

Not Your Father's Swimming Pool

Transform your yard into a peaceful oasis.

By Susan Kehoe, Ph.D.



The transformation. Bottom right: The home before a new pool was installed by Gillette Brothers.

A swimming pool in your backyard transforms your house into an “estate.” Just the thought of relaxing at your own pool has the power to transport you to a meditative place in the midst of a busy day.

Gillette Brothers Pool and Spa (gillettebrothers.com) has been the premier pool and spa builder in our area for 25 years. As a family-owned business, it specializes in every aspect of pool construction, service and maintenance.

According to the Gillette Brothers, “People are now making their homes their ‘forever places.’ Instead of buying a new house, they are investing money in their backyard to create an extension of their lifestyle. Family dinners become more fundamental because the entire family loves to go outside and eat together.

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Gillette Brothers' award-winning pool.



French chateau courtyard with submerged hot tub and vanishing edge.

Adding a fireplace and TV area with the pool is the biggest trend in outdoor living; the family can watch football games in the fall and hold parties around the pool almost year-round.”

“Before” and “after” photos show the transformation of an older home in Royal Oak into an outdoor living space including a raised terrace and a covered room with fireplace and TV. A pebble stone surface that’s durable for the climate and stain-resistant finishes the new 24- by 45-foot pool. Sparkling glass beads and seashells cover the entire surface of the pool, providing a smooth, non-slip surface instead of older-style pool tile.

Gillette has won *Detroit Home* Pool and Spa awards with designs that have something for everyone. In the photo on top of this page, basketball hoops are stationed at the side of the pool and fountain foam jets spring from a tanning shelf, where children like to play in

the 6 to 8 inches of water. The pergola offers ringside seats for lounging and watching the activities.

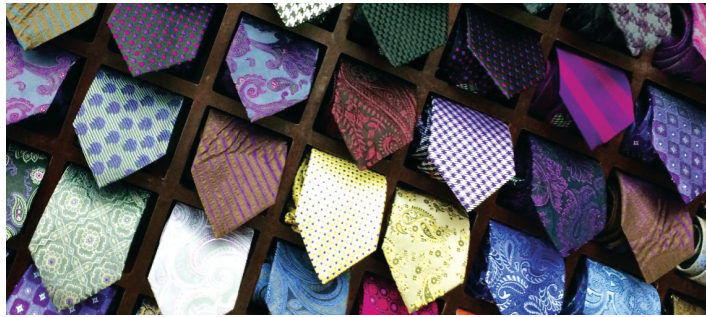
In an enchanting French chateau-style courtyard in the photo above, Gillette designed a multi-level hot tub submerged into the pool. As in many high-end installations, the hot tub heats to a comfortable 104 degrees — without heating the rest of the pool to that temperature. Stacked pebble at its vanishing edge provides a lovely view from the far side.

In today’s modern pool technology, mobile devices control low-voltage LED lighting, temperature and other functions. The state-of-the art purification systems consist of ultraviolet light and ozone to kill bacteria. A salt chlorine generator uses food-grade salt to match the saline level of the body. In other words, you swim in water that is the same as the tear-

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Detroit Home's 2015 first-place Design Award to Anderson Custom Pools for Residential Swimming Pool/Spa.

drops in your eyes. The days of red eyes and green hair from swimming pool chlorine are gone.

Gillette has a large maintenance department caring for 300 pools a week. An in-house design center and showroom are conveniently located near the Michigan Design Center in Troy. There they will demonstrate the features and discuss today's unique designs that look nothing like "your father's swimming pool." With Gillette Brothers' assistance, you can create the outdoor living aesthetic that's perfect for your home and family.

BACKYARD LIVING

Keith Anderson of Anderson Custom Pools in Rochester (andersoncustompools.com) says, "Some people extend their backyard living experience year-round by keeping the pool open with the

water set at 88 degrees."

Anderson, partnering with Mocerri Custom Homes, achieved first place in *Detroit Home's* 2015 Design Awards for Residential Swimming Pool/Spa. It provided the defining feature for a stunning home created by Mocerri. The 600-square-foot gunite pool with a vanishing edge sends streams of water resembling colorful glass rods across the pool.

Homeowners sometimes build pools for their grandchildren to enjoy, such as one adorned with colorful tiles, shooting bubblers and a slide. Although the slide is reminiscent of a sculpture, Anderson explained that the swirling plastic and steel frame has tubular sides to prevent tumbling off during the fast ride down. The children can

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A pool and spa for grandchildren and adults.



The spa spills over all four sides like a champagne glass overflowing.

even float under the “drawbridge” of a “moat” and wave to the adults relaxing in the hot tub “castle.”

Another homeowner, who purchased the lot next door for the purpose of creating a 6,000-square-foot garage and pool house, enlisted Anderson to build a pool in the courtyard. Along with the large pool, they supplied a vanishing edge spa that spills over all four sides like a champagne glass overflowing.

Anderson says homeowners who entertain are beginning to ask for fire features within water features, undoubtedly a mesmerizing sight in the evening with flames that can leap as high as eight feet. The fire bowl sits on a platform only three-eighths of an inch above the water on a circular pool with a vanishing edge circumference. At night, the installation appears to be a floating body of fire and water.

Anderson and his wife, Janet,

love what they do, and the small family-run company offers an unprecedented level of attention to its customers: “We’re a small company that specializes in making our customers happy.” **NS**

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