

Shaping the Future

Rectangular-shaped pools, porcelain tiles that replicate natural stone and specialist features are among the trends in vogue.

SWIMMING POOL design is moving away from kidney-shaped builds to embrace the advantages of rectangular-shaped installations. This trend is driven by a desire for covers for both indoor and outdoor pools, not just for safety and cleanliness but for the benefits of heat retention, according to the London Swimming Pool Company. The choice of high functionality covers is far greater to fit the rectangular shape.

Meanwhile in terms of interior and external pool specifications, natural looking pools are still on trend but instead of building with slate, pebbles, basalt and granite marble, porcelain tiles that have been developed to replicate natural stone are becoming more popular.

Specialist features such as counter current devices add an extra dimension

London Swimming Pool Company director Jamie Smith explains: "These tiles provide the desired natural effect without the issues of efflorescence and other pool water-related damage and staining that natural materials suffer."

For more traditional ceramic and porcelain finishes, larger-sized tiles and

opalescent and metallic colours are being used. Various shades of grey and darker shades of the traditional blue are also very much de rigueur.

Feature focus

Specialist features that add an extra dimension to pools such as counter current devices and moving floor systems are increasingly prevalent. Managing director Tony Line remarks: "The jet technology can be fitted to a new or existing pool as small as 14ft x 6ft and acts as an "in-water treadmill" allowing for swimming against a current on the spot providing rigorous exercise in a limited space."

Moving floor technology also allows pool areas to be used for multiple purposes. Line says: "With the floor raised and covering the pool water, the space can transform into a terrace, dance floor, conference hall, entertaining and play area for children, home cinema or a meeting facility.

"For children this feature contributes to the safety of the pool, which effectively grows with them since the depth of the pool can be adjusted. A moving floor offers the added benefits of heat conservation and reduced energy usage for filtration, air handling and water treatment."



In the Swim – trends

- White and coloured LED lighting has become a requirement in more installations due to the long lasting bulb times and the effect the lights give to the pool. White lights will always be in vogue but coloured ones go in and out of favour.
- Moving water is interesting and using water jets and falls to create features to the pool can also be used as a hydrotherapy solution.
- Under water windows are expensive but become a real feature if used in a bar area, for example.