


Finding Paradise



Similar in style to the main house and surrounded by natural yet formal landscaping, the pool house looks as if it were original to the Tudor-style home.

For many, spending time in and around the pool is an indelible part of summertime memories. Whether round, rectangular, oval or free-form, a pool is much more than a man-made basin of water; it's a personal paradise for relaxing and entertaining.

Here, we show you six distinctive pools. Some are paired with custom-crafted pool houses, while others are nestled into lush oases of tropical foliage. Whether overlooking a sweeping river view, tucked into a bustling downtown neighborhood or smack-dab in the center of suburbia, these backyard retreats prove that finding paradise might be easier than you think.



BACKYARD BLISS

The simple, rectangular pool is framed by bluestone pavers, lending natural elegance to the outdoor setting. Weathered wooden furniture blends with the bluestone, practically disappearing into the landscape.

Originally drawn to their Little Rock home by its expansive river view and secluded, woody setting, a busy family of six gradually realized that their hectic schedules were preventing them from taking full advantage of their home's natural assets. Turning to Brooks Pool Company and Jack Hartsell Construction for help, they set out to create a pool and pool house that would blend seamlessly into the landscape, maximize the home's surroundings and provide plenty of space to relax and entertain family and friends.

While the home's natural setting was key to the design of the new living spaces, the family also wanted to foster visual continuity between the new pool house and the primary residence, a 1928 Tudor-style home. To keep the pool house from looking out of place, Hartsell incorporated materials into the construction of the new structure that were similar to those used in the main house, such as a brick exterior and limestone floors. To further mirror the look of the original house, craftsman Joe Murdaugh created a "weeping" mortar effect on the pool house's brick facade.

In order to enhance rather than compete with the traditional styling of the main house and pool house, Brooks Pool Company constructed a classic, rectangular pool surrounded with bluestone pavers. Landscaping by Adrienne Taylor of The Nature Company contributes to the secluded feel of the pool and pool house while deferring to the property's spectacular river view.

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A reupholstered love seat and burlap-covered chairs provide comfortable yet refined seating in the greatroom, which is outfitted with a full-service kitchen to simplify poolside entertaining.



JASON MASTERS, NOLA STUDIOS

Designed to blend with the home's exterior and give the pool a distinctive look, a natural-stone fountain empties into the crystal-blue pool.



ELEGANT ESCAPE

The Landers had one primary request when it came to the exterior of their newly constructed Hickory Hills home: the addition of a pool. According to Sandy Landers, a pool would provide the family with ample space for exercise and outdoor entertaining.

In addition to helping the Landers design and furnish their home's interior, Mary Norman of Interiors by Mary assisted in the design of the outdoor living spaces, as well. With Norman's guidance, the Landers selected the shape of the pool and natural-stone decking that complemented the home's exterior. Brooks Pool Company then translated their vision into reality.

To further enhance the casual elegance of the pool area, Norman designed an enchanting natural-stone fountain, which features a stately lion's head flanked with large urns. Landscaped with a verdant mix of tropics, perennials and annuals by Kevin Grisham of Growing Concerns, the end result is a natural retreat that allows the Landers to get away from it all without ever leaving home.



Perfect for summertime get-togethers, the Landers' pool area is highlighted with natural-stone decking, blooming plants and an array of outdoor furnishings.