



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
with Tim Goom

Swimming Pools: take the plunge!

Sipping a cold drink on a sweltering day relaxing around the pool, while the kids are entertained for hours- what could be better?! Summer is just around the corner but there is still time to design and install a pool perfectly suited to your property.

You might think the preliminary step in this process is to approach a pool company but first things first: speak to a landscape architect.

The expertise of your pool company is usually honed to sales and construction. The placement of your pool will have an enormous impact on your property both aesthetically and functionally and accordingly affect its overall value. Having input from a landscape architect from the outset is vital to ensure you make the right decisions. Getting it wrong can be very expensive and difficult (if not impossible!) to rectify down the track.

Aspects of a pool which a landscape architect will guide you through include:

- How the pool placement will affect your property overall and how it will interconnect with other areas. Your property should be considered holistically to determine where the best position for your pool will be. A significant factor will be the lay out of your existing garden. It might be tempting to slot the pool in where ever there is space but getting the right position is crucial, even if it means moving established gardens. Mitigating wind and maximising sun will have an enormous impact on how inviting your pool will be and therefore your enjoyment of it.
- Which type of pool will work best for you and your property. The three types of pools are concrete, fibreglass and vinyl liner. A concrete pool can be customised to virtually any space, allowing unlimited design possibilities. Fibreglass pools come in a variety of shapes and sizes, with the benefit of easy and quick installation in even hard to access locations. Vinyl liner pools are an economic option, with flexibility in terms of design and depth and can be installed both in-ground and above ground.



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Discussing the pros and cons of each option will lead you to the right choice for your property. Your landscape architect will know the best and most cost effective way for accessing your site and installation.

- How to navigate the process of getting consent for your pool. Council consenting processes are notorious for causing headaches, a landscape architect has the experience and expertise to guide you through the process smoothly.
- The visual impact and functionality of a pool is determined as much by the hardscaping around it as the pool itself. The fencing, where the best point is to place gates for easy access to your home, the surfaces surrounding your pool, paths linking your home to the pool - are all decisions which have a huge impact on the finished look.
- Pool side planting. Plants amongst the hard surfaces surrounding a pool will soften it aesthetically and create a lush feeling. Care needs to be taken in choosing suitable plants. Plants may get a regular soaking from splashing kids, so having plantings resistant to the type of water in your pool (i.e. salt or chlorinated) will be important.
- What you can put around your pool. In post quake Christchurch, engineering requirements have become much more onerous. Compliance dictates very stringent construction processes and the use of specific materials.
- Lighting- both in and around the pool, keeping the space inviting and safe after dark.

It might seem like there a lot of decisions to make when installing a pool but Goom Landscapes can help take the stress out of your pool project. Take the plunge, call us today!

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