

Artistic Concrete Bomanite Of Ottawa Shows The Versatility Of Concrete

The customer gave us complete creative freedom to design the entire project,” says Kerri Brooks, director of Artistic Pool & Spa /Artistic Concrete Bomanite of Ottawa. “They just wanted something stunning and unique, which gave us the opportunity to show the versatility of Bomanite concrete.”

Built in a residential neighbourhood in the rapidly-growing area of Ottawa West, the 24 x 40 ft. freeform vinyl lined pool features a beautifully designed deck made from Bomanite ‘cast-in-place’ concrete, which has won Artistic Pool & Spa many awards over the years – including ‘Best Bomanite Project Worldwide.’ “Outside of the pool perimeter, the concrete deck surface features an elegant, square-shaped imprinted tile pattern set around a single large, circular, hand-drawn Chinese floral motif,” says Brooks. “The floral design, called ‘Garden Stone’, was etched into

the concrete using a diamond blade saw and was created using hand-stained pebbles. Inside the pool fence, around the pool perimeter, is a textured border and coping that imitates the look of sandstone.”

Although the area is generally flat, the site where the pool was built sloped toward the house – posing a potential water and frost problem. “Our solution was to simply raise the grade of the entire yard and install weeping tile on the lot to direct the water toward ditches near the road,” says Brooks.

Rock Waterfall Added A Year Later

A year after the pool was completed, the customer wanted to add a rock waterfall around the pool, which required careful planning to avoid disturbing the existing plumbing, pool walls, and remaining cantilever coping. “We had to be very careful while removing part of the Bomanite deck and while digging down below the frost line to pour a footing to support the waterfall,” Brooks explains. “Although building a pool in stages takes more time – it can be beneficial to the pool owner because the project becomes more affordable and gives the customer more time to decide exactly what they want.”

To build the rock waterfall, a large ‘cage’ made from bent rebar was installed

over a concrete base to create the general height, width and shape of the rocks. The rebar was then covered with a thin wire mesh and coated with a thick layer of concrete. A final coat of concrete was then molded, hand-carved and stained to create a ‘themed’ sand-coloured rockscape.

The rock waterfall, which also includes a waterslide made from the same Bomanite material, was built for entertainment, aesthetics and to drown out the noise from traffic in front of the house. “The tranquil sound of water falling down the rock face and into the pool is a very effective way to block out the noise from nearby traffic,” says Brooks.

Entire Project Cost \$125,000

The entire project – including the waterfall, concrete deck and coping, landscaping and 250,000 BTU Hayward gas heater – cost \$125,000 and was completed in just over four weeks time. “Justin Richard, the pool owner, is thrilled with the pool – which he and his family use as a summer retreat instead of owning a cottage,” says Brooks. “Whenever someone sees the pool for the first time, they are impressed.” □



Left: A floral design, called ‘Garden Stone’, was etched into the concrete using a diamond blade saw and was created using hand-stained pebbles. Below: A rock waterfall, added a year after the pool was built, required careful planning to avoid disturbing the existing structure.

