

Inspired Creations

Dave Penton, founder and owner of Fluid Dynamics Pool & Spa is a perfectionist—and proud of it. He insists that he and his staff—from those who clean the pool to those who put the finishing touches on a show-stopper—perform their craft with single-mindedness. “I only hire trusted subcontractors with whom I have a long-standing relationship,” says Penton. “I want to make sure that a job is done flawlessly, which is more important to me than being a large firm building a lot of mediocre pools.”

Penton started his business in 1992 as a high-end service and repair company, and subsequently became an expert at fixing older pool equipment. Over the years, however, he realized that he had a talent for designing and building pools and spas as well. Today, his firm does it all: Fluid Dynamics develops, constructs, renovates, and maintains watershapes of all sizes and styles. “Whatever your desires may be, we have the staff capable of accomplishing the task,” says Penton.

As a gold member of Genesis 3 Design Group, Penton constantly takes classes to learn new techniques and technology. Presently, he is quite interested in “greening” pools and is developing an energy-efficient poolscape that has a reduced carbon footprint. “Our most recent project uses only 120 watts of electricity, yet it flows a ton of water,” explains Penton. “We are studying our hydraulic systems to see how we can create them to be low-impact yet incredibly efficient.”

With a background in mathematics, Penton approaches every pool project in a logical and well-thought out manner. “Because my strengths lie in the technical aspects and details of pool building,” says Penton, “I am intimately involved in every project.” The strategy works: He recently entered his first awards contest, and took first place for best new residential spa. ❖

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This inviting scene consists of a freeform pool with all natural stone and tumbled paver decking, a large barbecue and outdoor kitchen, and a sitting area. The magnificent fireplace integrates stacked ledgerstone, flagstone, and pavers to tie the project together. *Designed by landscape architect Kathryn Rue of the Rue Group, Inc.*



A classic Spanish home was the inspiration for this colorful 9-foot by 15-foot swim spa that fits snugly in a small terraced garden. Designed by Terry Design, Inc., and landscape architect Alison C. Terry to mimic a fountain, the watershape is crafted entirely of imported hand-painted Mexican clay tile. *Photograph © Christian R. Terry*



Once an ugly duckling, this delightful oasis is the focal point of the backyard's total redo. In-house designers added a beach entry, natural stone, and a sun shelf to create a resort ambiance, while also including a wet wall along the deep end to provide the pleasant tones of running water.