

# When Your Pool Has Its Own Living Room

More homeowners are building resort-style pools with sunken living rooms and platforms surrounded with water; take a dip without getting wet

BY ALINA DIZIK ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON MAY 17, 2018 | [THE WALL STREET JOURNAL](#)



More homeowners want to get into their pools without getting wet.

New designs mimic sprawling resort-style pools with “islands” that are accessible via bridges and footpaths. Plush seating, dining tables, fire pits and sunbathing platforms are serenely surrounded by water.

“In some cases we’re designing pools where people don’t even swim in them,” says Kurt Kraisinger, founder of Lorax Design Group, a landscape architecture firm in Overland Park, Kan. “It’s more about engaging with the pool itself.”

Sunken living rooms with fire pits are a popular feature because homeowners can be at eye level with the water. Others are opting for large platforms in the middle of the pool with enough space for al fresco dining. “It’s a fun feature that becomes a destination” within the home, says Ryan Hughes, a Tampa-based outdoor living designer.