Vanishing Edge Pools by Chris Hall

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Bridgehampton - The Hamptons Real Estate professional is called upon to have a wider and wider breadth of knowledge. When the time comes for your client to build their dream swimming pool it is wise to know the popular terms and what goes into the proper construction of correctly engineered pool.

One of the more beautiful choices available to someone planning to build a new Gunite pool is the infinity or vanishing edge. A vanishing edge swimming pool has multiple distinctive characteristics. As the name suggests, a vanishing edge pool has at least one end of the pool that appears as though it is vanishing into the horizon. The reflective nature of the pool and the adding of sound to the landscape are added benefits. Often on the other side of the vanishing edge is a waterfall that can add to the beauty of the landscape. The sound of the water and the soothing beauty of the setting are added benefits.

When it is done properly, an infinity edge lives up to its name. Many believe that a vanishing edge swimming pool is best suited for homes with elevations with breathtaking views. In our area, I have seen dozens of pools where one side seems to vanishing into the ocean or a bay. However, challenging landscapes and a property with multiple grade changes are also perfect opportunities to create man-made beauty that exists side by side with nature's beauty.

The sight line of the pool, the precise nature of the construction, the timing and speed of the circulating water are only a few of the factors that go into building an infinity edge pool properly. And, there is only one way to build this type of pool; properly.

When building this type of pool, knowing who to talk to and what questions to ask is of the utmost importance. Assist your client in taking the time to find a qualified swimming pool professional. This type of construction is an art and a learned skill. The elevation of the pool, the precise nature of the construction, the timing and speed of the circulating water are only a few of the factors that go into building an infinity edge pool correctly.

An important key to the success of a vanishing edge pool is correct hydraulic design. A poorly constructed vanishing edge pool can lead to excessive energy consumption, poor operation, pump failure, flooding problems, insufficient water volume, and catastrophic structural failure.

To find a top notch swimming pool builder, you will need to do your homework. Fortunately, there are many tools at your disposal as you do your research. The website of prospective pool builders in your area will tout qualifications, certifications and experience. Checking these qualifications is also worth your time. It is imperative that you inquire with leading professional organizations; such as the highly regarded Genesis 3 Design Group, the National Association of Home Builders and the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP). The highly qualified pool builder should also be licensed by your town, receive regular training and know the importance of a pool that is properly engineered.

In addition to finding the right pool builder, a swimming pool specific engineer should also be employed. The finer pool companies have strong affiliations with this type of engineer.

Often an affordable increase in what you will spend on a traditional swimming pool, the vanishing edge adds dimensions of beauty and functionality that is well worth the investment. Do not be fooled into thinking that a higher price tag means that you are guaranteed quality. As I've mentioned,

looking for a pool builder is worth the research and pays off in the timeless investment you are about to make. It is also important to meet your builder and ask him if he will be on site, doing the work with his own employees and equipment.

Very few Gunite pool builders are qualified to properly construct a pool of substance and function. Many pools are custom designed to your lifestyle and backyard; it is clear that a vanishing edge pool is something that only a few contractors can perfect.

The construction of a high end pool is not as simple as "just add water." Ultimately, the homeowner will be the person in charge of this project, and the real estate professional can help suggest the proper team. Fortunately, the team will assist you in building a swimming pool that has the precise equation of hydrologic criteria, a pool that is aesthetically pleasing and functional at the highest level. The process is an investment of time as well as money. You will enjoy your creation for many, many years.

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