



# FIVE-STAR DESIGN

A VACATION INSPIRES ONE FAMILY TO RE-CREATE THE RESORT IN THEIR BACKYARD

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PROJECT

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Is it possible to replicate a luxury outdoor resort experience in a residential space? For Ryan Hughes Design Build—absolutely.

Think palm-tree lined lazy river, kid-friendly splash pad, rainfall pergola, multiple spas and fire features, a private stone grotto and a massive glass tile-inlaid pool.

"The homeowners envisioned an exciting and all-encompassing outdoor space to replicate what they had experienced during visits to a famed resort," says Ryan Hughes, owner and creative director of Ryan Hughes Design Build. "They looked to our team to re-create all the amenities and luxury elements of their favorite vacation destination."





Resort-style furnishings include deep seating and bar seating from Patio Renaissance's Catalina collection.

Hughes took cues from the personal preferences of the family and the Mediterranean style of the home, located in Tampa, Florida. His 8,000-square-foot exterior design can entertain 500-plus guests. But it still has plenty of space tucked away for intimate gatherings.

The commercially inspired complex began with Hughes' signature design style, which involves establishing critical sight lines. Each originates within the opulent home and flows outward to major design features. Due to the size of the project, multiple lines of sight were used to create the design's cohesive flow.

"As soon as guests enter the front door, they are able to look out the rear windows down the center line of the pool," Hughes says. "This view also provides a forced

perspective taking them through to the island spa, splash pad and ending at the grotto."

This exacting design style allowed Hughes to capitalize on the home's architecture, while adding an organic feel with the curving man-made lazy river. The state-of-the-art 200-foot river flows past pergolas and fire pots, sunken spas, and outdoor gathering and relaxation enclaves.

But the lazy river is designed to be anything but lazy. Through the engineering expertise of the Hughes team, the waters flow at a relaxing speed, while being able to provide a ride for any number of guests ending at the swimming pool.

Its rambling path also establishes an island hideaway.



Pool and border lighting, alongside strategically placed fire pots, not only create an inviting ambiance for entertaining, but also add cohesion to the massive space.

Complete with a sunken fire pit and an enticing spa within a stone and wood grotto, the island is accessible via a wooden bridge adjacent to the home's game-room portico.

Resort-style furnishings complete the vacation ambiance. Deep seating and bar seating from Patio Renaissance's Catalina collection outfit the lounge and dining areas. And the outdoor kitchen features a Black Diamond grill by Fire Magic in the center, with an adjacent lounge for catching a movie or the game of the week. After the sun sets, entertaining gets an added glow thanks to pool and border lighting that ties the entire resort-like space together.

Experiential design is the latest buzz phrase to characterize resort decor. This \$1.5 million project gives new meaning to another buzz word . . . "staycation." □

