

## A Quick Guide for Planning a Pool Project

We understand that the idea of relaxing in your dream pool is very exciting, yet the idea of planning for it may seem pretty intimidating. There are ways to alleviate the stresses that come along with making and following through with such a big decision. Here are a few tips for your consideration that we hope will get you going in the right direction.

### Why plan?

The best way to feel confident as you enter the process of building a pool is to understand what your options are, the associated costs, what materials will be involved, and how will the pool/complete pool project be constructed. Consider obtaining a professionally designed plan, which sets the stage for the project and acts as the true blue print for the build. A plan also confirms that the proposed changes are specifically right for you, and that your resources (time and money) are not being wasted.



### What's your style?

Start to get an understanding of your own unique style. What type of pool (gunite, fiberglass, steel wall with liner..) and style of pool (rectangle, curved, etc.) do you like? Would you like a simple pool with clean edges and lawn? Do you have visions of an elaborate oasis that includes a waterfall, vanishing edge or grotto?

### Documenting your style and budget

Prior to creating each pool design we ask our clients to complete a detailed questionnaire, which covers questions relative to your home and personality, preference of colors, patterns, textures and shapes, your project needs, and budget. The questionnaire can help you define your style. It will also assist us in providing you with a pool design and landscape space that is unique to you and realistic for your budget. In addition to the questionnaire, please check out our website for design ideas. Houzz.com is also a great resource to collect online photos that may inspire your project.

### What goes into a design?

Ultimately, a design plan is a pretty picture to help you visualize and understand your pool project. More importantly, our design plans are the result of thoughtful analysis and creative solutions to a complex combination of design elements. Some considerable factors for your consideration include the following:

- **Location.** Where is the most practical location for your pool? Where will the sun be at its maximum exposure, and how can the pool be placed to give you the greatest opportunity for light and warmth? Where is the best place to locate your pool to optimize views and secure privacy? Will your pool/patio space be an extension of your home and are their views from the interior of the house that are important to you?
- **Existing conditions and site constraints.** How will the pool relate to existing structures, such as a shed, fence, and/or retaining wall? What is the topography like and do you have any drainage issues? Is their ledge to consider before excavation?

- **Local regulations.** Do you know the proper setback from your property line? What permits may be necessary to procure for the project? Are there conservation issues associated with your project? Our team includes a professional landscape architect (licensed in NH and MA) who can work with you directly to obtain applicable permits on your behalf.
- **Safety.** To meet standard safety and fencing requirements, we will work with you to locate the appropriate fence on your plan and to choose the right style/look for you.
- **How much will it cost?** After all of your desired elements are included in the design, we draft a proposal that represents the cost of the specific materials included in the design. We are happy to work with you to adjust the plan and proposal in several iterations if necessary.

### Pool Companies and Resources

Research is undoubtedly an essential part in starting the process; therefore the decision to pull the trigger is often time consuming. After all, the company and the team that installs your pool will play a large role in the success and longevity of your dream project. To simplify the process, Design Works will offer you a reference to a pool contractor that will fit the specific needs of your project. We understand that each project has unique components, budget and goals. We have created professional relationships with some of the most reputable pool companies in the area, so it is our objective to help you find the perfect fit up front and start the construction project off right.

### Your complete outdoor living space

When you open your doors to the outside, are you considering an atmosphere that includes more than a pool? A complete outdoor living space has the potential to include hardscape patios, outdoor kitchens, fire pits, accent plantings and lighting, elegant and/or functional gardens, decorative and functional lighting for night time ambiance, and technical aspects (drainage and grading solutions, retaining, irrigation, etc.) A landscape master plan ensures that all of the elements you are considering are accurately represented, even if they are phased out over several years.



**Amherst, NH Pool**

**Designed and Installed by Design Works**

### Building your project

For the same excellent clients we have created designs for, we've been pleased to offer professional installation services as well. We believe that this really benefits our clients because it eliminates the need to engage multiple contractors with different specialties. We feel fortunate and excited that we have the professional skills to do it all, and to do it well.

Things to look out for: Services provided from multiple contractors can lead to items being installed with different styles and methods, producing different results. Grades may not make sense with certain elements. Drainage may not be pitched or day lighted properly causing ground water and saturation. Items may become disconnected. Fencing may not line up with the patio appropriately. Plant material may be situated in an area not suitable for proper growth, or suffer from lack of sunlight or shade. Lighting wires may be sliced by irrigation equipment. Any of these common mistakes can cause a homeowner significant aggravation and incur extra unnecessary cost.

Please contact us to see how you can have your project designed, contracted, and constructed this year OR to help you start planning now for next year.

DESIGN WORKS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION

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