

POOL & SPA NEWS

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Benedict Resigns From FSPA Post

By Bob Dumas After just six months on the job, the Florida Swimming Pool Association's executive director, Bob Benedict, has resigned.

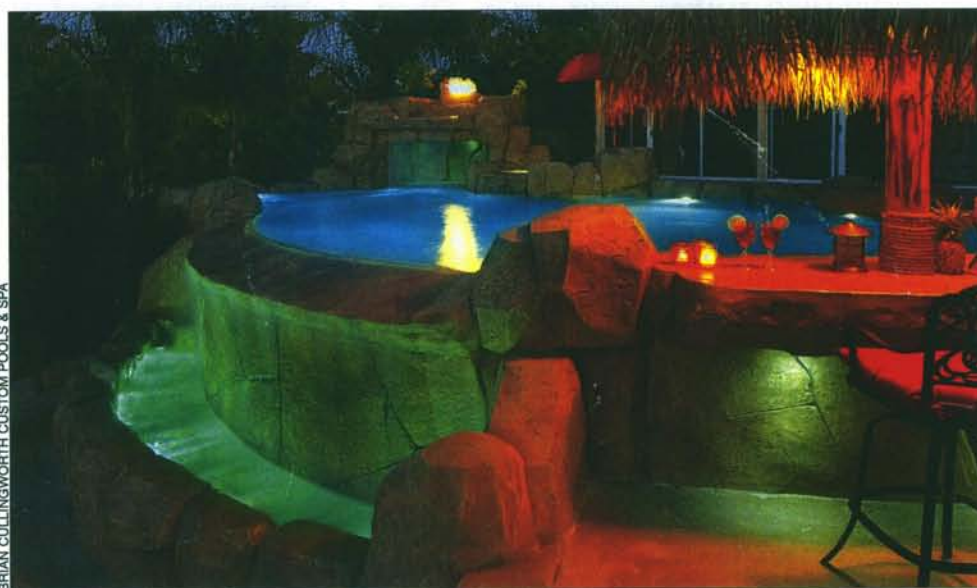
It is the third resignation

of an FSPA executive director in the past two years. In August 2005, John Schwartz, who held the job for nearly three years, resigned to attend to family matters. In

May 2006, Schwartz's replacement, Nicholas Pasyanos, stepped down for personal reasons. Benedict was hired to replace Pasyanos in November 2006.



"We have a great association; we just haven't found the right person yet," said Benedict. *continued on page 22*



BRIAN CULLINGWORTH CUSTOM POOLS & SPA

Calif. Stings Nab Builders

By Rebecca Robledo The California Contractors State License Board conducted multiple sting operations in April, citing seven pool contractors for working without licenses.

"There is action being taken and people being arrested," said Don Burns, president/CEO of Sacramento-based SPEC, the California industry's government-relations advocate. "That has to have a retarding effect on the freedom with which the unlicensed contractors have been operating, almost without interruption to date."

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A pool that's lovely by day can transform into stunning at night. Inside you'll find tips for applying dramatic lighting effects to aquascapes for evening enjoyment. See page 50

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"secret gardens." Placed close to the master bedroom or far off the beaten path, they contain trickling waterfeatures and dim light. Night-blooming white flowers, such as jasmine and gardenia, complement these areas because they reflect light and are more fragrant late in the day.

Water reflectivity

Pools, spas and ponds can become mirrors for fire or well-lit trees at night. If you'd like to reflect an existing tree, place the vessel accordingly.

"On a pool that I'm doing now, there are four 25- to 30-foot, majestic saguaro [cacti] flanking each corner of the project," Woodhurst says. "We're going to light them up, so they seem to bend right into the pool."

He tries to finish his pools in black or dark blue to reflect as much moonlight as possible. To maintain the sleek, mirror look, Woodhurst also minimizes water turbulence.

In addition, placid waters make an ideal canvas for a fiberoptic "starry night" effect. This technique involves drilling hundreds of tiny holes in the pool shell and exposing the ends of one or two fibers through each. "We can make the floor twinkle and also put a color wheel on it," Woodhurst says.

Consider reflectivity when choosing materials above the waterline. Crushed glass creates a twinkling look when used in a fire pit or embedded in tile or concrete. Glass mosaic tile becomes luminous, especially if it has metallic flecks. Metal water walls also can enhance the glow of a soft uplight.

Create night falls. Scan the yard and ask yourself if there are any places where a waterfall would make sense for evening viewing or listening. Quiet effects such as streams, scuppers, fiberoptically lit sheets and laminars can provide a sound that blends well with the soothing night air.

Fire

Nothing attracts or bonds people better than the natural, flickering light that fire emits, even atop simple tiki torches.

"I think the appeal is instinctual," Cohen says. "It seems to open up conversations — you want to tell stories around a fire. If you're with your significant other, you want to hold hands around a fire."

Fire pits generally accommodate more people than fireplaces because you can place seating all the way around them.



Subtle tones: In this project, the bar area is lit strongly enough to be functional, yet still retain an intimate feel. The lights in the pool and catch basin are almost invisible, making the water glow.

But pits may not belong front and center, says Jon van Allen, a registered landscape architect with McHale Landscape Design in McLean, Va. He likes to set the wood-burning types out of the way.

"I think they look rather ugly, especially if you leave burnt lumber in there," van Allen says. He tries to use gas-powered fire pits when they need to be prominently placed.

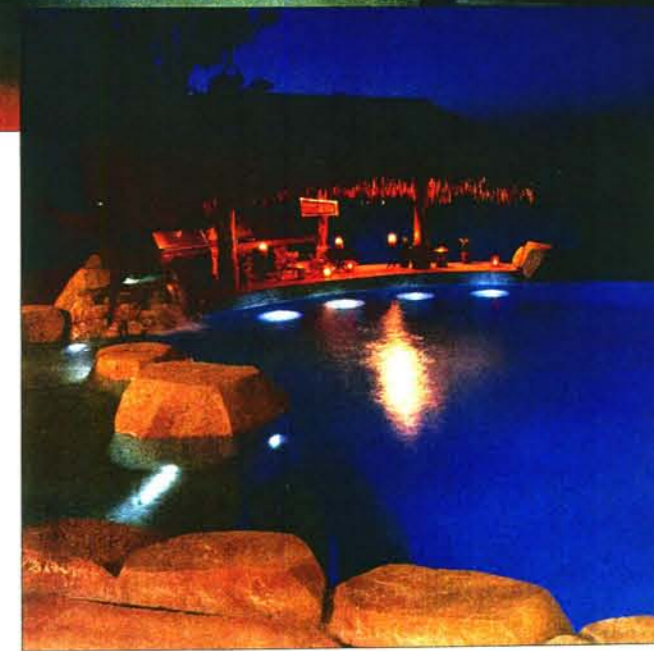
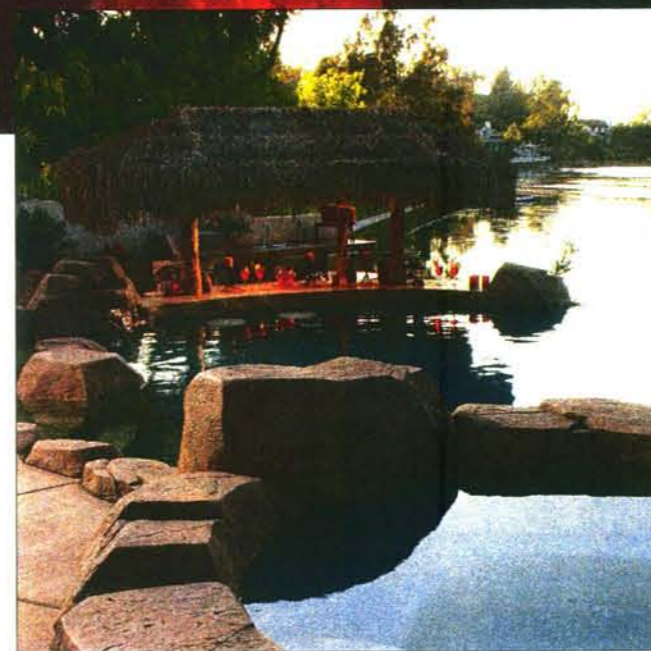
When working with open fire, position it as close to the pool or spa as possible to promote reflection. Some designers place the flames next to the spa to reinforce the intimate feel. Heat from the fire also helps

people transition from the warm water to the crisp night air.

Lighting

Lighting gives you the power to set the right mood, enhance attractive features and conceal what you don't want to see. "You're basically painting the landscape with light at night," Cohen says.

Think in terms of glow. For an elegant environment, the lighting should be very subtle. Design the light scheme to glow rather than shine, whether emanating from a sheet fall, shooting through a pencil-thin laminar arc or reflecting on a textured water wall.



Illuminating transformation: Here, you can see the day-to-night progression. In the dark, lit bar stools add an interesting feature. To create them, the builder brought fiberoptic conduit up to the top of each concrete stool. Etched acrylic caps disperse the points of light to create a glow.