

# Pools Make a Big Splash

## Local Pool Retailers Suggest 'Unleashing the Designer in Yourself'

By FRAN SIKORSKI

**M**edia outlets reporter this spring that gasoline prices could hit \$3 a gallon this summer. Predictions are that roads and byways leading to beaches this year will be bottlenecked more than ever. Park fees are going up.

Pollution counts at beaches are higher. Why would anyone want to deal with any of these negatives?

The solution is to determine individual family needs and install an above ground or in-ground swimming pool, or a personal spa center. Look at all the shapes of in-ground pools, rectangle, Grecian Lazy-L, lap pool, oval, round, figure eight, octagon.

Imagine the sun dancing on clear, inviting, effervescent water in your own backyard, and pool features, alarms for safety, pool heaters that incorporate digital technology to create the most advanced, efficient heating system available, and fiber optic lighting in addition to other accessories making your swim time safe and more relaxing.

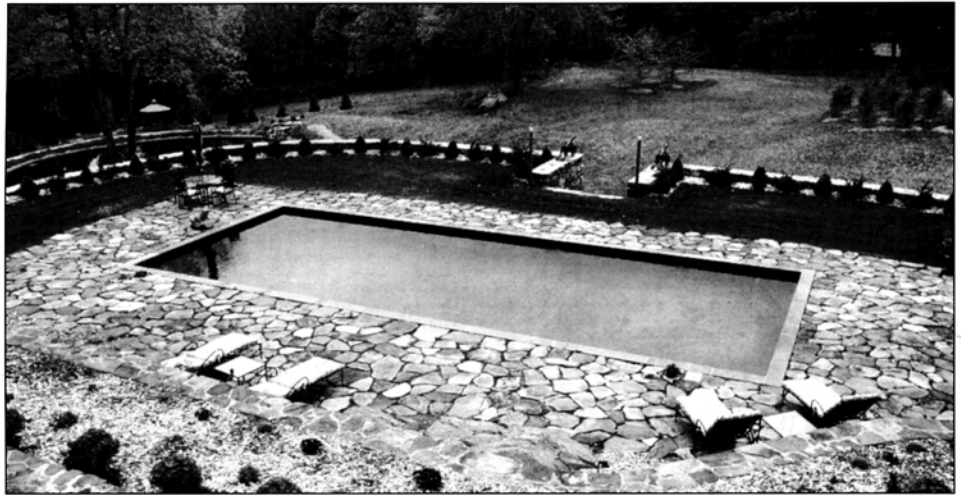
According to the experts, and owners of Dobson Gunite Pools, Nejame & Sons, Newtown Pools, and Wallin Pool, Inc. in the area, owning a swimming pool is simply a lot of fun and a great way to entertain and beat the summer heat.

Installing a swimming pool isn't exactly an impulse purchase. There are a lot of choices to make before a decision is made to put in a pool. The first two choices are usually, how big a pool and what will it cost?

The bigger the pool, the bigger the budget. The good news is that there are pools to fit almost any yard, any budget, and any lifestyle.

Another decision you have to make is what you intend to get out of your pool. Are you interested primarily in exercise? A lap pool might be just the thing. If you're thinking of entertainment and a family activities, you'll need a bigger pool. If you're thinking about an in-ground pool, the field is wide open to customize your needs. The bottom line is once you've juggled the budget, space and lifestyle, you'll be happy with your new resort lifestyle at home.

It wasn't so long ago that choices in the world of pools meant two things, the shape and the liner. You could choose the size and shape of your pool and select the pattern of the liner, but you couldn't customize anything else. Ladders and handrails were stainless



**Dobson Pools, on the New Milford-Washington line, created this upscale backyard pool in Washington.**

*Photograph by Sharon Fishman*

steel, period. Steps styles came in white, white, and white. Freedom of design didn't exist.

Choice was non-existent until now. Steps now come in colors; Interior pool components such as main drain, covers, return fittings, skimmer lids and skimmer face plates, also come in colors that coordinate with liners. You can mix and match them just as you would with the accessories in any part of your home.

### Dobson Gunite Pools

Jim Dobson, owner of Dobson Pools, on the New Milford-Washington line, and in business for 33 years, said during a phone interview he works by referrals and deals only with custom granite in-ground pools starting at \$50,000. "When I go to a home I take my portfolio with me and design exclusively for each homeowner, and also discuss the requirements for owning an in-ground pool such as fencing that is required by law. They have the money and it's just the matter of creating the design.

"We also install indoor and outdoor pools with a plastic insert for all season swimming. Today's pools adhere to environmental restrictions and less harmful chemicals are used," said Dobson.