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HAVEN POOLS, Huntington, N.Y.

MISSION: Build a stunning pool in a tidal zone without getting your feet (too) wet



According to Craig Bonawandt, president of Haven Pools on Long Island, his client's wish list "was extremely extensive but not impractical: a full-depth pool with an in-floor cleaning system, an automatic cover, laminar jets and very precise spa conditions. An ornate and vast hardscape was needed for extensive entertaining both day and night."

What made this pool somewhat problematic were the necessary dewatering efforts, which were complicated by stringent environmental regulations.

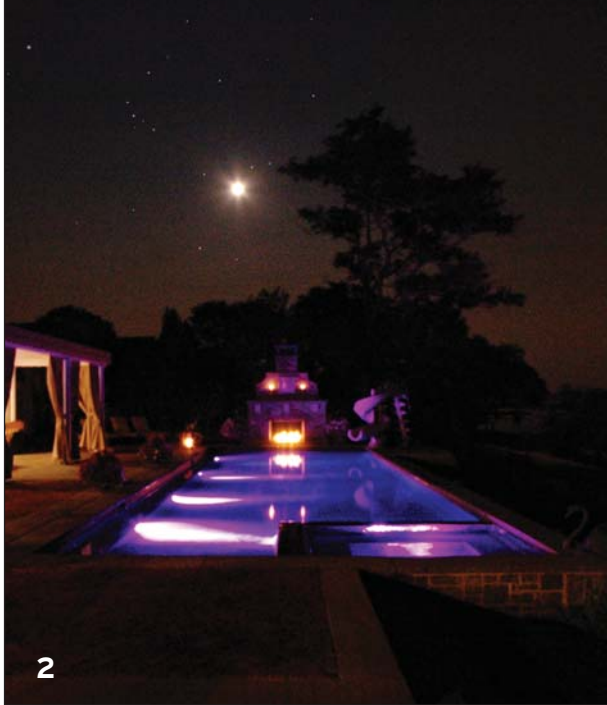
"Dewatering is always tricky in my area of the country," says Bonawandt, "where you're digging the bottom of the pool down below the water table. And, naturally, we were digging this pool in the spring when the tides were

exceptionally high.

"We were up to our knees in water and stone. The ground was not clay; it was not trapping the water, it was just real soft sand that allowed water from the high tide (which was only about 20 feet away) to permeate the excavation."

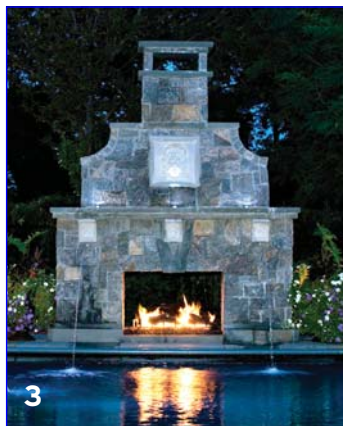
Different builders approach this situation differently. Bonawandt's solution is to put a precast concrete ring in the bottom of the hole, and then put gravel on the outside of the ring. "Then we dig out the middle of it. The ring sinks, and as it sinks, it stabilizes the soil due to its structure and the gravel on the outside.

"It stabilizes the ground so you can keep on digging below the water table. And then of course we're pumping constantly."



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1) The tidal zone forms a beautiful backdrop for this pool, but also posed difficult dewatering problems. 2) Firelight, moonlight and color-changing LEDs paint an inviting scene at night. 3) A see-through custom-stone gas-burning fireplace adorns the deep end of the pool. The focal point of the hardscape, it features a 48-inch-wide firebox, fountains, and a nautically themed centerpiece.



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Needless to say, with stringent local government regs, it's never as simple as that. "The DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) here is huge," Bonawandt says, "so you can't pump any water into the natural harbor. Even though it just came from the harbor a few feet away, if you pump it back there, the fines start at \$10,000."

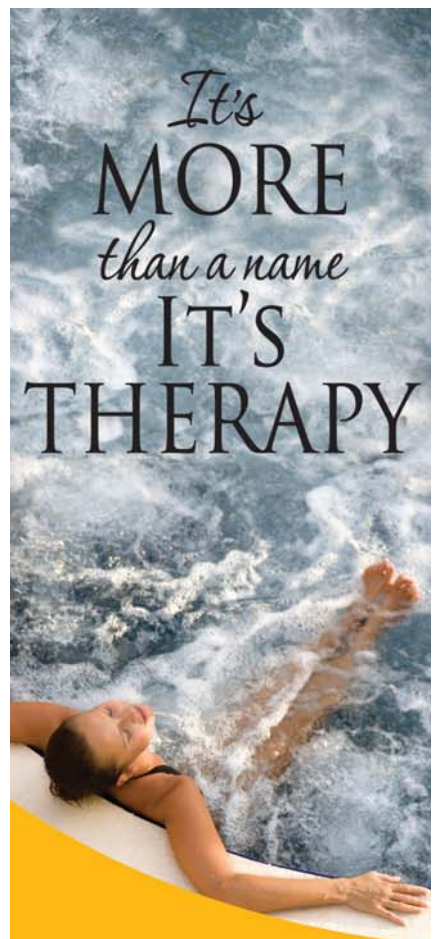
Instead, the company had to pump the water all the way to the front of the property and into a series of dry wells, where it would percolate back down into the soil.

"It's a bit tricky," Bonawandt says, "but we've been doing this for a long time. Next year will be our 42nd season."

With a solid foundation for the

pool in place, Bonawandt was free to create a fabulous poolscape using fire, water, light and color. The pool design features a long lap lane, color-changing LED lights, four laminar jets and an automatic cover.

The lighting system in the pool floor creates ambiance for all types of entertaining, notes Bonawandt. "It's a Starfloor system by Fiberstars — the result is little points of light in the bottom of the pool. You have to either notch the floor or brown-coat it. In our case we notched the floor, because the gunite was already installed and the elevations set. So we notched the floor and ran the cables. The end of the fibers have these acrylic-like stumps and you plaster them right in." ~



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