



2027 DESIGN AWARDS

FLORIDA SWIMMING POOL ASSOCIATION DESIGN AWARDS

ENTRY WINDOW: June 1 - October 31

PURPOSE

1. Stimulate the installation of attractive pools, spas and backyard environments.
2. Recognize and reward innovative design, planning, landscaping, and craftsmanship in the development of the swimming pool and spa environment.
3. Expand industry exposure to the consumer public in a positive manner.
4. Assist participants in publicizing their product by using this competition as a marketing tool.
5. Observe trends in swimming pool and spa design and construction.

ELIGIBILITY

All entrants must be current members of the Florida Swimming Pool Association when the award is given and have been a member during the construction of the entry. The party who receives payment for the installation shall be eligible to enter and receive an award. Installations must have been completed between January 1, 2024 and September 30, 2026 (except for entries in the "Classic Residential" category). An installation may be resubmitted if it meets the eligibility requirements and has not won an award. Award winning pools can only be entered once with the exception of "Classic Residential" which can be entered again after 10 years.

ENTRY DATES & FEES

Entries may be submitted upon project completion or any time between May 1 - October 31, 2026. A non-refundable entry fee must accompany each entry.

Entry fee:	May 1 - Sept. 30	\$124
	Oct. 1 - Oct. 31	\$149
	Nov. 1 - Nov. 7	\$169

*If you prefer to send only digital images, please include an additional \$25 per entry and FSPA will print the photos.

JUDGING

Judged will be the installation itself and supporting materials. The project's achievements will be considered as well as the quality of workmanship, soundness of design, beauty, functionality and client testimony. Attention will be given to the surrounding landscaped area with regard to how well it harmonizes with the installation.

The Florida Swimming Pool Association reserves the right to eliminate a particular category from the competition if insufficient number of entries are submitted, or two or more categories may be combined at the judges' discretion.

Each entry will be reviewed with respect to conformance with existing ANSI/APSP standards and Florida Building Code or any applicable mandatory design code of a government having jurisdiction over the installation site. It is important that entrants describe in detail any matters that might be questioned based upon the photographic representation concerning complete compliance with such standards (i.e.: Handholds - refer to ANSI/APSP-5, Article XV, Section 15.1). The judges may request clarification on compliance. Any entry that does not meet standards / codes will be disqualified. Entrants will be notified if an entry is disqualified, but the entry fee will not be refunded.

Judges will not know the names of those submitting entries. Only numbers will identify all photographs and accompanying entry materials. Each entrant agrees to accept the judging panel's decision as final. The Chairman of the Design Awards Committee will select the panel of judges. Industry judges will not be permitted to judge a category in which he/she has an entry submitted.

AWARDS

Awards of "Gold", "Silver", "Bronze" and "Award of Merit" may be granted in each category. Judges do not have to recognize any entries in a category if they deem that no entries merit an award. An overall "Best of Show" award may also be granted, as well as special awards for exceptional achievement (i.e. Technical Achievement). Each winner will receive an award with a color print of the winning entry and the winner's name and the award level. You may order additional award plaques for \$89 each. Awards become the property of the winners. A logo will be available to winners to use on letterhead, cards, etc.

Winners will be notified by mail no later than December 31, 2026. Awards will be presented at the opening reception and awards presentation at the Everything Under the Sun® Expo in Orlando, Florida on Thursday, February 25, 2026. All entrants should plan to have representatives on hand to accept awards personally. Should you not be available to attend, your award(s) will be shipped for a pre-paid fee of \$15 each.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: (incomplete entries will be disqualified)

- o Completed entry form (printed and digital). All questions must be answered or an explanation should be included for non-applicable items. Attach additional pages as necessary. Separate entry forms must be submitted with each entry. Any reproduction of the entry form that is completely legible is acceptable.
- o Video (requested but not required):
 - o Video footage should be shot in landscape mode and be 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 minutes long.
 - o HD quality video. Include on USB drive with photos, entry form and company logo.
 - o Show entire project and highlight any special features. Video can NOT identify your company in any way.
- o Photographs:
 - o Minimum of two different views (more than two views is preferred).
 - o Photos may not be altered, filtered, enhanced or edited in any way.
 - o Send color prints, unmounted. Must be at least 8"x10" HORIZONTAL view prints. If you would like FSPA to print these for you from the digital images provided, please include \$25 per entry.
 - o Electronic photos are also required on a USB drive at minimum of 300 dpi, .jpg or .tiff format.
 - o Photos of safety equipment, including handholds and barrier methods (can be 4x6 prints).
 - *There should be NO people, logos or names in the photographs.
- o Plan / Site Drawing of pool - Drawing submitted should be on paper no larger than 11" x 17" and may be folded. Please note any field changes and indicate depth of finished pool.
- o 100 - 200 word summary of the project, design goals and achievements. Include information about technical achievements, terrain challenges or special features of the project. (Not everything can be seen in a photo, please describe the project briefly but thoroughly.) Print this out to send in with entry as well as include a digital copy.
- o An official company logo.
- o Optional: Letter of support from the client testifying to the quality and functionality of the finished product.

Photographs and video must not be identified. No name or address may appear on the front or back, including that of the photographer. If photo credit is required please include the information on a separate page.

All entries and accompanying photographs / electronic files / slides become the property of Florida Swimming Pool Association and will not be returned. The Florida Swimming Pool Association reserves the right to use any of the submitted material in its own publications, other publications and for promotional and display purposes.

The Florida Swimming Pool Association can be contacted at 941-952-9293 with any questions or to confirm receipt of entries.

CATEGORIES FOR ENTRIES

1. Residential Pool (or Pool / Spa Combo)
 - 1-A. Small: 250 to 500 square feet
 - 1-B. Large: 501 square feet and over
 - 1-C. Vanishing Edge
2. Residential – Fiberglass or Vinyl Liner
3. Residential Spas (Interior & Exterior)
4. Classic Residential - Any residential pool of any size or type of construction built at least 10 years prior to deadline. Year pool was finished must accompany entry. Previous award winning pools are eligible.
5. Water Features
 - 5-A. Residential
 - 5-B. Commercial
6. Pool Restorations - (any type construction) - Before and after photographs must be submitted.
 - 6-A. Residential
 - 6-B. Commercial
7. Public Pools and/or Spas - Country clubs, YMCAs, county pools, hotel, motel, condo and apartment pools, and any other non-residential pools.
8. Water Parks
9. Other: Spa Pools, Swim Spas, Splash Pads, Plunge Pools, etc.

The Florida Swimming Pool Association reserves the right to eliminate a particular category from the competition or combine categories if an insufficient number of entries are submitted.

Photography Tips

The following are some tried and true ways to help ensure photographs you enter in the FSPA Design Awards will truly show off your work and catch the eye of our panel of judges.

- Determine what impression you want to give about a particular installation. This will impact the setting, the lighting, the angle and just about every aspect of the photo shoot.
- Take a few moments to view the prize-winning entries from previous FSPA Design Awards. You'll gather ideas on how to present your entry in the proper manner. Industry or trade magazines are also excellent sources for shots of other award winning spas and pools.
- Be sure to take advantage of any natural surroundings, such as a body of water or a grove of trees that can provide a beautiful backdrop for the setting.
- No matter how attractive the home adjacent to the installation might be, don't let it become a distraction from the pool or spa itself.
- Allow ample time for trees, bushes, plants, and flowers to grow and mature before selecting an installation to shoot. (This is the reason why FSPA allows entry of installations up to two years prior to the competition.)
- While the time of day is important for setting a particular mood, make sure there's adequate light to highlight the installation. Avoid shaded areas as this can make it difficult to see important features.
- Be sure to highlight the interesting aspects of the installation - be it the handcrafted tile work, a rock waterfall, special lighting, or a vanishing edge.
- Ask yourself the following question, "Does the photograph give a good representation of the pool's/spa's shape and size?" The entire pool or spa should be shown in one photograph.
- Every attempt should be made to eliminate electrical wires, telephone poles, trees, fences, etc. that might block the view of the installation.
- Make certain the pool or spa is clean both inside and out, and that the surrounding area is neat. Keep all maintenance equipment and toys out of the photo. If practical, items such as gas grills, carts, and excess pool-side furniture should not be included in the shot. If you are unable to remove them, make certain they are in good condition and properly arranged.
- Do not photograph any aspect of the installation that is in disrepair. Cracks, bubbles, delamination, etc., will affect an entry's chance of being selected.
- Photos should not depict food, beverages of any kind, or people in the pools or spas. While it is tempting to want to show your customers enjoying their facility, they are a significant visual distraction from what it is that the judges will be looking for.
- Common sense should also rule in determining what photos you will submit for the judges to review. If something seems out of place to you, count on it appearing that way to a panel of judges.
- While it may be tempting to adjust/enhance colors in a photo prior to submission, it will result in disqualification of the entry.