

COMPANIES URGED TO RAISE THE BAR IN

Pool Design

Where should the pool industry standards be pitched when it comes to defining quality in design? There are moves in the special pool industry to push standards much higher than those set by SPATA

The leading professional organisation, the Royal Institute of British Architects, has given its support to moves within the specialist trade to raise standards in design for both new swimming pools and refurbishments.

The prestigious RIBA says the need for organisations to raise the bar in terms of defining quality and design is "essential not only for the growth of businesses but to send a message to individuals never to accept the ordinary."

One specialist company – the London Swimming Pool Co Ltd is working towards a redefining of that quality. The trade organisation SPATA say that standards stay the same but Managing Director Tony Line said: "We see these standards as a minimum principle that has to be bettered each time a new project is begun.

"Our mind set is to achieve going beyond our capabilities reached on previous contracts – the pinpoint accuracy with finishes can be even better this time, errors made are noted and do not occur again. It is a continual learning and growing process.

And, we cannot forget the main contractors' deadlines – sometimes impossible, clients' budgets, other trades ruining your works, frayed tempers, parking tickets (not always being paid on time), exhaustion and saying to yourself "why the hell am I doing this?". Reality always has the bad manners to remind you of your place in the greater scheme of things to do with swimming pool contracting."

He said swimming pool design, finishes and mechanical services development

become evolutionary processes, we cannot ignore change but have to motivate it and by so doing will create more advanced pools.

"Some projects can be very complex and a highly skilled mix of people need to form a working synergy – successful projects can only materialise with this synergy. I will start at the project beginning and see it through to the end and beyond, weaving my way in and out of each project I manage, it can become intense at times but am dedicated to making these projects amongst the best in the land – something of me is always left there... my colleagues probably view a little differently, definitely a little more down to earth however we all have the same goals and the end result is important... how can we make it better next time."

Good design stares people in the face and is missed quite often, even with a grouping of photographic images that carries and portrays the art, skill and dedication of so many different people.

"When there is opportunity to go beyond the stereotyped pool imagery and design moves into for example minimalism perhaps with different colours, textures,

lighting, mirrors and glass used as a mirror... effects are dramatically different to what is expected. I see pool design development moving away very quickly from what is familiar and safe and this is making an interesting life for a pool maker.

"Never be afraid of innovation and doing something first, but prove it by design before you build as this will save embarrassment and money.

"Our clients, architects and interior designers understand and realise that the swimming pool becomes more than just another build item but the heart of what the project is all about, on a current residential project the client is spending £2.6m on an addition to his house within which contains a swimming pool of modest proportion.

The savvy pool contractor learns to become more than just a team who builds and tiles a concrete box linked to equipment to make it all work, they have to make themselves a key member of the development, production and build team... the pool has to become more than just another job, when it does you, your company and team will become very much sought after..." **spn**

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