waterscape, the team at Goodall tore out the entire existing pool and built the ground back up so they could then install the new waterscape, says Rob Goodall, owner of the company.

During the tear-down and rebuild, they had to work around other contractors as the client was also having a home addition built.

The lake added another layer of complexity to the

project, with a potential threat of water contamination and space limitations. Goodall took precautions to safeguard against an overflow of the lake into the pool. After the old pool was removed and backfilled, the crews built a pair of tiered walls — a lower one near the lake, a higher version by the pool — with a planter in between. The tiered walls were intentionally placed to separate the bodies of water without obstructing the view. They were also designed to provide a pleasing aesthetic when viewing the property from the water.

Underneath the pool, crews laid 4-inch schedule 40 piping across the width of the deepest part and tied that into a site pipe that would allow them to look down and check for water intrusion in the pool area. This design also allows for access if work ever needs to be done to remove water and avoid structural damage.

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MASTERS OF DESIGN

ORGANIC FLOW

Randy Angell Designs, p. 20



Pump: Pentair VSF 3HP
Filter: Pentair Clean & Clear Plus Cartridge System
Heater: Pentair Mastertemp 400k and Pentair 140 UltraTemp
Controller: Pentair Intellicenter with Screenlogic2
Chemical Feeder/Sanitation System: Pentair Bioshield UV; A&A In-floor
Tile: Knox Tile, INAX Yohen Border IM-1015P1/YB15H Blue Mix
Coping: Burlington Key West 2cm 24x36 porcelain pavers w/ custom mitered edge
Deck Finish: TimberTech Legacy Collection in Mocha for the composite decking
Interior Finish: Wet Edge Primera Stone tokol
Waterfeatures: Great American Waterfalls - Aqua Rain 5'
Automatic Cleaner: A&A In-floor
Lights: PAL Lighting - Evenglo
Jets/Swim Currents/Spa Components: Waterway Pulsar
Drain Covers/Fittings: A&A AVSC Dual Port Suction with plaster-over covers
Autofill: Pentair Intellilevel
Skimmers: Pentair Quickskim Venturi; HIDE Skimmer Lids
Outdoor Elements: Ledgestone wall - MSI Glacial Black Stacked Stone; Steel plants by Desert Steel; Custom-painted Low Bowl Planter from Jackson Pottery; Sculpture by VK Sculptures; Furniture by Gloster and Cantoni

SYMPHONY OF WATER

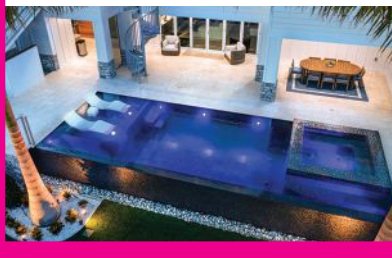
The Green Scene, p. 24



Pump: Hayward SP329950VSP
Filter: Hayward C7030
Heater: Hayward HDF400
Controller: Hayward HLBASE
Tile: CPAC Tile RDM-SKY
Coping: MSI: Silver Shadow
Deck Finish: Azek: Dark Hickory Vintage Collection
Interior Finish: Mini Pebble Sheen: Slate Blue
Fire Features: Monolithic Fire-Trough and Burner from Outdoor Plus
Automatic Cleaner: UV Ozone
Lights: Hayward Omni Logic Lights
Outdoor Elements: AI Azek: Dark Hickory Vintage Collection

IRIDESCENT CUBE

All Aqua Pools, p. 28



Pump: Jandy VSPHP270DV2A
Filter: Jandy CS200
Heater: Jandy JXI400P and JRT3000R
Controller: Jandy RS-PS4, 6614AP-L, IQ30-A
Chemical Feeder/Sanitation System: Jandy PLC1400
Tile: NPT
Coping/Deck Finishes: Limestone
Waterproofing: Laticrete
Interior Finish: Wet Edge Midnight Meditation
Lights: Jandy JLU4C12W100 and CPLVRGBWS100
Drain Covers/Fittings: Paramount

Autofill: K1100CKC
Skimmers: Hayward
Fencing: Standard Vinyl

PACIFIC STUNNER

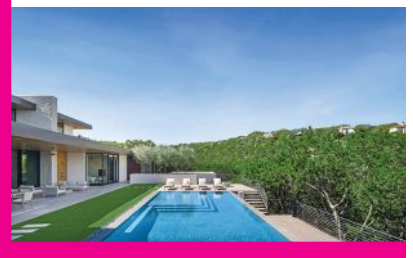
La Jolla Pools, p. 32



Pump: Jandy Stealth SHPM; Jandy Pro Series Variable Speed Pool Pump
Filter: Jandy Pro Series Single Element Cartridge
Heater: Jandy JXI Gas, Model 400
Controller: Jandy AquaLink OneTouch
Chemical Feeder/Sanitation System: IPS
Tile: Domoos by Dekton
Coping: Lautner edge fabricated from porcelain tile
Waterproofing: Miracote
Lights: Jandy GloBright color changing
Jets/Swim Currents/Spa Components: Waterways
Autofill: Jandy Levolor

BALCONY VIEW

Modern Pools, p. 36



Pump: Jandy Pro Series ePump 8 Speed Variable Pool Pump
Filter: Jandy DEV Diatomaceous Earth Filter
Heater: Jandy 400K BTU Heater
Controller: iAqualink Multi-function Control
Tile: Arizona Tile Konkrete
Coping/Deck Finish: Blue Charcoal Lueder
Interior Finish: PebbleFina Steel Grey
Waterfeatures: Water Sheer

Automatic Cleaner: Paramount PCC2000 In-Floor Cleaning System
Lights: Jandy Nicheless LED Lights
Drain Covers/Fittings: Paramount MDX Drains
Skimmers: Venturi Skimmers

BEAUTIFUL BARRIER

Pure Design, p. 43



Pump: Pentair
Filter: dev60
Heater: Jandy jxi 400p
Controller: Rs8 ps
Coping: Travertine with a basalt border
Deck Finish: Travertine
Waterproofing: Basecrete
Interior Finish: Pebble Sheen
Waterfeatures: Scottsdale Fire and Water
Lights: Jandy
Drain Covers/Fittings: A&A pebble top
Skimmers: A&A Venturi

MAXI MINIMALISM

The Green Scene, p. 47



Pump: Hayward SP32950VSP
Filter: Hayward C7030
Heater: Hayward HDF400
Controller: Hayward HLBASE
Tile: Fujiwa: Lombo-874
Coping: MSI: Argentina Square Edge
Deck Finish: Ackerstone: Coastal Mist
Interior Finish: Pebble Sheen: Blue Slate
Fire Features: Fire-Trough with Jellybean glass; Burner from Outdoor

Plus
Lights: Hayward Omni Logic Lights
Jets/Swim Currents/Spa
Components: Bubblers w/LED lights, Jedi Step, Bridge and 8 jets
Outdoor Elements: Aluminum Patio Structure with Custom Louvers

RELAXING NOOK

Gohlke Pools, p.51



Deck Finish: Cedar decking with turf
Firefeatures: Oblique Rectangular Fire Table
Spa Cover: Covana Automatic Safety Cover
Portable Spa: Swimlife Swimspa Model: Swimfit 14

BACKYARD CLASSIC

J&M Pool Co., p. 55



Pump: Hayward TriStar SP32950VSP
Filter: Hayward SwimClear Multi-Element C7030
Heater: Hayward HeatPro Heat Pump HP31404T
Controller: Hayward OmniPL Smart Pool and Spa Control
Chemical Feeder/Sanitation System: Hayward TurboCell Salt Chlorination Cell
Coping/Deck Finish: Mortex Kool Deck with Cantilever Coping
Waterproofing: Laticrete Hydro Ban Cementitious Waterproofing Membrane
Interior Finish: Latham Gray Mosaic
Waterfeatures: Hayward Sheers

Automatic Cleaner: Polaris 280
Lights: Hayward Universal ColorLogic LED Pool & Spa Lights
Drain Covers/Fittings: Hayward
Skimmers: Hayward
Fencing: Black Aluminum Fence
Outdoor Elements: Outdoor Structure
Vinyl Pool: Latham

COURSE REFLECTION

Goodall Pools & Spas, p. 59



Pump: Pentair Intelliflo VSF
Filter: Pentair Clean & Clear Plus 420 Cartridge System; Pentair Clean & Clear Plus 200 Cartridge System for spa
Heater: Pentair UltraTemp Heatpump 125,000BTU; Pentair MasterTemp 175,000 BTU Natural Gas Heater for spa
Controller: Pentair Intellicenter
Chemical Feeder/Sanitation System: Pentair Intellichlor IC-40 Salt System
Interior Finish: Latham Brand Fiberglass
Waterfeatures: CMP Brilliant Wonders 36" LED Waterfall
Automatic Cleaner: Maytronics Dolphin Active 20
Lights: Pentair Microbrite Color 100'; Pentair Globrite Color LED light 100' for spa
Jets/Swim Currents/Spa
Components: CMP; Latham Standard Spa Jets
Drain Covers/Fittings: CMP
Skimmers: Waterway
Pool or Spa Cover: Merlin Dura-Mesh Safety Cover; Merlin Insulated Spa Cover
Handrails: Saffron Triton Series
Fiberglass Pool: Latham Monaco Fiberglass Pool in Granite Crystite Finish
Spa: Latham Royal Non-Spillover Spa in Granite Crystite Finish; 2 HP Silencer Air Blower

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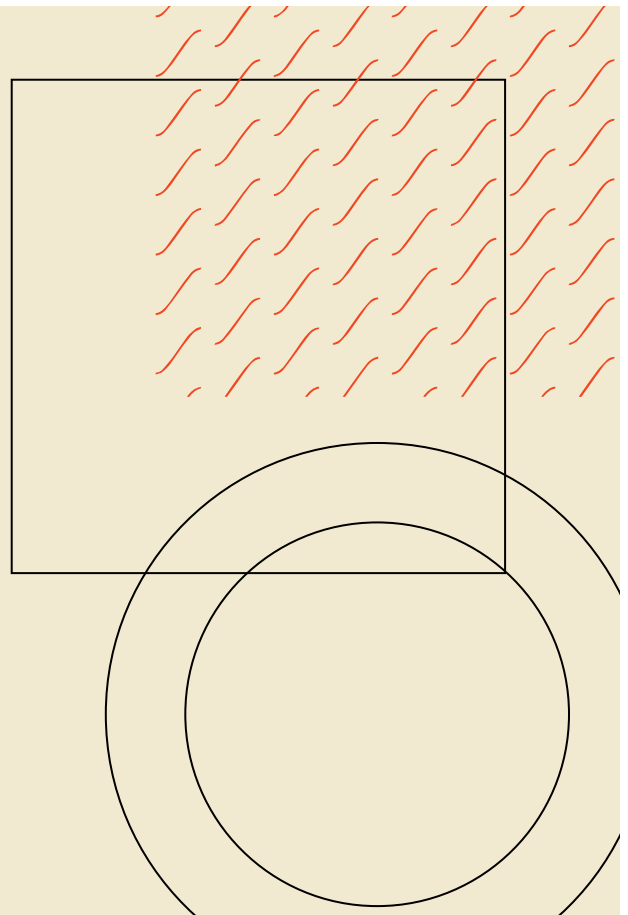
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New Products

BY PSN STAFF



CCEI USA

The Phileo VP automated controller provides energy efficient chemical regulation as the unit's motor only activates during dosing. It automatically tests and monitors pH levels in pool water and adjust chemicals in the water as needed, and a color changing, LED light changes according to the pool's water chemistry.

Contact: ccei-pool.com/us



DNA Vibe

The new Jazz Band Splash is the first wearable light therapy device to be fully submersible. It features silicone construction with advanced hydro-dynamics for "in-tub" use. All four modes of light therapy — red, infrared, magnetic, and micro-vibration — can be enjoyed in the comfort of a hot tub.

Contact: dnavibe.com



Nidec Corp.

Nidec has added a 3.45HP model to its energy-saving Neptune line of pool pump motors. Designed to operate almost all brands of North American pumps for larger in-ground residential pools, this Neptune replacement motor is easy to install, with no complex wiring required.

Contact: USMotors.com.



Thursdays Pools

The popular Goliath fiberglass pool is now available in a smaller 14-by-33-feet long, 6-feet-deep size to fit in compact backyards. It combines a smaller size with stairs and seating ledges strategically placed to create with a wide-open swim lane right down the center of the pool.

Contact: thursdaypools.com



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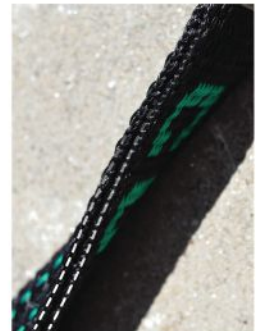
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