

Architectural Water

*Triple Award Winning
Swimming Pool Design.
Custom Pools & Patio
Boise, Idaho*

**Inspired by nature.
Now you see it, now you don't.
The art of custom creations.
Liquid imagination.
Cool clear, ...dirty water?**

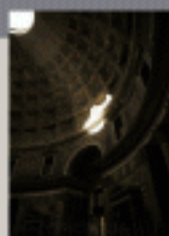


While shape is the initial design element for a pool, this project took design to a new level, one of texture. A visual masterpiece that incorporates a level of construction difficulty that's in a class of its own. The design combined many unique elements that already elevated it to an 'A' list pool. A zero entry, sheer descent water feature, spa to pool waterfall, hand cut stone coping, and a meticulous aquascape design would be enough to capture industry recognition. To finish the entire vessel with stone presented both a stunning visual opportunity, while adding a significant construction challenge.

At this level of skill and sophistication, everything from the shell strength and structure to the color and finish of the quartzite stone was scrutinized. A site visit to the source quarry to hand select the color and cut lot was just the beginning. Planning for a plaster or tile finish is entirely different than a build up for stone. However, it's the craftsmanship in the actual stone finish that puts this pool over the top. Each piece of quartzite was individually selected for color and size, then cut, fitted, and seated using a proprietary technique. The appearance of natural fit and harmony is no accident, every side of each stone was cut. Grout lines are small and uniform throughout the vessel and deck.

"the appearance of natural fit and harmony is no accident"

The integrity, talent and dedication to this project made this visual masterpiece a triple award winning pool. The beauty of the gold and silver flecked stone immersed in water and tinted with the blue reflection of the Idaho sky gives the vessel unique coloring unlike any pool. The result, a personalized poolscape that more than exceeded the expectations of the client. ■■■



Pantheon 125 AD

The concrete dome coffers were poured in molds, probably on temporary scaffolding. The only light is admitted through the oculus.

Snapshot - Controlling Concrete 1 IN A SERIES OF 3

We've been trying to control concrete for centuries. When used as a design element in architecture, concrete can be very disappointing when a crack unexpectedly develops. The nature of concrete is to crack. Our part is to anticipate that tendency prior to starting the project, in lieu of trying to explain it after the fact. Poor flatwork around a pool or water feature will certainly distract, if not ruin, a design.

All things proper and equal; mix design, temperature, sub base material, reinforcing, curing, placing technique and thickness, a few very good rules of thumb will result in very satisfactory results. Since we know it will crack, we design for it, and strive to make it aesthetically pleasing using control joints.

The pool industry excels in creative solutions for control joints. As an industry built around concrete, the technology has spread to other concrete surface projects. Control joints in walks, driveways, landings, decks and pool surrounds can be simple sawcuts, molds, decorative strips, or watersheds. If you're looking for a solution, or just something new, the pool industry is an excellent resource.

Liquid imagination

status, stylish or subtle

When defining water features, the first question should be; what is the feature intended to do? Does it need to draw the attention of an audience, visually? Is it going to provide a complement to some natural landscape or add a formal element? Does it need to mask some noisy environment or just provide a little tranquil sound? These questions help define the expectation.



The second question is; how much maintenance is required? Water, when left unattended, will leave hard water stains and tend to turn green with algae. These issues need to be addressed. A good design, at a minimum, will provide for easy draining and refilling, but should also have adequate and appropriate filtration and sanitation. Ultimately, this question should be posed prior to placing a shovel into the ground.

The multi-level deck, stunning waterfall, and the stepping stone path through the catch pool, creates a variety of serene places to relax and socialize.

“a good design, at a minimum, will provide for easy draining and refilling, but should also have adequate and appropriate filtration and sanitation”

Sheet flow type water features can be very intriguing, however, these require large regulated flows of recirculating water. Sheet flows are directed towards the visual audience. In confined areas they can be very noisy. Water features can be divided into two categories. One is a static or natural type, which utilizes a weir to project the water to some catch basin. The second is a dynamic water box or nozzle type. Dynamic water box style nozzles require less water and usually create an almost transparent laminar flow. Some factors to consider are noise, viewing distance, weir design, filtration system, evaporation, over spray, and of course the hazard and safety elements of the design. ■■



A uniform flow requires an absolute level basin to prevent dry or arid spillways.

Cool, clear, ...dirty water? technology

Older sanitation systems can make a pool appear clean, however, it could still be full of dirty water. New technology is helping keep bathers safe from Recreational Water Illnesses.

The last several years have shown a trend of increased transmission of Recreational Water Illnesses. These illnesses include Giardia, Shigella, E. coli O157 H7, Norovirus and Cryptosporidium. Several of these pathogens are very resistant to normal levels of chlorine and can remain in properly treated pool water for days. Supplemental sanitation systems are proving to be an important tool in the prevention of the illnesses associated with these pathogens.



“several of these pathogens are very resistant to normal levels of chlorine”

Ultraviolet light sanitation systems have proven to be very effective in inactivating pathogens in pool water. These systems also reduce chemical usage by breaking down chlorine sanitation by products with UV light rather than doing it chemically. Proper sizing of the unit is a must as contact time with the UV light is all important. Regular maintenance of the unit is necessary but generally not difficult. A properly installed and maintained UV sanitation system can expect to inactivate 99.9% of pathogens that pass through the system.

Another supplemental sanitizer is Ozone. Ozone, or O₃, is a powerful oxidizer that is generated on-site with an Ozone generator. After Ozone gas is generated it is injected into the pool return plumbing where it oxidizes organic materials and inactivates harmful pathogens. As with all systems, proper sizing, installation and maintenance are critical to the effectiveness of Ozone as a supplemental sanitizer.

Supplemental sanitizers are here to stay. Expertly designed systems can help prevent Recreational Water Illnesses and reduce chemical usage. ■■



BioGuard's UV Supplemental Sanitizing Unit

All pools and water features in this publication are exclusive designs built by Custom Pools and Patio.

For more information about topics or to find out more about us feel free to contact us at **208.345.2792**. Or visit us at custompoolsandpatio.com

who's who



Scott Pahl CSP
Vice President/Construction Director

As one of the most experienced pool builders in the Northwest, Scott Pahl is the 'go-to' authority on soil issues, hydraulics, electrical system designs, as well as concrete integrity questions for not only Custom Pools & Patio, but many other builders in southern Idaho.

Scott began constructing pools in 1979. About his early years he says, "Although I got my start building vinyl pools for Custom Pools, I also had the opportunity to help with gunite pool construction. I was so amazed with the whole gunite process, I committed myself to the industry and the technology that drives it."

As a member of the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP) Builder's Council, Scott chaired the nationwide Builder's Education site for 2 years. According to Pahl, "This was an excellent opportunity to raise the bar of pool construction, at the national level." During that time he set up educational venues and developed hands on demonstrations for pool contractors nationwide. In addition to those efforts Scott has helped develop industry standards for excavation safety and gunite installation.

In addition to holding a degree in electronics, Scott has, in his words, "...been through a graduate course at the school of bumps and bruises." Scott has attended numerous technical and business related courses and was the first person in Idaho to obtain the Certified Building Professional credentials from the APSP.

When asked about Custom Pools Pahl comments, "I have really enjoyed working with Bill and Steve Chandler over the years. What I like is that you can look your customers in the eye knowing they got the best pool we could build!"



Now you see it, now you don't

water artistry




We have all seen pictures of a magnificent pool overlooking an ocean or a lake, giving the impression of an endless water space. Sometimes the view beyond will be from a hillside over a brilliantly lit city with the edge of the pool defined by the lights below.

'Vanishing Edge', 'Infinity Edge', or 'Negative Edge', whatever you choose to call it, what grabs your attention is water without boundaries; where there is no end to the imagination, and the edge of a backyard is the horizon.



An Infinity Edge pool can be visually dramatic even without an ocean or a spectacular hillside setting. Set the drama beyond the water with lush landscape or simply view such as golf course, wetlands or desert. The reflections from surrounding trees and flowers will enhance any living space.

An often hidden feature of the Infinity Edge pool is the view from the other side. The water can flow at rates to create a full waterfall effect or a simple wet wall look. A sitting area on the lower side of the pool might enjoy the splashing sound of the water falling over the edge. The sound can be adjusted by varying the volume of water projected over the edge.

All of this visual artistry is made possible by close attention to the hydraulic details of the project. With the popularity of Infinity Edge pools on the rise, it's crucial that the vessels are precisely designed. Properly sized equipment and installation of plumbing will ensure this is the dream you envisioned. 

An infinity edge takes a pool far past its limits and boundaries to distant vistas.

The art of custom creations

waterscape design, a new specialty

I have worked as a landscape architect for the last 32 years and most recently the design and construction of waterscapes has been my specialty. I have recognized that the introduction of water is no longer just an element, but an art form which in most instances is the primary focal point of the overall landscape. They are technically challenging works of art that demand great attention to detail.

Pools, spas, fountains, streams and other waterscape elements of today are not just components of the landscape, but are the heart and movement of the design. I design waterscapes with this objective in mind. An increasing number of design professionals and developers are seeking out landscape architects who specialize in waterscape design so that the overall intent is communicated from concept to completion.

As a professional waterscape designer, I am able to provide plans detailing materials, construction specifications and detailed plans for plumbing and equipment layout. To accomplish this I use AutoCAD. I have found that detailed AutoCAD drawings are a necessary so that the design intent is not lost or confused as plans are transferred between design professionals and the contractor in the field. Ultimately, the waterscape designer or specialized landscape architect must have the ability to communicate to the client their ideas. AutoCAD and three dimensional drawings (computer generated and hand drawn) are tools I utilize to express those ideas. I do this so that the client's expectations are met when the project is completed.

The demand to integrate art and technology into the landscapes and waterscapes of our backyards and work places has grown tremendously. It is easy to recognize that waterscape design calls for a highly skilled, specialized, professional designer who can carryout the overall plan.



Bill Dial ASLA, RLA

