

# Indulge Your Imagination



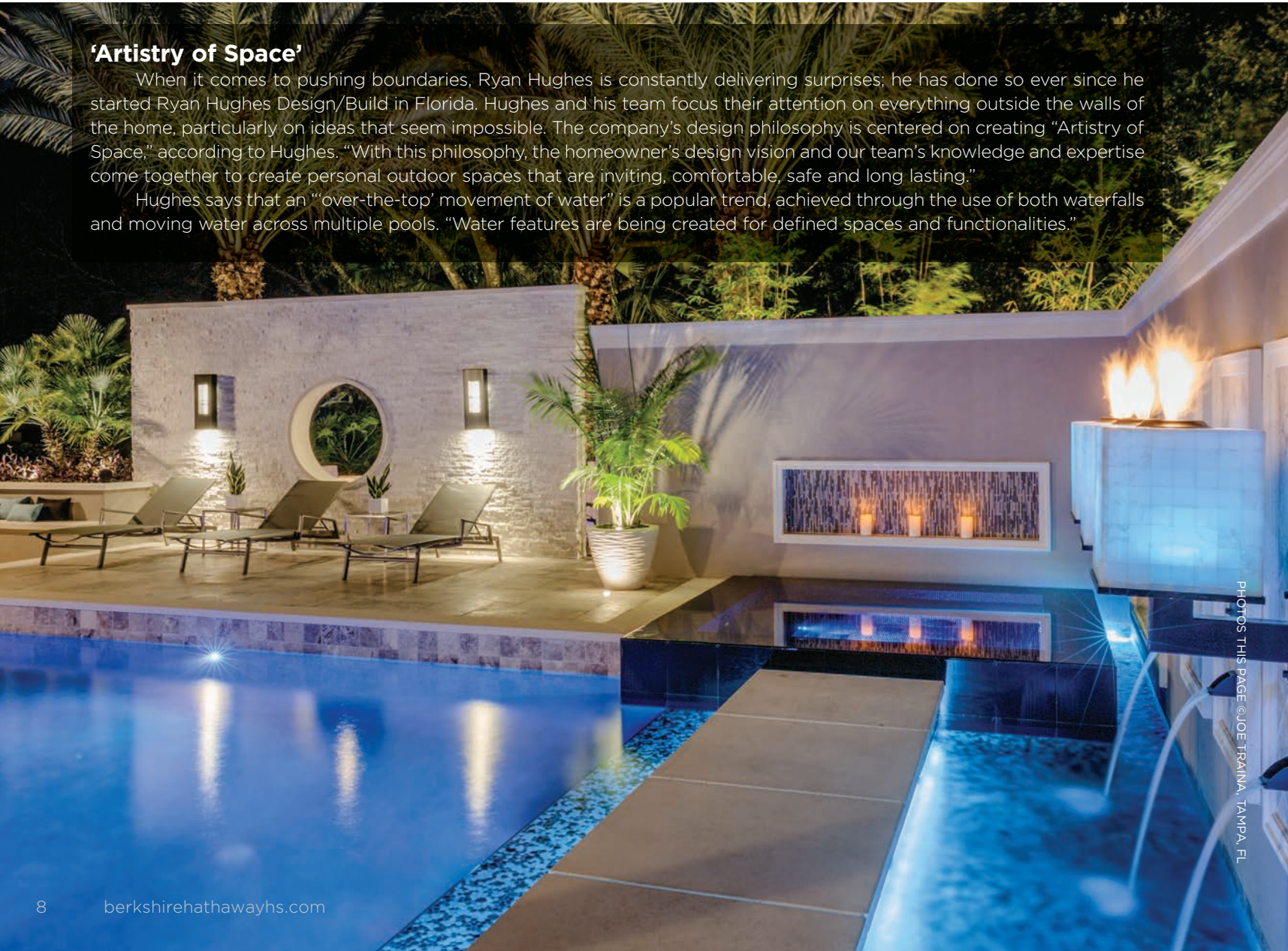
Leaders in the pool design and construction industry understand the fantasies of a homeowner's backyard oasis, and will use any seeds of inspiration given to them by eager clients to make masterful outdoor pools and spaces come to life.

By Kristen Ordonez

## 'Artistry of Space'

When it comes to pushing boundaries, Ryan Hughes is constantly delivering surprises; he has done so ever since he started Ryan Hughes Design/Build in Florida. Hughes and his team focus their attention on everything outside the walls of the home, particularly on ideas that seem impossible. The company's design philosophy is centered on creating "Artistry of Space," according to Hughes. "With this philosophy, the homeowner's design vision and our team's knowledge and expertise come together to create personal outdoor spaces that are inviting, comfortable, safe and long lasting."

Hughes says that an "over-the-top" movement of water is a popular trend, achieved through the use of both waterfalls and moving water across multiple pools. "Water features are being created for defined spaces and functionalities."



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## Take A Plunge

Karen Larson, president of Soake Pools in New Hampshire, produces plunge pools, touting their year-round usage. "This is fairly unique to plunge pools because the volume of water is small enough that it can be heated all winter," Larson says, also noting that water can be heated or left cool in the summer.

Plunge pools are also worthwhile from a design perspective due to their size. "Since a plunge pool is smaller than a typical pool, it leaves much more space for patios, outdoor kitchens or fire pits," says Larson, "offering the consumer many design options." Other outdoor space/pool trends Larson mentions are relative to a greener lifestyle, including the implementation of natural materials like stone, earthy tile and bluestone to enhance the pool surroundings and soften the edges visually.

@KAREN LARSON

## Wireless Wonders

Don Gwiz, principal and head of sales at Lewis Aquatech in Virginia, reports an influx of requests for travertine patios, which have cooler surfaces that are more family friendly, and notes that technological enhancements (namely wireless systems) are changing pools and outdoor living.

"Today's systems allow for an outdoor space to become much more versatile with its timing and usage," says Gwiz. "From turning on and off water features, warming the spa on the way home from work, to changing the mood lighting throughout the space. All can be done remotely from the client's cell phones with the proper design and setup."



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