

# Pools For Thought

These days the backyard pool is more than just a swimming hole, it's a work of art



PHOTOGRAPHY: GARY FONG

A spectacular vanishing edge pool is the centerpiece of this sloping country home in Muskoka, Ont. Adorned with an upper level spill-over hot tub and a covered outdoor kitchen - bar that invites you to enjoy a cool drink while taking in the unique water-level view of the pool.

D.A. Greer & Associates Vaughan, ON [www.dagreer.com](http://www.dagreer.com)

Above: this Kelowna, B.C. swimming pool glows with a blue-green light. Its unusual shape echoes the roof angles of the house helping to unify the landscape.

Valley Pool and Spa, Kelowna, B.C. [www.valleypoolandspa.com](http://www.valleypoolandspa.com)

**G**ene Brown has been in the pool business for more than 30 years and he says that the traditional kidney-shaped blue granite backyard pool is becoming a thing of the past.

"We stay away from body-part pools," says Brown, who runs Valley Pool and Spa in Kelowna, B.C. Why? "Because they don't reflect the architecture of the house," he says. These days, homeowners want their pools to be an integral part of their property, blending with the landscape as well as their home. It's part of a design trend that aims "to bring the outdoors in and the indoors out," he says.

Brown cites a current project where he is installing an outdoor pool on the second floor of the house. When you enter the home, on the lower level you can look up through windows in the floor at the pool. And one whole side is a window into the inside of the house. The pool also has a vanishing edge, a feature that Brown says is the most popular new trend in pool design today.

"The water is the same level as the deck," he says. "It's re-