



# Making a Splash

*This pool company specializes in creative design*

BY KELLY RAE SMITH

Ever notice how one sniff of a swimming pool can jog a mind back to cheery childhood memories? That chlorine scent has been known to conjure up visions of playing in the neighbors' pool after school, or of the beachfront hotel your family stayed in that one summer. Building a pool that will be loved and remembered for years to come involves a great deal more than simply filling a hole in the ground with water. For people like Clint Fore of Aqua Blue Pools, it involves really getting to know his clients—and continuing a commitment to service that originated with his father.

"It all started back in 1991 with my dad, Earl," Fore says, "and I've pretty much been around it my entire life. I went along with him growing up, so it's a part of me and my childhood for sure."

Because of his lifelong association with Aqua Blue Pools, Clint Fore, now vice president of sales and marketing, says that no matter the title, he is drawn into every aspect of the business. And he knows the importance of every detail. "It's not just about the pool design," he says. "It's about everything around it. The design needs to be based on the house: What does it look like? What kind

of architecture is it? What's the space like outside? Is it natural? What kind of art hangs in the house—is it from the 1800s or the 1950s? All of this influences the design."

But that's not all. The colors of the house, tiles and deck must be in harmony. Fore even looks at the fence—is it linear or curved? From installing a simple pool and deck to completely redesigning a backyard landscape, Fore and his colleagues embrace it all.

Aqua Blue Pools, one of only 100 elite members of the Master Pools Guild, is currently overseeing several inventive projects, including the Southeast's first pool



with a movable floor. “The pool can be four feet deep or it can look like there’s no pool there,” Fore says. “It can be the level of the deck, and you don’t even see any water—the floor lowers into the water and the water comes up around the sides and around the top.” Another unique project, currently in the design phase, is a pool that will be constructed—in whole or in part—of acrylic glass. Such a pool can be viewed from the floor below, or even from the sides. Finally, the rooftop courtyard of a new boutique apartment in downtown Charleston will feature the restful sounds of splashing fountains, including, of course, ones that fall into the swimming pool!

Examples of other popular designs built by the company are a free-form pool constructed in Dunes West. Making use of a large, open space, Fore blends the curvaceous pool and its deck with the surrounding marsh. The infinity pool is another leading design, first conceptualized at Versailles in

#### GUILD OF DREAMS

The Master Pools Guild is an international group of over 100 master pool builders from Guatemala to Australia. Becoming a member is a great honor because few contractors qualify. Aqua Blue Pools and all other members must abide by a strict code of ethics to remain as elite members of the guild. Aqua Blue is Charleston’s only guild member.

the 1600s and now seen at exotic resorts around the world. Here, the pool appears to vanish into the horizon (i.e., to extend to infinity). “Views that overlook the marsh, waterways or ocean—they’re all prime for the infinity pool,” Fore says. “Having an infinity pool doubles as having the most incredible water feature right out of your back door. Infinity pools must be built within a separate supporting structure and elevated out of the ground to get the effect

of water falling over the edge of the pool wall.”

No matter the design, Aqua Blue Pools relishes making its unique client base happy by doing everything possible to meet their expectations. Whether the client wants to cool off in a million-dollar pool or a \$35,000 one, Fore assures it’s no sweat: “The crews we have building a high-end pool for our clients at Kiawah are the same people we have building a tiny fiberglass pool,” he says. “The quality is there no matter what type of pool we’re building.” ➦

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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