

SAN DIEGO HOME/GARDEN LIFESTYLES

Vanishing Act

On the Edge in La Jolla

Spring Interiors:
A Special Report

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Skip Phillips didn't invent the vanishing-edge pool. That honor, he says, belongs to the French in the late 1800s.

What the president of Escondido's Questar Pools & Spas did invent, however, were the hydraulics systems and edge detail that made possible the spectacular applications of the art form. Phillips' own designs are among the most sensational.

Phillips chose a hilltop home in La Jolla Shores for his latest creation, an extra-long lap pool that he disguised as a reflection pool.

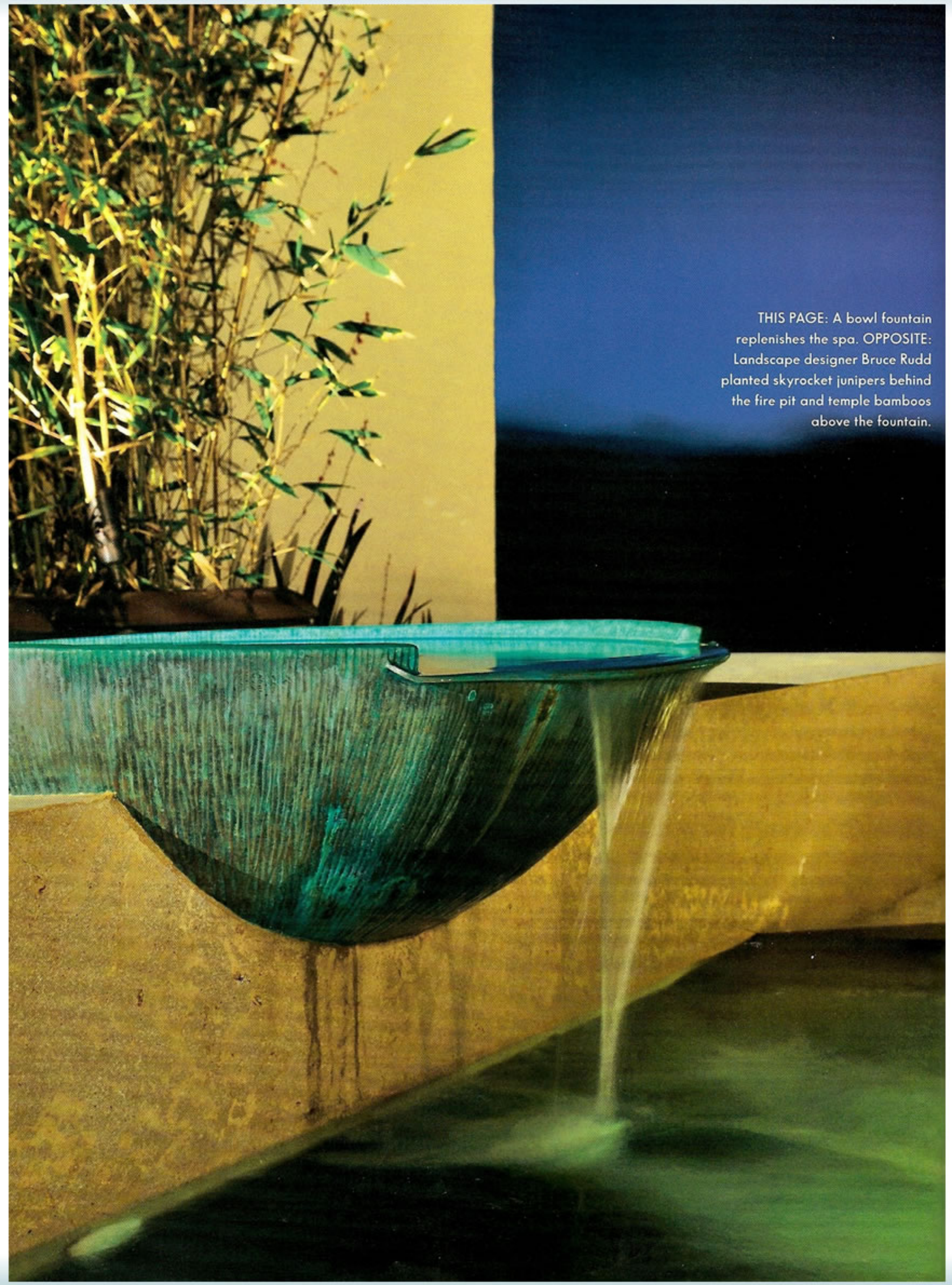
"That's what I like to do best," he says. "Disguise the utilitarian use of a water feature with something beautiful."

Flanked by bowl-shaped fire and fountain features and lined with a black Pebble Tec finish, the caisson-supported pool bends outward to embrace spectacular views of the Pacific. The always-running water show includes white water crashing under Scripps Pier, surfers riding thunderous waves to the sand, and a stunning coastline that makes a hairpin turn to form La Jolla Cove.

Phillips' water designs for the contemporary La Jolla Shores home do not stop with the pool. Up front, he designed a wall fountain that spills water into a black granite basin, and bracketed the pivoting front door with two reflective pools that flow beneath the home's glass wall and into the foyer. The water's surface in the three features is flush with the French limestone courtyard floor, a detail that, Phillips said, was created by the late, great architect John Lautner.



OPPOSITE: Three water elements surround the home's pivoting entry door. All were designed by the pool's creator, Skip Phillips of Questar Pools & Spas. ABOVE: The pool's vanishing edge; the home's family room becomes an outdoor space when the glass walls slide away.

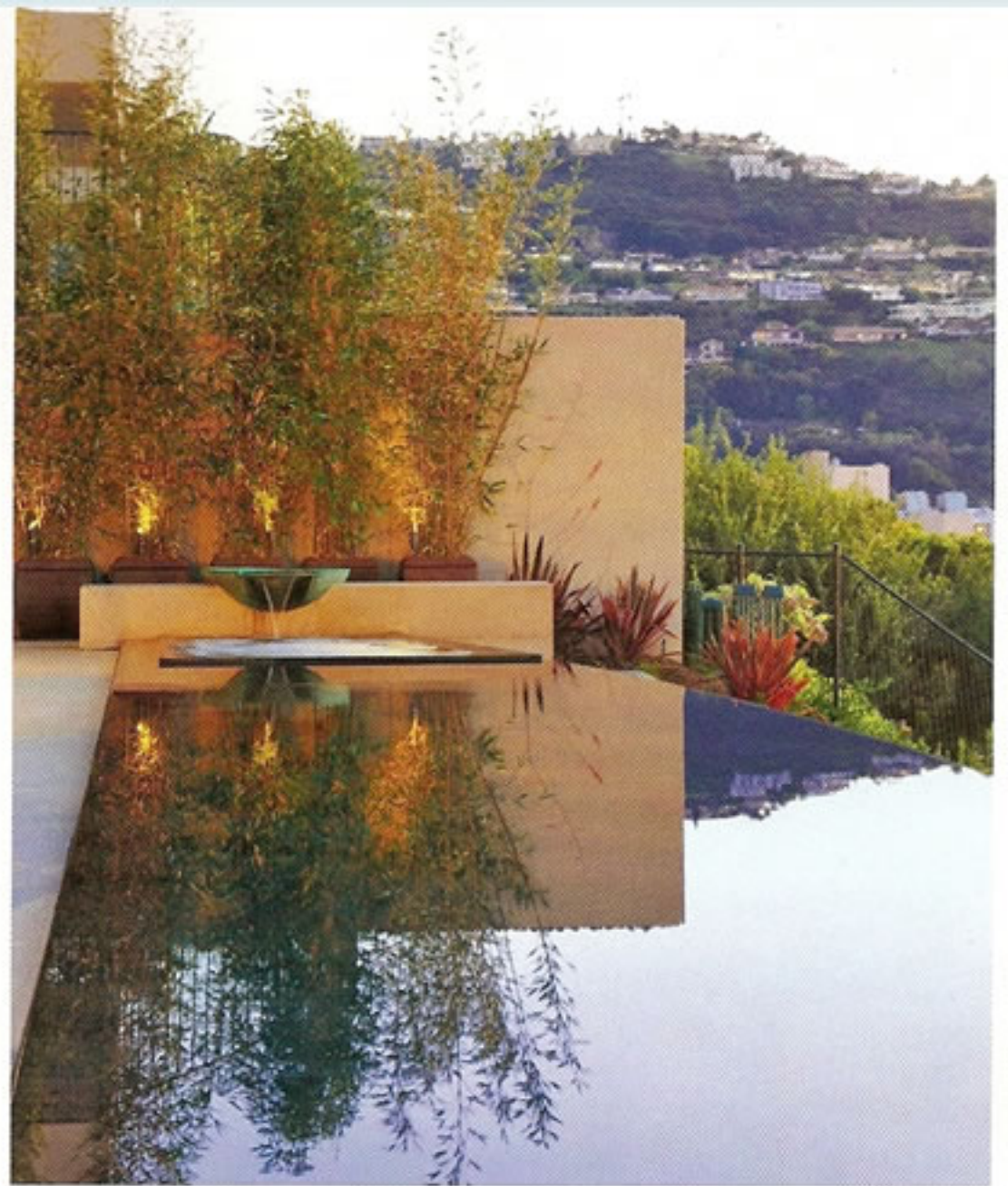
A photograph of a modern landscape at night. In the foreground, a large, shallow, bowl-shaped fountain is mounted on a light-colored concrete wall. Water is cascading from the edge of the bowl into a dark, rectangular spa below. The fountain's interior has a textured, greenish-blue finish. To the left, a cluster of bamboo plants is illuminated by warm, yellow light. The background is a dark, clear night sky. The overall mood is serene and contemporary.

THIS PAGE: A bowl fountain replenishes the spa. OPPOSITE: Landscape designer Bruce Rudd planted skyrocket junipers behind the fire pit and temple bamboos above the fountain.



Though Phillips designs and builds pools around the world, and is one of the industry's most sought-after consultants, it was Lautner and a 1971 James Bond movie that introduced a generation of Americans to disappearing-edge pools.

In *Diamonds Are Forever*, Sean Connery's Bond had to share co-starring roles with Lautner's scene-stealing Palm Springs vanishing-edge pool. The architect's still-active firm Lautner Associates flourishes with projects around the world under the leadership of Helena Araheute, its chief architect. Phillips designs all the water features of Lautner Associates' projects.







NIGHT LIGHTS

This picturesque pool overlooks dramatic night vistas in Murrieta. Framed by palm trees and embellished by planter boxes, the pool includes a vanishing edge, spa, waterfall, fire feature and architecturally pleasing pergolas.

The pool was designed and installed by Brian Cullingworth Custom Pools and Spas of Temecula.

Before ground is broken, Cullingworth says, the company's designers spend hours, sometimes days, working with clients to put their ideas onto paper. Rather than sketching out a project, his designers create hand-drawn, full-color renderings that give a realistic look of the finished pool and the surrounding landscape.

Cullingworth is a gold member of the Genesis 3 Design Group, an industry organization whose mission is to raise the standards of the pool industry by providing continuing educational opportunities for professionals. It was co-founded by Skip Phillips of Questar Pools & Spas in Escondido. ■

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