

SKIP PHILLIPS

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It's a fusion of superior technicality and sophistication—a palpable elegance and sleek aesthetic that has earned Skip Phillips esteemed recognition in his field. Based in the San Diego area, Phillips works internationally, applying visually stunning concepts to waterscape designs from Napa to St. Lucia and beyond. Frequent travels to Europe also inform Phillips' repertoire of materials and application of proportions, and each project meets strict standards. "The design principles we use are simple—'water level high, and overall elevation low.' We are fixated on the reflection of water and take a sophisticated approach to noise level," says Phillips. Close collaboration with clients allows Phillips to enjoy a working relationship that's anything but. "I have the ability to go and meet with people and come up with innovative conclusions, then socialize and share a glass of wine at their home," says Phillips. "I haven't gone to work in 15 years."



Where do you begin when designing a new landscape or waterscape?

Our clients are typically fairly methodical. They are looking to me to put their thoughts into a cohesive project.

What are you seeing right now that's "hot" in the world of waterscape design?

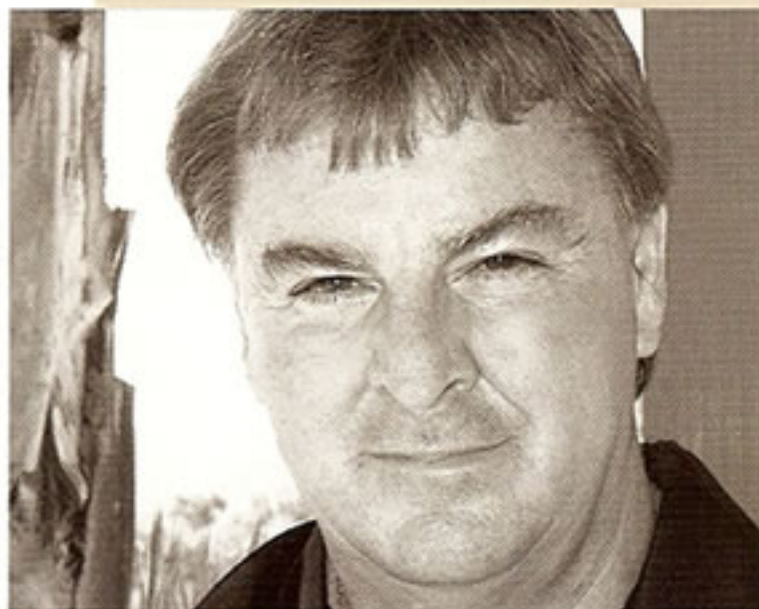
The trend is that the client base is more sophisticated, better educated and knows more about design principles.

What's your most recent prized creation?

One would be the Jade Mountain project in St. Lucia. We spent almost ten years on the design process, and designed 25 pools—some at 130 feet.

What is your own biggest splurge?

It's hard for me to imagine not having the water element at my home. I don't swim in my pool every day, but I use it every day, whether it's drinking wine outside with a client or hanging out with friends and family.



What challenges you in your work?

Every site—you have to hit on all eight cylinders.

Name your dream project.

I think I'm living it. I remember a time when I dreamt about having the credibility to get paid to go to cool places and do what I like to do. Now I am doing it—I'm really lucky.

Favorite materials?

Natural stone and glass. They are timeless materials.

Favorite outdoor accessory?

I have an outdoor pizza oven at my home. It's about fire and food—the components that aren't covered in the water aspect.

