laps and lounging

T-shaped pool is the perfect size for exercise and relaxing

FOR A SWIMMING POOL IN THE HAMPTONS, ITS SHAPE AND size had to be dictated by the ¼-acre site, part of a small development. "The homeowners' association was very strict about what could be built. [It] was really against any pool at all," says John Cowen, the landscape designer who took on the challenge. To fit in a pool to serve both recreational and lap swimming requests, Cowen developed a 35'-long lane for swimming and a 15'-square area at one end for cooling off. He paved the side closer to the house in big bluestone rectangles, framing the pool all around in the same material but leaving the side closest to the communal property in mostly grass to meet setback rules. Cowen used marble dust to give the gunite pool its aqua blue hue, and he softened all with lush plantings. Evergreens provide green in winter, and plantings of rhododendron, inkberry holly, hinoki cypress and ornamental grasses camouflage a fence.

DESIGNER John D. Cowen, John Cowen Landscape Associates LTD, ASLA , Sag Harbor, NY, johncowenlandscape.com, 631-725-3410
ARCHITECT Charles Rich, LLC, Southampton, NY, 631-283-6161
POOL BUILDER Pools by Jack Anthony, Southampton, NY, 631-283-8101
PHOTOGRAPHY BY HENRY DOLL

>> Behind the Scenes

>> CHALLENGE: Getting pool proportions to work with size of the house, small lot and available deck space
>> SOLUTION: Pool has one long area for laps and a separate one for play
>> SPECIAL FEATURES: A novel geometric design; views beyond plantings to open space
>> MAIN PLANTS: Bluebird Lacecap Hydrangea, Tardiva Hydrangea, Golden Tiara Hosta, Black-Eyed Susan
>> ZONE: 6
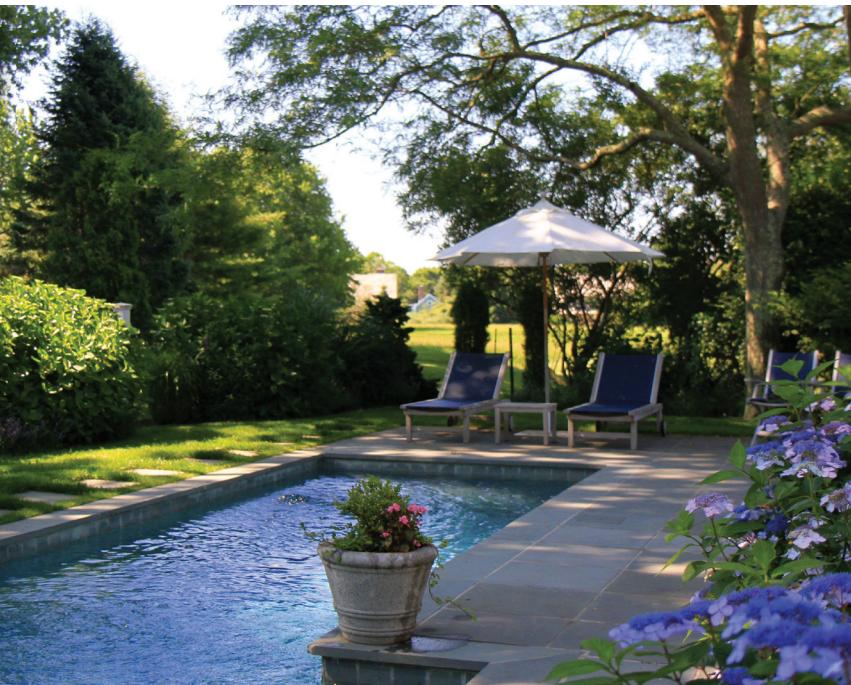
ideas we love

1. **POOL DESIGN** The pool functions for both lap swimming and playing/cooling off
2. **BORROWING THE VIEW** A sitting area allows views beyond a fence into a communal lawn area
3. **BEDROOM ACCESS** The master bedroom is near the pool, so owners have easy access from their suite
4. **FENCE IS HIDDEN** Plantings of rhododendron, inkberry holly and ornamental grasses were arranged to conceal a required fence