



FOR TWO BERGEN COUNTY TRIATHLETES, HAVING A LAP LANE IN THEIR NEW SWIMMING POOL WAS ESSENTIAL.

They also wanted the pool to be suitable for their young children and to work well when they entertain. Their wish list included an outdoor seating area with a fireplace and television.

All that should have been easy to achieve but, as often happens, local ordinances impacted the design. Setback issues and other regulations limited the

amount of space that could be used for the project.

“The challenge was to give the clients what they wanted” says Craig Bagin, vice president of B&B Pool and Spa Center in Chestnut Ridge, New York, which designed and built the pool. “We had to give them a lot of bang for their buck.”

The first step was to meet with the clients. The



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POOL B&B POOL AND SPA CENTER

Limited Space, Unlimited Pleasure

Bergen County homeowners get their wish for a multipurpose swimming pool

The backyard incorporates many features in a tight area. The pool has a lap lane; a sundeck covered with 18 inches of water, making it a popular place for children to play and for adults to sunbathe in the water; and a spa conveniently located next to a cabana complete with a gas fireplace and outdoor television. The bluestone surround that ties the area to the terrace is treated to guard against slipping.



company's landscape architect, Mike Hartnett, visited the family on several occasions to confer on the design. "I wanted to give them something they could use," he says.

He also was careful to observe the style of the home. "I made sure to see the inside of the house where they were comfortable so I could establish that outside."

The result is a compact design that incorporates features such as a shallow sun deck for the children as well as the lap lane specifically for adult use.

OUTDOOR LIVING

Hartnett situated the cabana to the left of a generous pool deck leading from the terrace to the pool. By partially wrapping the pool around the cabana, Hartnett was able to give the clients the lengthy lap lane they wanted while retaining a roomy space for less energetic swimmers. The wide pool deck provides a spot for lounge chairs or a small table and chairs.

The cabana has a seating area and a gas fireplace topped with an outdoor television. The roof is an all-weather fabric that's also used on the curtains that enclose the sides when the sun is too bright or the weather a bit inclement. The canvas roof, which can be removed in winter, was dictated by local regulations. A conventional roof would have required a variance.

To keep the area within the legal limits, Hartnett used narrow bluestone coping around the pool. The effect is a natural feel that is enhanced by also having the fire pit set into the lush lawn. "The fire pit is a real nighttime thing," says Hartnett, a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. "It also extends the season. On chilly nights you can still sit outside." The pool area is also outfitted with two large heaters that come in handy in cooler weather (the couple often use the lap lanes in late fall and early spring).

Bagin is proud of what was achieved. "It is unique," he says of the sleek design. "It looks great in the yard." **DMJ**

SOURCES overall design and construction, B&B Pool and Spa Center, Chestnut Ridge, New York.