

Beyond Blue

—• The hybrid approach to natural swimming pools •—

Read inside:

-  **Designing Natural**
-  **The Hybrid Sweet Spot**
-  **Bio vs Hybrid**
-  **A Modern Direction**



Between a conventional pool and a bio-pool, users today pick a middle ground. A hybrid design that looks natural yet maintains the ease of conventional pools has become the dominant modern response.

But what does it mean for a swimming pool to **look** natural?



Designing NATURAL

What people love about organic designs is not just its shape, may it be a simple rectangle or a kidney bean. Beauty is in the details.



- **Material flow:** Using the same (or similar) materials for the pool, deck, and landscape blends the design naturally with its surroundings. Stone-style tiles are a good example.
- **The water's mood:** Darker finishes like gray and midnight blue grow in popularity. Compared to standard light blue, users love this change in perceived water colour.
- **Edge detailing:** Overflow systems, concealed coping, or recessed waterlines reduce visible edges. This makes the water look like a solid sheet of glass extending from the floor.
- **Smart lighting:** Layered or indirect lights produce a nice and subtle glow. This helps create a sense of calm. And people love calm.

This trend is almost entirely aesthetic and experiential. For filtration or water treatment, most projects still rely on chemical methods. And some use more sustainable filtration like saltwater systems or UV filters.

Yet this eye for organic designs certainly isn't new. In residential and hospitality spaces, pools have increasingly been designed as part of the landscape. Two key factors drive this:

- **Client expectations:** Users value calm and longevity over form. Outdoor pools today are places to pause and gather, not just swim.
- **Design life-cycle:** Organic forms and neutral palettes tend to age better, compared to some stylistic choices that go obsolete.



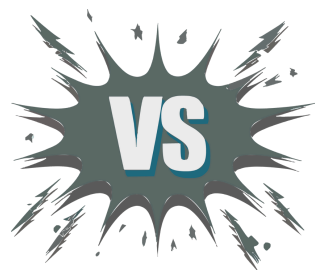
The Hybrid SWEET SPOT

While some owners commit to fully biological pools, the majority finds hybrid designs offering a genuine balance: An organic aesthetic paired with modern functionality. By blending natural beauty with smart engineering, hybrid pools emerge as the definitive modern standard:

- **Streamlined maintenance:** Hybrid systems use standard water services and filtration that are ultimately more convenient. Bio-pools often require intensive monitoring on the other hand.
- **Seamless tech integration:** Hybrid pools can integrate effortlessly with home automation systems and smart utilities. The level of early coordination required for this is more complex in bio-pools.
- **Cost & space efficiency:** Hybrid designs are significantly lighter on the purse and the site it sits on. Bio-pools require additional space for regeneration zones, causing higher upfront costs and limiting their feasibility on most sites.
- **Climate resilience:** Hybrid pools are designed to remain functional in any environment. And while bio-pools perform well in certain climates, they need significant care in cold, very hot, or heavily shaded environments.



Bio



HYBRID



- **Filtration**
- **Regeneration zone**
- **Plant role**
- **Chlorine use**
- **Water treatment**
- **Technology fit**

Bio-pools	Hybrid pools
Plant & Bacteria based	Chemical assisted
Required	Not required
Functional	Decorative
No	Yes
Ecological	Standardized
Site dependant	Flexible layouts

A silent third option: **ASSISTED HYBRID POOLS**

This setup relies on biological filtration for the majority of water purification processes, but includes backup chlorinators for wider usability. This appeals to owners who seek eco-friendly water treatment with a chemical “safety-net” during heavy use or extreme weather.

While not as popular as regular hybrid designs, this segment is certainly growing in demand. Stringent water quality regulations in 2026 and the rising awareness of waterborne diseases are likely causes. More owners push for systems that offer the safety of secondary chlorination without constant chemical exposure.



A modern **DIRECTION**

Whether natural or “natural-looking”, this approach to pool design tells a story of maturity in the industry. Water is spatial and emotional, no longer just functional.

It is clear that most modern pools try to belong in their environment instead of sticking out. By prioritizing emotional value alongside mechanical ease, the modern pool has evolved from a simple utility into a living extension of the space.

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