



# The Pool & Spa Show Celebrates Award-Winning Pools, Spas and Water Features

## ON THESE PAGES

is a sampling of the beautiful pools, spas and water features that won awards in the Outstanding Achievement Awards Competition 2017. A total of 222 entries were submitted to the competition, of which 60 won medals and 21 captured awards of merit. See all of the winners at the Outstanding Achievement Awards celebration, which is a special event at The Pool & Spa Show on

January 24, 2018, at 7 p.m. at Haven Night Club (Golden Nugget). Tickets for this event can be purchased at [ThePoolSpaShow.com](http://ThePoolSpaShow.com).

**N**ESPA members have an opportunity to present their best work not only to the industry, but also to prospects and clients through The Outstanding Achievement Awards program. In working on the

competition and then following up to speak with selected builders for this article, NESPA was once again impressed with the tremendous teamwork, care and dedication that our members reveal in their top quality work.

These award winners have one thing in common: they are all members of NESPA (membership is a prerequisite to entering the competition). If you have not yet taken the steps necessary to join NESPA, you are missing out on major opportunities to improve your business in 2018. Stop by at the NESPA booth at the back of the Exhibit Floor at the show, and while you are there, visit **The Wall**, where you will see an exciting new program on tile and coping, plus demonstrations on hydraulics, heat pumps and so much more.





## Steep-Slope Shotcrete Pool Has 8,000 Hours of Details

"This 20-foot by 40-foot shotcrete pool project, located in Pound Ridge, New York, Westchester County, took a year and 8,000 hours of finite detail to create. Most of our complex pools and spas take us around 4,000 hours with a few taking 6,000 hours; this is by far the most time we have ever spent.

"Our client had a vinyl liner pool and hoped it could be salvaged. Our recommendation: build new. We ripped out and re-did this entire quadrant of the property. We replaced the old pool with a shotcrete structure with a vanishing edge, a sun shelf (we call it an underwater patio), automatic cover, fire pit, outdoor kitchen, hot tub, pavilion, permeable surface sports court and raised wall waterfall.

"We had a steep slope to work with and the town had never allowed such a steep slope project, so our major challenge was getting the project approved. We earned approval on this project by proving we could build on a steep slope without ever in any way touching the steep slope; we built a cantilevered concrete structure out over the slope and made it look like a floating deck. This hanging off the cliff structure creates the sensation of floating in the trees and has an amazing connection to an incredible view and woodland setting."

*David Katz, Elite Landscaping, Inc., Poughkeepsie, New York*



## Vinyl Liner Pool on 45-Degree Rock Ledge Slope

"This Fairfield County, Connecticut, vinyl liner pool, which is 17-feet by 36-feet by 7-1/2-feet deep, is located on a 70-foot long, 45-degree slope that is all rock ledge. We wanted to make the project look as though it were nestled into the slope, so we incorporated rockscapes as part of the landscape and built a raised wall. We added a slide for the kids with a basketball hoop in the middle of the pool. That way the kids, who actually play basketball in high school, could shoot the ball while going down the slide. The deck is a stamped decorative concrete.

"In order to secure the project, we pinned it to the rock ledge and poured concrete footings for all of the walls, the slide and the boulders. The vinyl liner pool is manufactured by Latham and sits on Graphex polymer composite panels. All pumps and most other equipment is by Hayward; the heater is by AquaComfort; the winter safety cover is by Latham.

"Every pool we do at Nejame is truly a team effort, from the guy pouring the concrete to the patio people, to the electrician and the person building the walls."

*Thomas R. Nejame Jr., Nejame & Sons, LLC, Danbury, Connecticut*



## Special Retreat for the Family

"Our clients for this Wyckoff, New Jersey, pool and spa project wanted a beautiful water feature, patio space, the element of fire and a tranquil retreat for the family. This uniquely shaped curvilinear cocktail pool is the element that brings it all together. The pool is constructed with custom reclined bench seating, 12 therapeutic jets, LED lighting and heated water spilling from the natural stone waterfall. The submerged boulder shelf eliminates the tile line from wrapping below the waterfall stone for a more natural and clean look. To keep the look consistent, large boulders were also notched on the beam and placed throughout the landscape.

"The extra-wide irregular bluestone coping was constructed on an 18-inch-wide beam to prevent frost damage in the winter. The coping seamlessly fades into the lawn and patio spaces. During the excavation, we found that the subsoil was not sufficient to carry the load of the Gunite shelf and boulders, so the soil was removed and we constructed the shelf from virgin soil up, built up with concrete block and gravel.

"Nighttime reflections from the landscape and surrounding shade structures are crisp and stunning on this dark bottom pool. Even though this is a tiny pool, it handed us the same level of challenges of a larger build."

*Thomas Flint, Thomas Flint Landscape Design & Development, Midland Park, New Jersey*