

The Robb Report COLLECTION™

Real Estate and Home Design

July 2005



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LIQUID ASSETS: Fountains, Lagoons
GRILLS, GRILLS, GRILLS: Deluxe B


GIB·SAN
Pool & Landscape Creations



WaterWORKS

Top water-feature designers share their expertise on integrating water into the home landscape.

BY JAKE KLEIN



ED GIBBS, GIB-SAN POOL AND LANDSCAPE CREATIONS

Gib-San has differentiated itself from other landscape design companies by garnering an ISO 9001 rating—a system developed to maintain quality control for manufacturers. This achievement, normally bestowed on companies like Coca-Cola and IBM, is unprecedented in the water-feature design industry. The Ontario, Canada, company is known for creating pioneering water features for luxury homes around the world—pools, ponds and fountains that borrow from nature and work with the existing terrain.

What is your design credo?

We make sure that [our features] are pleasing to the eye, that the sight lines are correct and that the noise produced by the water is sufficient to drum out ambient noise or complement the space.

What have your clients been asking for recently?

The use of natural rock is a big trend. Also, customers are looking for true craftsmanship. Within the last three or four years, adding a simple water feature onto the property has been popular. I believe the reason is partly the resorts. The large resorts always have some form of water structure. Water is about life. It has a soothing mental effect. The Japanese understand this—from koi ponds to a faint trickle of water. People are more savvy because of the Internet and are asking how they can have a little bit of that natural park look in their own backyard.

What are some of your standout projects?

We recently created a feature in an urban residence that looked like a northern Ontario forest stream. We have carved an entire pond out of rock on an island in the middle of Georgian Bay. Most of our residential water features are attached to a pool. We also do lots of large features that are in the entryways to large estates.

*Gib-San Pool and Landscape Creations, 416.749.4361,
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Designer Ed Gibbs and team carved a freshwater pond out of the granite of the Canadian Shield for a home on the Georgian Bay in Ontario. They dammed each end and built a cedar walkway.