

design



THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO DESIGN - OR REDESIGN - A POOL AREA. BUT SOMETIMES IT HELPS TO STEP BACK AND SIMPLIFY. SOMETIMES LESS IS MORE.

INFINITY and BEYOND

PHOTOGRAPHY BY [unreadable] FOR [unreadable] ARCHITECTURE



Artificial grasses duplicate the texture of real grass, but are made with synthetic fibers. They're made of polypropylene or nylon, but are not as long-lasting as real grass. Photo: Robert Howarth

Not all of us are fortunate enough to live somewhere to design a pool at the same time the house plans are drawn.

Don't panic. The right contractor or landscape architect can make your pool look as if it has always been there or renovate an outmoded one to create backyard dreams.

Manufacturing the view

If you buy a home for an unobstructed ocean view, take full advantage of it with a pool that makes it look like you can't see the water.

The high impact of the pool in the landscape makes waves from the infinity edge, which produces a visual effect that makes the pool water appear to subside to the horizon or into the sea.

"I am not a huge designer of infinity edges because in Florida there is often something obstructing the view," says Roby Klein, a Naples-based landscape designer who worked on the property with builder Custom Builders, architect Randy Smith and designer Michael Braccio. "This home was so high above the ocean that it worked. When you have the Atlantic Ocean as a backdrop, it is hard to stay out of the way and not raise it up."

The design is enhanced because Klein used the natural tan color of Polaris 55, an exposed aggregate pool finish that reflects sun and shadows. It was designed to match the water on even the sunniest sunny days.

The overall and visual architecture of the house was extended into the pool area, including a repeat of the outrigger design at the end of the pool.

Although Klein says it is often a tough sell to get pool plans in the way of a great view, the clients agreed when they saw how the hydraulic pumps framed the ocean. He also installed

sea grass and coastal dune grasses because of their ability to withstand salt air and wind.

Braccio, who is now retired, says the new construction was finished two years ago at Christmas. He created a summer kitchen with a large flat-screen television set, comfortable seating and a dining table under the loggia so they could entertain their children and grandchildren.

"We try to design the outside as a gateway or a screen," Klein says. "You like to make the client think twice before going away for the weekend."

Optical illusion

The beautiful pool in St. Andrews Country Club in Boca Raton looks like it was part of the house's original plan. And that's the magic of good design. Kent Wilford, landscape designer with Kent Wilford Design in Sunny Beach, achieved the result with a creative solution.

"The house had already been built and it was extremely tight in the back," he says. "It looks like there was a lot of space, but I only had 10 feet to work behind the house."

The clients wanted a waterfall, an organic design and a beach entry for their grandkids. He created three main materials and a few more sets. The design team included curved coping to create a continuation area in the water. Water color was achieved with a deep-blue Polaris 55 finish that gives it a natural color during the day. At night, the pool is lit with LED lighting and blue optics which make the water appear to flow.

"The pool is greatly enhanced by the LED lighting," he says. "We can have a variety of colors and I tend to set it up to be infrared. You can push a button and change the light program."



Kent Wilford created a beautiful pool with waterfall and beach entry design working in only 10 feet behind house behind the house's main entrance. Photo: Robert Howarth

The standard size of the Naples house is expanded by an extra story high. Don't let the large blue fountain with water spilling from the fountain behind the fountain's pool. Photo: David Heston



Styles of the season

By Catherine Wallace Minkoff

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turned a pool large enough for laps with a separate spa and a lot of landscaping around it."

The biggest bonus has all the bells and whistles — three car garage, media room, indoor room, exercise room, the padroom and a hot tub/spa. The pool won the Gold Medal award from the gold Coast Builders Association in 2008 for "best in a single family residential."

Landscaper architect John Long of Long Design Group in West Palm Beach has designed about 90 percent of Don Harris' landscaping and pools, which he describes as "a tropical palette with a certain degree of formality and order."

When it comes to creating a mood from materials, he's somewhat conservative, emphasizing tile or water-hose or a jet statue.

"We have to be somewhat inside of the road," Long says. "We stay fairly classic and timeless so it will appeal to as many people as possible."

The outdoor spa, situated 30 inches above the pool, has a trough that drains water into the fountain. At the end of the pool near the master bedroom, there's an underwater bench so bathers can sit in the water and talk. The pool also includes an area for spa. Water drops from four cast-concrete shells, which have become underwater spa children jet or and have water spouts on them.

"We wanted to design something that was open and airy and that showed the house off," Long says. "We also thought from the inside out. When you open the front door, you get a nice view."

Pool Builders, ordinary pros

Sometimes you lose the house, but after the pool. That was precisely what happened with a Pool Builders' client in Don's Long Lake Ranches.

"They bought the house with an existing pool that was small, very plain and unimpressive," says Kevin Ford, president of Pool Builders in Don's. "They wanted a pool to fit the size and size of their home, and they wanted to utilize as much of the backyard space as possible for entertaining."

The client asked a contractor what the house was purchased allowing enough space for the pool renovation. The site of the existing, existing pool was ripped and transformed into a modified Roman pool with spa, sun ledge and energy-efficient LED lighting. The pool is surfaced with travertine pebble finish in one spot and the surround is four colors of travertine.

The main feature is the spa area, with granite coping, steel deck and natural stone and hardscape on the columns that form the spa. The spa is surrounded by a stone arch on the side of the deck space on the interior. The sun ledge, at the end of the pool with the round mosaic design, has about six inches of water down to step where bathers can sit and enjoy the pool.

Options for the pool

When buying a pool from a manufacturer, there are a lot of options. The Pool Pros of COFF, Potts and Potts in Sunrise often has clients who want to refresh their pool rather than tear it out and start



Pool Builders replaced the site of the original inlay, shaped pool and added granite spa, sun ledge and water trough, coping of Pool Builders



Pool Pros



1. Chair seats: From cheap, mass-produced aluminum to high-end, custom-made, the pool deck can be a real statement. Pool Builders in Don's uses the Longing Deck in a stone and granite combination in a granite base. When done in steel and high-grade stainless steel seats for a design consistent with contemporary taste. "There's also the use of a stone mosaic tile on the pool deck, which is a great alternative," says Kevin Ford of Pool Builders. www.longing.com



2. Small world: One of the most common mistakes is to get a pool that is too big for the site. Pool Builders in Don's has a lot of clients who want a pool that is small and fits the site. Pool Builders in Don's has a lot of clients who want a pool that is small and fits the site. Pool Builders in Don's has a lot of clients who want a pool that is small and fits the site.



3. Bubble glass: The bubble glass is a new material that is used for pool decks. It is a new material that is used for pool decks. It is a new material that is used for pool decks. It is a new material that is used for pool decks.



4. Changing styles: From traditional to modern, the pool deck can be a real statement. Pool Builders in Don's uses the Longing Deck in a stone and granite combination in a granite base. When done in steel and high-grade stainless steel seats for a design consistent with contemporary taste. "There's also the use of a stone mosaic tile on the pool deck, which is a great alternative," says Kevin Ford of Pool Builders. www.longing.com



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over. One of those clients had a standard 14-by-28-foot pool in Western Hills Country Club. "They hated the big blue wall," he says. "I was too high and completely non-functional. They didn't like the stone design. They wanted something more subtle." The answer was to drain the old pool down six to three feet and extend the top to create a sunbath. The deck is gold travertine with a custom coping and a vanishing edge that disappears into the pool. Stone marble tiles on the raised wall coordinate with the deck. A pair of custom brass hose heads was added as well as matching brass handrails for safety on a small, child-proof grab onto them. The lighting was upgraded with custom LED that has an automated system to change colors. "Proper" says a swimming pool only looks as good as the water and these days there are hundreds of different plastics that can create the illusion of any effect people want — from very bright to deep blue to black. "This is a simple job," Propper says. "What the customer is so can take a standard average pool and make a dramatic change without spending \$50,000."

SOURCES

- Castle Pools:** 1342 U.S. 1, Juno Beach, 305-326-0988, www.castlepools.com
- COFF a Pool and Patio:** 11736 NW 47th St., Sunrise, 954-747-0900, www.coffpools.com
- Exteriors by Kelly Woods:** 1000 Williams Park Drive, Suite 204, Naples, 239-287-4136, www.kellywoods.com
- Kent Wetland Design:** 121 SE Second Ave., County Beach, FL 32924, 305-243-1875, www.wetland.com
- Long Design Group:** 1001 Cypress Way, West Palm Beach, 561-454-0500
- Pool Builders:** 3031 SW 47th St., Davie, 304-947-1700, www.poolbuilders.com
- SPB Construction:** 1637 Peach Garden Way # 11 Naples, 339-94-0094, www.spbconstruction.com
- Woodline Studios:** P.O. Box 1004, Sunrise Springs, 326-984-1004, www.woodlinestudios.com