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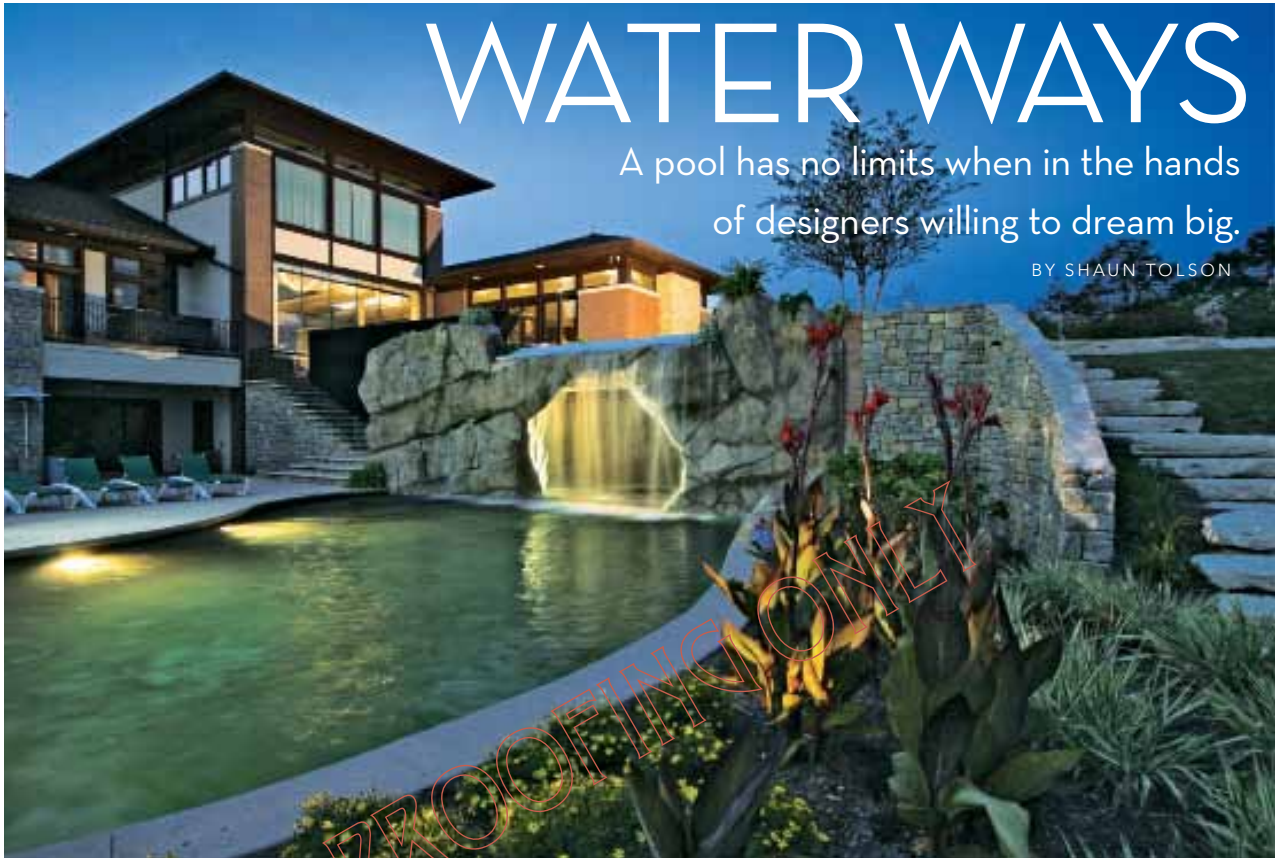
SPECTACULAR POOLS

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WATER WAYS

A pool has no limits when in the hands of designers willing to dream big.

BY SHAUN TOLSON



GOING WITH THE FLOW

When it comes to pool construction and design, it is not uncommon for a structurally sound and aesthetically pleasing pool to fade into the abyss of hundreds—if not thousands—of similar designs. But with this Cincinnati project, built by *Shehan Pools* (www.shehanpools.com), it takes only one glance at the massive, 14-foot-high grotto to understand how this 44-by-22-foot pool distinguishes itself. That grotto—constructed from 2-foot-thick walls of concrete and faux rock—is equipped with fiber-optic cables in the ceiling (which, when lit, resemble stars) and also color-changing LED lights around the perimeter. A surround-sound audio system and wiring for a flat-screen television further transform the grotto's spa area into an entertaining destination. But the grotto, which is punctuated by a cascading waterfall, also is connected to the home through a concealed door, which allows the homeowners to enjoy the spa even during the winter. “You can bring more entertaining elements to the pool,” says Bob Shehan, vice president of Shehan Pools, explaining that doing so doesn’t always carry with it an exorbitant additional cost. “People are spending more time at home and putting more money into their home and traveling less. We’re building their vacation in their backyard.”

While the interior of the grotto is well-equipped for entertaining, it is the expansive waterfall partially concealing it that has become a signature element of many Shehan Pools

designs. A thin stream meanders through a Zen garden above the grotto and connects with a shallow, vanishing-edge pool that empties out over the grotto’s entrance, creating a steady flow of water, which Shehan believes adds an element of serenity to the scene. “Water is an art,” he says. “It’s very tranquil and very soothing, and part of what we do in our designing stages is to get water [moving] at different elevations for that soothing sound.”

Approximate cost: \$700,000



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