

Southern Ease

YOUR backyard lifestyle
awaits you

by meredith knight



You've heard the saying, "Too many cooks spoil the stew." Well, the same rings true for outdoor contractors. "Any pool builder knows what it's like," said Kirk Nofziger of Aquatic Custom Built Pools. "You're waiting for the concrete to set when the crew roofing the cabana flings roofing materials into the pool or the homeowner wants to know who's going to clean up a mess. The landscaper insists it's the pool builder's responsibility but the pool builder says it's the landscaper's." The word counterproductive doesn't begin to cover it.

That's the all-too-common scenario that prompted Kirk to form Southern Ease, a coop between four premier outdoor contractors. "I'd worked with each of these guys before and knew them to be quality contractors who deliver an upscale product and exceed homeowner expectations on every job," he said. "Our goal is to work in harmony to make life easier for the homeowner."

"When a client is ready to create a *backyard lifestyle*, they call Southern Ease and we can design a pool surrounded by a multi-leveled deck, with an outdoor kitchen and pergola with natural stone flooring and countertops, a retaining wall, waterfall, fountain and winding limestone path, complimenting the custom landscaping."

"Instead of finding someone to design the pool, someone to landscape the yard, someone to pave the patio and someone to deck the pool area and build the outdoor kitchen the homeowner calls us and we work cooperatively with one design and one goal in mind. If there's a problem, it's quickly resolved and the homeowner is presented





with their new backyard lifestyle—a vacation get-away outside their backdoor. And they’ve gotten it with a minimum of headache, hassle and expense.”

AQUATIC CUSTOM BUILT POOLS

Kirk brings to the table fifteen plus years in all things pool beginning with pool cleaning for homeowners, resorts and businesses then moving on to his own pool supply company, pool repair company and finally designing pool creations himself. Kirk knows pools.

In Kirk you get an owner/contractor who is hands-on. “You see these scars on my arms?” he laughs. “These are here because I’m in there on every job—not just supervising but jumping in when I’m needed.”

Originally from California Kirk brings a fresh, forward-thinking flavor to his pool designs. With so much beauty in the South, my ideas will bring more beauty with color and overflows, custom shapes and levels,” he said “There’s so much we can do to create a pool that is unique to each homeowner. Why should your pool look just like your neighbors? Instead, we can take into account the surroundings, compliment the architecture of your home and create a backyard lifestyle that is uniquely yours.”

Call Kirk Nofziger at 985-809-6216 or 985-869-0556 or visit www.aquaticcustompools.com.

MUDBUG PAVERS

No doubt about it. As many families shy away from travel and opt for creating a vacation destination in their own backyard, outdoor kitchens, patios, pools and pergolas are in big demand. With this trend has come a return to natural stone or pavers. “Stone or concrete pavers lend an ageless dimension to any outdoor environment,” said Charlie Wagner owner of Mudbug Pavers. “Either one will add permanence to your backyard living space and value to your home.”

He should know. The family-owned Mudbug Pavers is in big demand across the Gulf South Region installing backyard hardscapes, driveways, retaining walls around pools, patios and more.

“With so many options in shapes, patterns and colors no two backyards look the same. There’s virtually no fading, chipping, peeling or cracking as the stone ages,” Charlie said. “They can be installed new or over existing concrete and clean up and maintenance are a snap.”

Visit them at www.mudbugpavers.com or call Charlie Wagner at 985-340-0803 and ask about adding the ageless beauty of stone to your backyard oasis.



THE LANDSCAPE GROUP OF LOUISIANA

Close your eyes and picture the perfect backyard—the one you dream about. Is it traditional Southern style with Magnolias and Camellias, a European garden with delicate topiaries emerging from weathered urns, a New Orleans French Quarter courtyard, a lush, overgrown herb garden or a Feng Shui multi-level green space?

Each of us has our own idea of the ideal yard. Greg Thaller and Rick Williams of The Landscape Group of Louisiana understand that. “The design we create is dictated by the homeowner’s tastes and the architecture of the home not by what we’d like to see there,” Greg said.

As alumni of the LSU School of Landscape Architecture, the two marry art, science, and horticulture along with a healthy dose of common sense. “Once we pack up our tools and leave, the homeowner has to live with what we’ve created,” Rick said. “It’s our job to give them the yard of their dreams but one they’re able to maintain with plants that will thrive in our region.”

For a yard that’s uniquely you, that will look as good (even better) ten years from now as it does today, call Greg Thaller and Rick Williams 985-871-3990 or 504-834-5489.

CUSTOM OUTDOOR CREATIONS

Co-owner Mickal Vogt has spent most of his life designing backyards with an eye toward quality family time and entertaining. “In the South we center our entertaining and family time around cooking and the outdoors,” he said. “That idea is at the heart of all my designs. Our outdoor kitchens are custom-built with a wide variety of stainless steel components that our clients can choose from to fit their specific needs. The deck or patio is a one of a kind creation geared toward effortless entertaining. To top off your personal backyard paradise we

use cedar, cypress, pine or aluminum to construct a pergola or pavilion to provide shade and offer the feel of an indoor room.”

To view their full line of grills, outdoor furniture and fire effects visit www.customoutdoorcreations.net or call Corey Theriot and Mickal Vogt of Custom Outdoor Creations at 985-871-7312.

