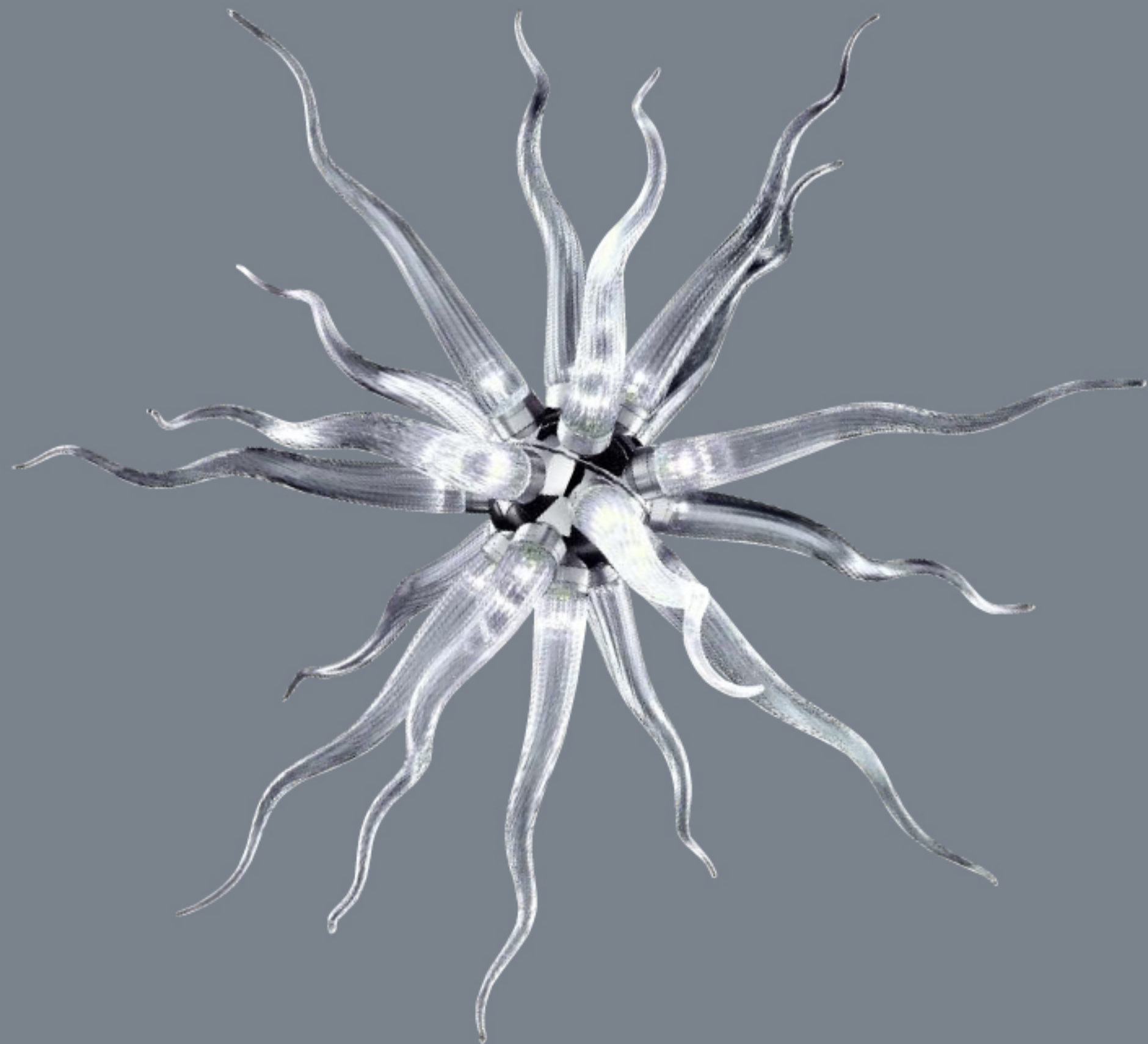


LUXE

THE CHICAGO HOME REDEFINED™





What most influences your designs?

The client. We meet with them to extract what they want, and develop the design elements based on their desires.

What are you seeing right now that's "hot" in waterscape design?

I'm seeing a lot of perimeter overflow and vanishing edge pools. Vanishing edge pools have been around for ages, but they are just coming into popularity in our Chicago climate.

What is your current design obsession?

We recently created a lap pool that uses a complicated competition system to re-circulate water back into the pool. It keeps the water like glass—we could claim that we have the fastest residential pool in the country!

What's your most recent prized creation?

We recently completed a project that has seven bodies of water. It has an indoor cave and multiple water features, along with custom ceramic tile from Wales. The tile is unbelievable and really makes the project.

What should homeowners splurge on when it comes to water features?

Really do your homework on the builder. A pool or water feature is not a commodity. It's the whole package—you have to be careful of what you are buying.

What challenges you in your work?

It's all challenging—that's what makes it exciting!

Favorite design icon?

Our industry is constantly evolving, so it's really my peer group who I try to model myself after—the people who do it right.

Favorite material?

We don't use that many different materials because we have found what works and what works the best. I like Wisconsin Valders limestone and ceramic tile from Wales—it's absolutely breathtaking.

JAMES ATLAS

PLATINUM POOLCARE AQUATECH



ACCESSORY FIND
Serralunga Lady Jane lamp,
\$3,205; mobilimobel.com

Since his start in commercial pool design over 10 years ago, James Atlas has applied his design sensibility to the creation of elegant pools and water features in the residential realm. With the launch of Platinum Poolcare Aquatech in Wheeling this year (and the merging of his family's existing companies), Atlas continues a tradition of providing innovative pool, spa and waterscape design and maintenance. "Our attention to detail and focus on elegance defines our style," says Atlas. With each project, Atlas conducts a "needs assessment" of a client's lifestyle—from their art and artifacts to their travels—to ensure that their style translates seamlessly to the exterior of the home. Additionally, an extensive knowledge of installation techniques (a benefit of his primarily commercial background in pool design) allows for the creation of waterscapes that astound in both their beauty and technical sophistication. When asked what inspires him, Atlas says he's open to the possibilities. He says, "It's about being prepared to be inspired."