



"The Razor," a collaboration between Babcock Custom Pools and Environments and architect Matthew Royce, features a unique pool/spa combination. Photograph by Jimi Smith Photography

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Freeform Pool Designs

Freeform pools allow designers to splash out of the box. Here are some of our favorites.

by **Nancy A. Ruhling**

Freeform pools, cutting-edge and custom, are breaking all the boundaries—and all the rules.

Here are some of the favorite, over-the-top projects of top [pool designers and builders](#).

Reflections

Ryan Hughes' Reflections is an elaborate contemporary-style 5,320-square-foot poolscape that's built under an arching, screened-in engineered enclosure. The pool, which covers 1,720 square feet of a backyard in Tampa, Florida, has custom freeform arms that embrace a custom geometric form.

The sleek and sophisticated design, whose sections are defined by walls of seamless polished concrete that look like carved marble, includes water features inspired by the ARIA Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, a large waterfall, a koi pond patio, a custom glass-tile mural, an outdoor kitchen with a pizza oven, an illuminated pergola-capped sofa lounge with a water wall, a linear sunken fire pit whose acrylic wall gives guests an aquarium-like underwater view, a green live wall, an in-pool lounging shelf with chaise lounges and an outdoor shower.



Photograph by Jimi Smith Photography

"The pool anchors the custom-designed collection of modern outdoor rooms, each created to make a distinct statement," says Ryan Hughes, founder and creative director of the design-build firm based in Tampa, who added that the project, winner of a 2020 Luxury Pools + Outdoor Living Pinnacle Award, incorporates miles of glass tile. "The freeform design allows waters, spas, patios and shelves to flow from and adjacent to lounging and dining areas throughout the luxury space." ryanhughesdesign.com