

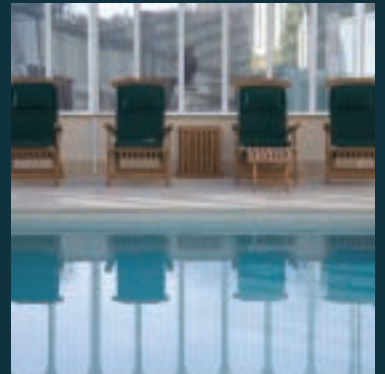
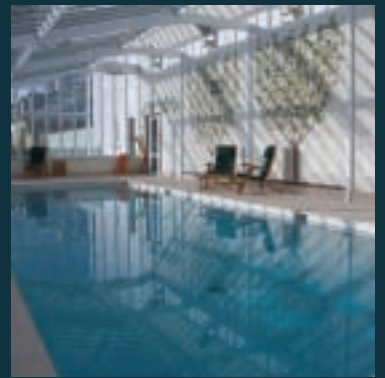


Case Study Six – Stirling

This project was for a pool in Scotland. The clients first called us to explain that they had already started on the project, but that they felt it wasn't going as they really wanted. They could see that it wasn't a straightforward building job: it required squeezing complex services into a very small space. They wanted more pool expertise to bolster the existing team and to see this very tricky job through to completion.

I asked the client to send me all the plans he had so far, which enabled me to do a complete design audit on the project as it stood. This would give him the chance to consider everything afresh. I identified various obvious mistakes in the existing project – for example, there was insufficient space for the underfloor ducts, as well as inadequate space for the insulating cover. Once he had studied my audit, David gave me my brief which was, basically, to help to oversee the whole process and to assist the local architect and pool contractor.

One of the challenges with the design as they had conceived it was the tremendous amount of glazing in the outer structure. The pool was going to be housed in what was basically a glass conservatory attached to the main building. Temperature control was going to be a big and complex issue; there was the danger that the room was going to get far too hot in the summer, when in fact the ideal situation with an indoor pool is for the air temperature to be cooler than the water temperature. Ventilation and humidity also needed to be precisely controlled.





Stirling (continued)

These are some of the issues Pool Architecture is very well placed to deal with. Most pool contractors have an interest in proposing the cheapest solutions to problems, in order to win contracts; it is not in their interest to alert clients to any potential downside to their suggested schemes. We, on the other hand, as independent designers, have every interest in warning clients about problems that they may not be able to foresee for themselves. Our interest is in proposing solutions that will satisfy clients in the long run rather than using short-term, cost-driven measures.

In this case, we explained to the clients all the decisions that they needed to make in an orderly and packaged way. Following this process we came up with an efficient system for cooling and dehumidifying the air, while air heating was arranged through grilles in the floor.

The client says: "I dread to think what would have happened if I hadn't called Mark in to help me. He drew our attention to so many issues and questions that we hadn't thought of. These were all things that would have happened in a completely unconsidered way if the pool contractor had been left to do the job by himself.

"Some of the things that the contractors worked on, without Mark's input, have gone wrong since the installation of the pool in 2004. But everything that Mark had anything to do with has worked faultlessly ever since."

