



of those available when building a house. When it comes to decking, options go far beyond local bluestone, brick and granite.

"We have a client in Westport who is using what we call Getty Stone, the remnants of the stone used in the Getty Museum in California," Scott says. "The stone was originally from Italy and was then shipped here from California." Still, Scott advises that no matter how sexy the material, if it doesn't fit in with its environment, it should be nixed.

"Typically bluestone looks good in the Northeast," says Kathryn Herman of James Doyle Design Associates in Greenwich. A problem, however, is that its dark color absorbs heat and can scorch bare feet in the summertime. To prevent this, Doyle and other landscape architects install sprinkler heads to wet the patio every hour and cool it off.

Herman insists that a pool's interior finish reflects its surroundings. "I think the turquoise pool looks great in Florida, but it's not in keeping with the vernacular in the Northeast," she says. Indeed, the Greenwich pool has evolved in a much different manner as one in, say, South Beach.

"Because of the historic nature of Connecticut and its properties, people are looking at gray plaster or aggregate for that darker, aquamarine blue," Scott says. "Plus, the darker the surface, the more reflective it is." Traditional plaster is also being replaced with the latest aggregate,



Pebbletech. It's more durable and, unlike plaster, it doesn't mottle over time. Plus, it just feels nice when you step down into a pool.

Aside from building materials, the way the water itself is treated has gradually changed. "We're no longer thinking of the pool as a static level," Scott says. "We look at how it moves, how it spills over. Something that's become popular over the last five years is using elevations of the water." The infinity pool has become almost ubiquitous, and some say overused. But a negative edge that surrounds all four sides, called "wet coping," is a new take.

"What happens is the coping is slightly beveled away from the pool on all four sides," Herman explains. "The water sheets over all the sides and then goes into a hidden gutter around the pool, and then the water is recycled." This creates a look of abundance. As Scott says, the higher the water level is, the better a body of water looks.

**Free Falling** | In a long, granite lap pool by Dobson Pools (BELOW), water spills from a raised fieldstone retaining wall, which creates a soothing ripple (OPPOSITE BOTTOM LEFT). The furniture is from Tulp Tree Collection. **Outside Art** | A sculptural pool filler designed by Richard Bergmann (RIGHT), turns a prosaic pool into something more poetic. See Resources.

