

CHARLOTTE URBAN

# HOME

WINTER 2010

Designs | Lifestyles | Investments | Improvements

## Rustic Chic

Luxe Living in the Country

SNAP, CRACKLE, POP:  
Outdoor Fireplaces

Jim Schmid Photography



# Intelligent Backyard Luxury



When Dave Stuver built his English country manor home in South Charlotte, he wanted a backyard retreat that fit seamlessly into his wooded landscape. “I knew I wanted the plan to include a pool, but I didn’t want to disrupt the natural feel by sacrificing a lot of trees or space,” he says.

After seeing a custom pool built for a home in the prestigious Meyers Park neighborhood, Stuver found Simon Spiers of Pool by Design, a Charlotte-based company that provides full-service hardscape design and installation for outdoor living spaces.

“Outdoor living has become a requirement for busy professionals who want to create memories with their families,” Spiers points out. “Their time is precious, and the right design can give them the amenities of a luxury resort at home, while allowing them the convenience of sleeping in their own bed at night!”

However, achieving the right backyard plan in smaller spaces, takes experience.

After a plan was drawn up for Stuver, “Simon and I fine-tuned the blueprint on site, so I was sure that it was exactly the way I wanted it to be,” explained Stuver. Even the installation was coordinated to protect the existing driveway and landscaping.

In addition to the swimming pool, Pool by Design put in a spa and a unique fire pit. “Rather than a large obtrusive fireplace, I wanted one that blended with the natural environment. Simon presented me with sketches based on a caldron he’d seen in his native England. From there we created a torch shape and surrounded it with emerald green river rock and six iron stepping stones.” The stones allow water to drain while providing a natural design element.

But as Spiers noted, beautiful design is not the only reason to consult an expert.

“Making the swimming pool an integrated part of the outdoor space and getting the highest return for remodeling dollars invested takes a lot of planning and skill,” says Spiers. “You have to look at all the factors and know



how the finished product will impact the family’s needs and lifestyle.”

This proven expertise has translated into an improved lifestyle for Stuver.

“There is actually very little maintenance,” he says. “The pool’s cleaning system is a natural eco friendly exchange, so the chlorine level is substantially below tap water.”

The end result with this transformation is stunning.

“It’s unique and breathtaking when you walk outside,” he says. In fact, the atmosphere is so enjoyable that he has added a day bed to experience it by night too. ❖

Pool by Design is your total outdoor living specialist. To find out how they can design and maintain a custom backyard retreat for you, call 704-3DESIGN (333-7446) or visit [poolbydesign.com](http://poolbydesign.com).