



Awesome Homes

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Insane Backyard Pools That Rival Resort Pools

These private residences have outstanding pool designs that put even some hotels to shame.

By Katie Porter

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Close your eyes and imagine floating through a lazy river, racing down water slides, relaxing in cabanas and quenching your thirst at a swim-up bar. Where are you imagining? A luxurious resort pool? A water park? For some, it's their own backyard.

While some residents are happy just being able to grow grass in their yard, these property owners have taken things to the next level with their outdoor land. Each of these featured homes has a striking pool design that incorporates amazing, unique features. With pools like these, there's no need to go on vacation; the oasis is right out your back door.



Photo credit: [Farleypooldesigns.com](https://farleypooldesigns.com)

[This incredible lazy river complex](#) was made for a family man and McDonald's franchise owner in Colleyville, Texas, who wanted a place to entertain family, friends and colleagues. Created by [Claffey Pools](#) and [Farley Pool Designs](#), this incredible backyard was featured on HGTV twice. It has a number of awesome amenities, such as a cave with a swim-up bar, a bridge, the highest waterfall in the area, underwater speakers, shaded daybeds and an island with tropical landscaping and a spa.

"As you look out, it looks like you're in Hawaii. The homeowner wanted it to look like Maui, where he went as a kid and had fond memories," said [Mike Farley](#) of Farley Pool Designs. "He wanted his kids and grandkids to thoroughly enjoy the space. About seven years ago, he got married out there on the bridge."



Photo credit: ryanhughesdesign.com

[This dazzling pool design project](#) on the Gulf of Mexico in Tampa, Florida, consists of over 3,000 square feet of water elements and cost over \$2 million to complete. It has a cutting-edge look, with four pools that spill into each other to create a dramatic, eye-catching effect, and the edges of the pools are illuminated with blue lighting and fire pits. One of the pools even has 24-carat gold tile. The design and construction, done by [Ryan Hughes Design Build](#) and landscape architect [Jeff Zock](#), won a Pinnacle Award in 2017.

“Our vision for Amarula Sun was to complement the opulent surroundings as well as create elements for outdoor entertaining that packed a lot of wow,” said [Hughes](#). “This project overflowed with creative structures and technology. Fire features and LED lighting

also created the requested wow factor, especially when night falls.”

Miner Adventure Pool



Featured on HGTV and DIY Network's "Pool Kings," [this impressive rocky pool design](#) is meant to mimic a mine shaft and incorporates some of the most beautiful waterfalls and cave elements ever seen on a residential property. In the cascading cliff walls, [Caviness Landscape Design](#) built arches to swim through and a slide that goes inside the rock and spits out at the bottom of one of the falls.

"This pool has so many ways to interact with; this active family will never be bored! The antique ore cart and rail system seem to appear from an old mine and give the homeowner a unique iced-beverage cart. The boulder steps lead up to another 'mine' entrance that is actually the entrance to the underground slide," Caviness' portfolio explained.

Cielomar Residence



Photo credit: sarcoarchitects.com

[This hillside property](#) in Papagayo, Costa Rica, has a sleek, modern pool design by [Sarco Architects](#) that looks like a boutique hotel deck. The long, rectangular lap pool spans almost the entire length of the balcony, which overlooks the ocean waters. With its angular design to complement the contemporary home's architecture and a deck that juts out over part of the pool, this project is quite a sight to see. If you want to experience it yourself, [you can rent the home on Airbnb](#) – but it will cost you about \$15,000 a night.

“The cantilevered steel bridge over the swimming pool is a central element of the outdoor space, which creates a space underneath for outdoor dining with retractable shading. The swimming pool was finished in volcanic stone. The pool in CieloMar residence is finished in volcanic stone, which gives a more natural look to its contemporary architecture and results in a deep blue color in the water,” [Sarco Architects explained](#).

High Meadow Ranch



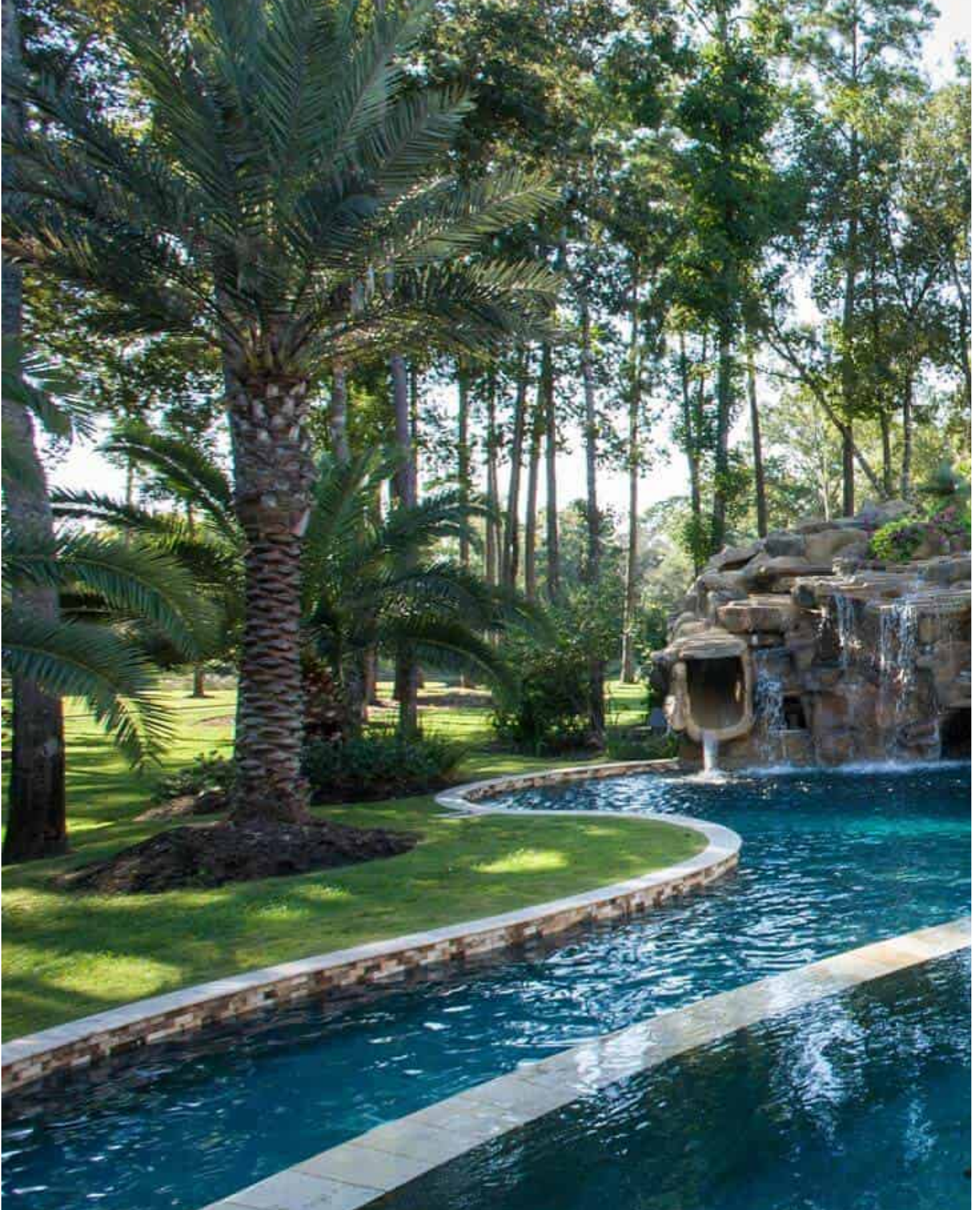




Photo credit: [Marquisepools.com](https://www.marquisepools.com)

[This project](#), done by [Marquise Pools](#), has an “endless pools” design, with triple-layer water features that have vanishing edges so that water seems to stream on forever. The 20-acre property in Houston has fountains everywhere, four outdoor kitchens and a grotto with a swim-up bar inside and a slide and seating area on top. Marquise estimates the project uses 400,000 gallons of water.

“This project is one of our most complex. It took more than two years to get all the grades and pools completed. With 26,000 square feet of house, it takes 4,500 square feet of pools to be in scale and proportion to the huge verticality of the architecture,” [said Marquise Pools online](#). “Rumors surfaced that this home was built for Beyonce, but I am not telling.”

Beachfront Estate



Photo credit: houzz.com

[This oceanfront mansion in Cabo San Lucas](#) has an amazing heightened infinity pool overlooking the Pacific Ocean, but the main water feature is actually underneath that. The underground swimming grotto, which is nestled into the stonework and has a cave entrance from a lower vanishing edge pool, is truly a jaw-dropping element. Designed by [VITA Planning & Landscape Architecture](#), with beautiful tile work and ambient Turkish lighting fixtures, the expansive grotto with a spa-like atmosphere has a daybed and a luxurious swim-up bar.

“The small but dramatic site lent itself to a multi-level garden approach. The plan welcomes guests, directing their view to the main terrace below, where an infinity-edge pool bleeds into the Pacific Ocean. Beneath the pool is a lavish Turkish bath-inspired entertainment grotto, richly detailed with handmade tiles, carved stone columns, mandalas and custom light fixtures,” VITA’s portfolio said.

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