

## Dive right in – The changing world of pools

**Pools are all the rage, but they're more than just popular — today they are the source of endless innovation, adaptation and new ideas around luxury and outdoor living**



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**By Lucy Probert**

Whether it's including a pool in the design and build of a new home or adding one to an existing yard, paying close attention to location and landscaping choices can make spending time in your new outdoor space both relaxing and bucolic.

"It all has to be designed properly to fit in the space," says Tom O'Connor, owner of O'Connor Design Build, a landscape design-build firm and pool builder in Middletown. "Is there not enough shade, or too much? Is the water on your property flowing away from the pool? Look at the topography and elevations when it comes to landscape choices."

Even homeowners with smaller yards can now sit poolside. "Plunge pools are becoming more popular for people who don't have the room for a pool but want something more than a hot tub," says O'Connor. Measuring only about 10' x 15' wide and 4' to 7' deep with seats built into the sides, space issues become less of a challenge, and they can be heated or not.



### Hydrangea Heaven

Space was not an issue for this 40' pool in South Kingstown. "We basically had a blank canvas and wide-open lawn space," says O'Connor. The client wanted a smaller patio with more lawn so, working with Keene Architecture designers, a large, three-foot bluestone coping, or edging, was installed around the pool, helping to prevent grass clippings from getting into the water. Simply designed and surrounded with limelight hydrangea using a variety called 'Prime,' which stays smaller than the typical limelight but still boasts magnificent white plumes, each corner of the garden was supplemented with ivory silk tree lilac.

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