



## the life aquatic

Carve out an idyllic backyard spot to wet your feet and enjoy the landscape

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**Water. It is a symbol of well-being** and tranquility. People travel the globe to see it lap against rocky shorelines and crystalline beaches. But, legions of water lovers are staying home, making their own property a private oasis—complete with shapely water features, masonry,

classic statues, and elegant gardens—where a step outside approaches an instant vacation.

Once, building any old in-ground pool was enough to make a family the talk of the neighborhood. That's when pools were just stark chlorinated ponds with a

plain concrete deck. Today's water-loving homeowners seek customization, greater architectural detail, and fewer headaches along the way.

Whatever shape and decorative motif you choose for your pool, harmony is the key. "Each project is an interpreta-

tion of that particular client’s dream, and how the landscape and swimming pool fit the property,” says Chris Cipriano, president of Cipriano Landscape Design in Ramsey.

An effectively designed pool plays off the character of a property and reflects the owner’s taste and entertaining style. So, if you want to accentuate your home’s dramatic lines, you might consider a geometric waterway instead of freeform, with tiles around the perimeter instead of earthy stonework.

Some landscaping companies simplify the process of creating a functional and unified outdoor refuge by also designing and building swimming pools. “We started out as a landscape design-build firm. The customization of pools evolved into a main repertoire of our work,” says Cipriano, who explains that

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he expanded his company to avoid planning conflicts he encountered during collaborations with pool builders.

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