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Kelowna Pool Builder Wins Four International Awards on Okanagan Projects

Valley Pool & Spa of Kelowna BC received four “International Awards of Excellence” at the pool industry’s annual international conference in Las Vegas last month. Designed and built in partnership with world-renown pool designer Skip Phillips of Questar Pools, each of these projects overcame unique and significant engineering, design and construction challenges.

Valley Pool & Spa of Kelowna and Vancouver, BC received four “International Awards of Excellence” at the pool industry’s annual international conference in Las Vegas last month. Sponsored by the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP), the association recognizes achievement in the area of pool and spa design excellence. The international competition included entries from Central America, Europe and Australia. Valley Pools received three Golds (the highest level awarded) and one Silver award.

Each of the pools was designed by world-renown pool designer Skip Phillips, and built by Valley Pool & Spa. “We had to overcome some unique challenges on each of these jobs,” stated Gene Brown, the owner of Valley Pool. “For example, the vanishing edge pool with the ‘floating chase lounge’ is actually built on the side of a mountain, a full two stories off the ground. The black-tiled vanishing-edge pool, on the other hand, had an entirely different challenge. We had to demolish and remove an existing swimming pool by hand. Access to the backyard was just a few feet wide, so we had to jackhammer and wheelbarrow everything out, piece by piece.”

“Meanwhile, another lakeside vanishing-edge pool had seriously unstable soil conditions. However, we were able to turn that into a benefit for the homeowner,” said Brown. “Knowing how deep we would have to dig, we designed and built a large (approximately 700 ft.²) storage and mechanical room *underneath* the swimming pool. So now all the mechanical equipment is completely hidden from view.”

“The ‘all-natural’ pool was yet another unique accomplishment,” stated Brown. “The automatic cover is cleverly hidden under the deck in an underground bunker at one end of the pool. The tracks and the access panels are all hidden, so until you hit the remote control, no one would ever know this pool at automatic cover.

Gene is a certified Platinum-level Member of Genesis 3 Design Group, and a member of the exclusive Society Of Waterscape Designers. He specializes in the highly precise “cast-in-place” concrete construction process, meeting exact standards that no other building process can match.

Valley Pools has been a landmark in the Okanagan Valley since 1972. In the early days, Valley Pools did extensive work with vinyl liner pools. Now their primary focus is on high-precision, cutting-edge concrete pool designs with special emphasis on vanishing edge, perimeter overflow and other challenging projects. They serve both residential and commercial clients and have received multiple design awards, including an international gold “Award of Excellence,” a Canadian “Art of Water” award, and in 2010, a *Pool & Spa News* “Masters Of Design” award.

1659 Cary Road
Kelowna, BC
V1X 2C1

Kelowna 250.868.6500
Vancouver 604.353.6500

www.valleypoolandspa.com