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February/March 2010



See-through POOLS ACRYLIC VIEWING PANELS

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Visible class WITH acrylic walls

Acrylic is clearer than glass, as this amazing project shows

PROJECT DETAILS

Location: Sunshine Beach, Queensland

Main contractor: Pool builder, JW Constructions

House designed by: Gabriel Poole

Acrylic panels designed, supplied and installed by: Aquatonic

Aquatonic's commission was to design, supply and install:

1. Acrylic panels to cascade waterfall structure, consisting of more than 7.5 linear metres x 400mm wide;
2. Acrylic panels to entry pond so filtered light could enter the rooms below, consisting of two panels 2.4m x 600mm;
3. Acrylic viewing panels to the main pool, consisting of two fully cantilevered panels 6m and 3.6m x 1.4m high and 85mm thick;
4. An acrylic seat within the pool.

For more information go to www.aquatonic.com.au

This pool cantilevered over a Queensland beach epitomises all that is luxuriously relaxing about owning a great pool in an inspiring location.

Product choice in this instance was crucial. The design called for viewing panels to make the swimming experience even more special, and to make the pool an exciting visual element even when not swimming.

Aquatonic was commissioned by pool builder Jason Warren of JW Constructions to design, supply and install a variety of viewing panels.

"The pool concept was designed as part of a new home, so we were able to work closely with the house designers during the developed design stage and create an overall product and appearance that the designers and the client wanted," says Marco Giaroli of Aquatonic.

"They wanted the pool to look like a suspended cube of water perched on the rooftop, and to act like a glowing beacon in the landscape at night."

Giaroli used acrylic panels instead of glass, as he says they are much clearer than glass, and are the only product that comes with a warranty for underwater applications.

"They're not a new product," he says. "Acrylic has been used as a water retaining material in oceanariums since the 1930s. And it's optically a lot clearer than glass, as glass tends to be green. Think of a louvre blade turned on its side – it's green. But if you do the same with acrylic, it's clearer. We only use aquarium grade acrylic, which prevents yellowing.

"The properties of acrylic are quite different to glass and should be designed accordingly. You can often get a bigger bang for your buck with some simple design changes."

Giaroli says that acrylic can be easily worked and cast into curved sections, tunnels and cylinders. Minor scratches can be buffed clean and deeper scratches polished out. On top of that, it has the ability to be both chemically bonded and solvent-bonded, both of which become invisible joins.

Giaroli says that acrylic is 11-times less brittle than glass, so it is much safer than glass.

"Acrylic is generally over-designed to achieve what looks optically correct. The largest acrylic panel in the world is 32m long x 8.3m high x 750mm thick in Dubai!"

With this project, the main pool panels were fully cantilevered within a concrete rebate and have been designed with rounded and polished tops to create a wet edge. The use of acrylic panels for the entry pond enables blue pool light to filter through a recess into the home itself, providing a stunning effect.

The panels themselves were engineered to overcome a number of issues, most notably having to cantilever one-metre over a concrete beam supporting the pool. The large pool panels were fabricated in Japan using chemical bonding.

The construction process was fully integrated with the house construction and the acrylic was installed early in the program to ensure the house was waterproof.

Once the rebates were ready the large panels were craned in over the garage and placed directly in the rebates ready for securing. The acrylic was then protected allowing for the completion of all the finishing trades. 🌞

