SPECIAL: THE EXPERTS' ISSUE

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Multiple Levels

The decision to build a multilevel pool is mainly dictated by the site. Usually, this design is used to mask substantial changes in elevation; however, sometimes clients are looking to cover up an unsightly view or gain privacy from a neighboring yard. A multilevel pool is easily incorporated into a property with a home that has an open patio and steps or a pathway leading down to a walk-out basement. You essentially end up with two pools that can be connected by a stream or waterfall. On one project, we were even able to create a seating area in the middle of the connecting water feature.

Large water features and a rustic or tropical look pair well with this design. Lighting will enhance the water features, creating a stunning effect at night, and landscaping softens the edges of different-sized stones, which are well-suited to this design.

Photo courtesy of Aquatic Artists, Inc.

Trey Marshall, Principal
Aquatic Artists, Inc.
Youngsville, N.C.

Contemporary Flair

Photo courtesy of Platinum Poolcare Aquatech, Ltd.

James D. Atlas, Principal
Platinum Poolcare Aquatech, Ltd.
Wheeling, Ill.

Generally speaking, an outdoor environment should carry the interior and exterior themes of the house throughout the backyard. Therefore, the ideal setting for a contemporary pool is a property with a modern-style home, although a modern aesthetic can still be incorporated into a variety of settings. As long as the designer is mindful of the setting and can echo certain elements from the interior and exterior of the house, this design will blend beautifully.

A contemporary pool usually includes traditional geometric shapes, consistent patterns, and clean, sleek-looking materials, such as smooth stone, glass tile, and pavers or stones of uniform dimensions. In addition, deck materials should be free of pits or irregularities. These elements are not critical, however, as long as the design maintains balance and symmetry. Steps, benches, and other means of ingress/egress should also be symmetrical, and all water features must be incorporated subtly and tastefully.