

Rock Solid Tile's flawless installation gives new life to failed Beverly Hills pool project

by Eric Carson

Sometimes, a disaster is a happy accident in disguise, resulting in a wonderful outcome. Such is the case with a custom glass mosaic pool with porcelain tile deck-surround installed at the luxury home of a Beverly Hills family.

The original contractor executed a tragically-poor first remodeling attempt. "They had left us a pool and terrace that were failing both cosmetically and mechanically," said project consultant Skip Phillips, owner of Questar Pools & Spas in Escondido, Calif., which led the design of the beautiful backyard waterscape. "The deck was poorly constructed and they used design elements that clashed with the architecture of the property."

Enter Jimmy Reed, owner of Calabasas, Calif.-based Rock Solid

▲ *The clever use of inlet floor fittings – custom-designed by Reed and Phillips – helped create a smooth, uninterrupted surface transfer from the tranquil, blue glow that defines the pool's shape at night to Reed's beautiful precision-installed, porcelain-tile coping with overflow slot-edge perimeter.*



Reed perfectly installed 1,900 square feet of 2"x4" subway-style glass tiles for the interior pool surfaces, including the custom cube-stacked entry steps of the rectangular pool.



An initial botched job on this project opened up an opportunity to call in Rock Solid Tile, Inc., to create a stunning glass-mosaic pool and porcelain-tile deck-surround.

Tile, who was brought in to install about 5,000 square feet of tile for the pool and deck surfaces. Reed is a premier installer of glass mosaic tile pools and spas for the stars in the foothill neighborhoods of West Los Angeles. John Crystal Pools, Inc. built the perimeter overflow pool in a tight-rectangular watershape, with a sleek, modern porcelain tile deck-surround for the backyard terrace.

Reed delivered the breathtaking look the homeowner deserved the first time. Reed perfectly installed 1,900 sq. ft. of 2"x4" subway-style glass tiles for the interior pool surfaces, including the custom cube-stacked entry steps of the rectangular pool.

For his next act, Reed used the same repeating rectangular brick pattern for the 3,000 sq. ft. of 12"x24" porcelain deck tiles and coping. Meticulous planning allowed Reed to complete installation of the deck tiles without cutting any material.

"The pool and the entire terrace

turned out to be something really special," said Reed. "We all felt really good about that. The homeowner tends to be a private person who really enjoys her time at home. She was very concerned about aesthetics, and wanted her surroundings to represent the ultimate. We were instructed to select only the best materials for every aspect. She's very pleased with the outcome this time around."

Reed's precise preparation and installation of the two different materials created a seamless transition from pool to coping. The clever use of inlet floor fittings – custom-designed by Reed and Phillips – helped create a smooth, uninterrupted surface transfer from the tranquil, blue glow, that defines the pool's shape at night to Reed's beautiful precision-installed, porcelain-tile coping with overflow slot-edge perimeter.

Jimmy Reed is a dedicated end-

user of the complete LATICRETE product system for the installation of glass and porcelain tile swimming pools and natural stone spas. Reed installs a hardy skim-coat of LATICRETE mortar over the original shell, and chooses LATICRETE HydroBan® for waterproofing and anti-fracture protection. His amazing glass tile designs are direct-adhered with LATICRETE 254 Platinum Thin-Set. Cement-based LATICRETE grout materials complete his artistic installations.

The second coming of this suspended backyard terrace by true professionals flipped certain failure into a spectacular pool and electric backyard setting. The project illustrates not only precision excellence and artistry in Jimmy Reed's craftsmanship, but the need for expert instruction – coast-to-coast – educat-

ing all comers on the proper materials and methods for installing tile in every application, the founding principle of NTCA.

"We were able to overcome... and create a beautiful new setting we carefully selected and that matches the personality and dimensions of the setting," Phillips said. "Working together with Jimmy Reed and John Crystal, as well as the homeowner, we were able to create an extremely complex pool that blends in perfectly with the home."

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