





Imagine the perfect marriage of indoor and outdoor spaces, where the very best elements shine and complement each other, regardless of climate, season, or weather. That's the promise of moving your pool experience—or even just some of it—indoors, whether that means a small indoor workout pool overlooking your backyard or a totally glassed-in pool space complete with patios, water and fire features, and spas.

For many people, the term "indoor pool" conjures images of noisy,





claustrophobic, and overly chlorinated gym or hotel pools that are the absolute antithesis of relaxation. Not so with the newest batch of "best of both worlds" pools created by talented designers and innovators seeking to create seamless experiences that bring indoor and outdoor living together.

One project from Ryan Hughes

Design/Build, dubbed "Elegant by

Nature," is a prime example. Enclosed
in glass, it's a totally protected outdoor
living area with spaces for lounging,
swimming, dining, and entertaining. It

was designed to easily flow from the home's interior.

"Glass-enclosed outdoor spaces provide a destination but one with the added advantage of year-round use," says Ryan Hughes, founder and creative director of Ryan Hughes Design/Build. Depending on the climate, it can be heated in the winter or air conditioned in summer.

"Elegant by Nature" boasts all of the elements that make up the best outdoor living spaces, with the pool at its center. It includes a sun shelf with lounge chairs, tropical plantings and fountains, state-ofthe-art lighting, a fire pit under a pergola, widescreen TV, daybeds and hanging chairs, and a dining peninsula with outdoor kitchen and bar.

"It's not about just the pool. You can lay on a raft and watch TV or dine at the outdoor kitchen. The space is decorated with details that make it warm and comfortable like the interiors," Hughes says.