


YOUR GUIDE TO THE

Cooler of the Cool in Pool and Spa Design

A half-dozen
pool and
spa trends
that will redefine
the way you
enjoy your

**South
Florida
outdoor
living
space.**

REEF TROPICAL
POOL & LANDSCAPE



Your pool and spa is the focal point of your outdoor living space, the center of recreation and entertainment. The inviting sight and sound of water sets the tone for relaxation—you're transported to your favorite place in the world. The views of your pool from inside the home are equally valuable.

In South Florida, an exquisitely designed pool and spa with luxury features is within reach. At [Reef Tropical](#), we specialize in delivering that perfect pool and spa experience to clients who want the coolest of the cool. They ask for the latest tile materials, and they want convenience, with automated technology that activates lights and the heater from their mobile devices. They want a [stunning pool/spa environment](#) that they are proud of as a centerpiece of their Florida home.

So, what's your pleasure? An exotic infinity edge, 360-degree deck level pool water or a sleek waterfall? How about acrylic glass that allows you to see through a pool wall and into the vista beyond? Or, a remote-controlled LED lighting that can evolve into a colorful show. The sophisticated tiling, finishes and technology available today combine to create a completely cool pool and spa space that's second to none.

Read on for seven [pool and spa design](#) trends you should know about before you begin a new pool project or pool renovation.



Pool and Spa Automation: Convenience, Control and Cost Savings

Imagine a twilight party by your pool. The sun sets, guests are enjoying the views, lounge seating and poolside cocktails. You open an app on your smart phone and activate bubblers with LED lighting activate streams of blue, green, yellow and pink water. You adjust the sound system and turn on the fire pit with the same app. Your guests are impressed, and the whole scene looks like magic.

It's reality with full automation of your outdoor environment, including the pool and spa automation. Automation gives you the control and flexibility to manage pool settings with the click of an app on your phone, tablet or computer. Plus, you gain peace of mind knowing you can manage pool settings when you're not at home. (Flying in from out of town? You can activate the pool heater and get the water ready for your return.)

From a functional standpoint, pool automation can allow your maintenance provider access to the master controls to monitor efficiency, sanitation and filtration.

What's really hot now is chemical automation, which helps keep swimming pool water perfectly balanced. Gradual release of chemicals can be programmed. So, you can keep chemicals at a lower level because the chemicals are being monitored and adjusted on a 24/7 basis. This means more comfortable water that is less irritating to eyes and skin. The system needs to be monitored, periodically adjusted and supplemented with chemicals.



How does pool automation work?

It involves a master control, where software is downloaded in order to operate pool equipment. The pool owner gets an app to use like a dashboard for controlling pool and spa features. Operating your pool is literally as simple as the tap of your finger.

You can control [pool and spa](#) equipment from home or while you are away. That includes:

- ◇ Automating your entire outdoor environment, from the fire pit and sound system to your home security and pool/spa
- ◇ Creating a dramatic mood for house parties and special events, or relaxing evenings poolside
- ◇ Automating daily pool equipment functions like filtration, sanitation and cleaning
- ◇ Chemical automation to create more comfortable water that stays balanced
- ◇ Controlling up to 32 pool and spa features
- ◇ Integrating pool and spa automation into your home automation system



Tiling Trends: Achieving Sophistication and Longevity

Tiling is sophisticated and creative. If you can dream it, you can do it with today's cutting-edge pool tile materials and designs. Glow-in-the-dark pool tiles placed throughout the tile design can create a dynamic view at night. Why not create a design of the constellations in this tile? Once the sun sets, you'll see the universe within the still, glasslike water.

Custom colored tile allows you to create a color that complements your home, outdoor furniture or the views. (Think: tiling with variegated blue sand greens that match the ocean's color palette.) You can custom blend a tile by saying, "I want 5% yellow, 20% blue, 50% purple," and so on, in order to create a color all your own. You'll never see the same tile in another person's pool when you customize this way.

Beyond custom-blended colors, you can design patterns and have tile placed to create words, such as names. Your pool floor can be transformed into a work of art with tile color, design and pattern. The possibilities are endless.

You know a high-quality tile because it appears flawless and has a vibrant glimmering sheen that catches the eye. Tile should clean up easily and stays intact in spite of being constantly submerged and subjected to chemicals and the underlying water table pressure. Quality tile lasts for decades. Pool tile installed properly lends a pool the "wow factor" that makes the final project look like a luxury setting on a magazine cover. And, today's pebble sheen is much smoother to the touch, so it's pleasant to walk on and has a longer life expectancy.





Acrylic Glass Pool Sides— Revealing the Views Beyond

Including acrylic glass in a pool's side gives you a window to what lies beyond the pool's edge. Wade in your pool while watching the sun sink into the ocean at dusk. Or, take in views from your outdoor entertainment space—gaze at a glowing fire pit from the pool. You can create an open flow between your entertainment space and pool/spa area with an acrylic glass pool side.

With this design, acrylic glass is installed as a window surrounded on four sides by concrete. Or, acrylic glass can be used as an infinity edge spillway into a spa, providing a cool view of the spa space, especially when it is lit at night. Also, acrylic glass can be implemented in conjunction with an infinity edge, cutting away the concrete so you can see views. For owners of oceanfront properties, they can swim and see the beach from inside the pool. Keep in mind, the

views beyond your pool don't have to be exotic to warrant an acrylic glass side. Just as many pool owners enjoy views of their own gardens and property with this revealing effect. Plus, the acrylic side adds a sleek effect to the pool that's stunning and makes a big impression on guests.



Aquatic Consultants, Inc.



Deck Level Reflective Value Sets the Mood



Pools can offer serene reflective value, an effect achieved when water captures “images” of surrounding trees and architectural features. Reflective value adds elegance and pure, calm beauty to the pool/spa environment. Think of it as creating a cool, glass surface that allows you to see the elegant shape of surrounding palm trees, the glow of a setting sun or the warm blaze from a fire pit in your entertainment space.

Enhanced value is created by elevating the pool water to the deck level—so, no stepping down into the pool. The water’s edge is on a parallel plane with the deck. (You’ll see this in high-end resorts and exclusive club venues.) What you’re essentially getting is a four-sided infinity pool, otherwise referred to as a 360-degree wet edge pool or “perimeter overflow.”

To accomplish this effect, pool construction must account for the water that will flow over the perimeter overflow edge and filter back into the pool system. (Picture someone jumping into the pool and making waves, and that water flowing over into a knife-edge that allows water to drop down below to an independent pool circulation system that cycles and returns water to the pool. Two separate pool systems, pumps and filters are necessary for a properly functioning perimeter overflow pool with a deck-level edge. This pool design is not for beginner installers. It takes technology, craftsmanship and sophisticated design expertise to pull off this enchanting knife-edge.



The NEW Infinity Edge Pool

You know about the classic [infinity edge](#), a way of opening up the views beyond your pool and making the water appear to drop off into the horizon. Today, there are many ways to treat an infinity edge, and the “new” modern edge includes an infinity effect connecting the pool and spa.

Picture relaxing in the spa, listening to the tranquil sound of spilling water pouring from an infinity edge into the connected pool area. It basically creates a waterfall in the pool, and lighting can enhance the effect.

The new infinity edge designs add an artistic touch to the pool and spa environment, giving it true resort appeal.



Pool and Spa Water Features: Waterfalls and Jets

Imagine a sleek sheet of water creating an arched ribbon that drops into your South Florida swimming pool. Or, slender streams that loop up and create a dramatic, sculptural impact with water. Today's waterfalls go far beyond the old rock outcroppings with water gurgling down a mossy trail. (We actually avoid using rock-based waterfalls in pools.)

Waterfalls today come with variable speed pumps that allow you to control the flow, so you not only gain the energy efficiency of the technology but the splash power to create different effects. For example, you can opt for a rain descent or sheer descent. You can turn off the waterfall completely and enjoy a pool's reflective value, or flip a switch and activate jets to enjoy the splashing sound of water drops hitting the swimming pool surface. Laminar jets can be installed flush with a pool deck so water pops up like a spiral with the press of a button.



Design a New Pool and Spa, or Renovate An Existing Pool?



For every taste and budget there are cool pool and spa design options that personalize your water environment. The question is, will you start a project from scratch or [renovate an existing pool](#) and spa?

Property owners who already have a pool must weigh this option, and it's wise to consult with a pool contractor that can conduct a thorough analysis of your pool's structural integrity. If you add cool pool features to a compromised foundation, that's like putting pretty icing on stale cake. You want to protect the investment you make in your pool/space area, which means getting a good warranty and hiring experienced professionals to do design and install the pool.

Renovation projects can be tricky when the pool base is not sound, and therefore any failures that occur are not covered by warranty. That said, we accomplish successful pool renovation projects frequently by stabilizing and improving existing infrastructure.

With renovation, keep in mind: Just like a home makeover show you'd watch on HGTV, you could end up finding expensive problems behind the scenes that you'll pay to fix in an old pool before you can renovate it. Sometimes, starting from scratch is the best investment. A pool professional at Reef Tropical can walk you through the decision process.



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Let's Design Your World-Class South Florida Pool and Spa Today!

We are inspired by the cutting-edge technology, wide array of tiling materials, and sleek design options that can create a truly [luxury pool and spa](#) in your outdoor living space.

Stop dreaming and get started!

Call Reef Tropical at 305.367.2005, or fill out this simple [contact form](#) and we'll get in touch with you.