

On Design

MAKING A SPLASH

by Heide Aungst, managing editor



The Hyatt Regency-Scottsdale doesn't have a swimming pool. A 1/2-acre "water extravaganza" is more like it. Landscape architects SWA Group of Sausalito, Calif. worked closely with hotel architects Howard Fields and Associates of Sausalito and Hornberger, Worstell and Associates of San Francisco in designing the \$3.8 million water playground in the middle of Arizona's desert. Date palms averaging 30 feet in height surround the pool area, adding a touch of green to the blue oasis. More than 300 date palms can be found on the hotel's eight landscaped acres. Turf under the palms is a combination of bluegrass, fescue and rye. The boxes next to the pool hold California pepper trees. While guests take a dip, they can watch others playing golf at the 27-hole Gainey Ranch Golf Club. Bill Callaway, principal of SWA Group, says drainage is the biggest consideration in planting around pool areas. "Chlorine kills the plants if it gets on them," Callaway says. "You have to put drains in the deck area to take the water away." The hotel was completed in December 1986.



The Peridian Group landscape architects took two different approaches to the pools at the Ritz Carlton, Laguna Niguel, Calif. Towering Mexican fan and queen palms highlight the South pool area. Various annuals, such as blue salvia or snapdragons, are rotated to provide accents of color under the palms. Pool paving includes scored, colored concrete in a large pattern to complement the size of the pool area. The architects also installed Grasscrete paving to provide fire access around the pool.

Peridian designed the North pool area (inset) as a tree canopied garden using rusty leaf figs (*ficus rubiginosa*), California sycamores, podocarpus gracillior and tabebuia. Turf is a Marathon sod of various fescues. Flowers include impatiens and bedding begonias. The unique irregular shaped pool paving was quarried in Mexico. Peridian Group completed the project in summer 1984.



Preserving the wooded atmosphere of this home in Oyster Bay, N.Y. was the goal of designer/installer Alley Pond Nurseries Huntington, Inc. of Dix Hills, N.Y. The firm built the pool deck around existing trees, including redbuds, weeping hemlock and birch. They accomplished this by changing the grade at one end of the pool to accommodate a low retaining wall of ties supporting the deck. The design won a 1986 National Landscape Association's "Superior Award." Judges cited the different levels created by the steps as an important design element adding interest to the deck. The waterfall in the pool allows homeowners to hear water at all times.



The owners of this Fort Lauderdale, Fla. residence and pool removed all plant materials during extensive home renovations. Landscape architect J. Roland Lieber of Naples, Fla. and installers Friends Landscape Inc. of Fort Lauderdale created an illusion of privacy with plant materials. They did this by designing planter areas and raised planter boxes around and in the pool. In the boxes they planted Alexander palms, bougainvillea, self-heading philodendron, liriopse, asparagus fern and carissa. Lieber won a 1986 National Landscape Association "Superior Award" for successfully restoring the property's lush vegetation.