

# Spotlight

Extraordinary water environments

By Karen Erstad



## Southern Comfort

Charlottesville, Va., pool the perfect spot for work or play

**F**ew features can match the drama of a vanishing edge, but a pool's design should also complement its surroundings. So for this project, Charlottesville Aquatics chose an equally stunning feature that fit the site and the homeowner's needs — a zero waterline.

"We had to design with the location in mind and what the function of the pool was going to be," says Frederick von Lewinski, owner of the Charlottesville, Va.-based pool builder. "We couldn't get crazy with waterfalls and rocks. It would have looked unnatural."

The zero waterline made perfect sense since the homeowner wanted something dramatic, yet peaceful. "He sits out there quite often on the balcony and looks at

his pool while he makes business calls," says von Lewinski. "That's actually an office. His home is off to the side."

The edge effect with recessed gutters, however, is just one of a few elements used to create the desired look. Medium



gray plaster gives the pool its deep blue color and its returns were installed on the floor of the pool, so that the surface "stays like glass," says von Lewinski.

But this exquisite double Roman-ended gunite pool is more than just a beautiful reflecting pond. "It's also set up for entertaining," von Lewinski says. "At the one end, he's got a built-in grill and at the other end there's an elevated spa." The Pennsylvania bluestone used for the decking continues into the pool and also covers the steps and sitting ledge, where "you could easily accommodate 50 people," adds von Lewinski.

Last but not least, the homeowner wanted a place to swim laps. This pool is that and so much more. 