

BUILD IT, *and They Will Come*

New world-class facilities are cropping up at universities, private swim schools and parks.

Whether they are indoor or outdoor, for private swimming schools, universities or residential communities, new state-of-the-art pools are popping up like watery blue mushrooms all over the country.

Training for many USA Swimming (USS) and college teams is being revolutionized with new long course pools built to world-class standards, replacing time-worn, six-lane 25-yarders. Meets ranging from Zones and high school championships to World Cups are getting new venues with the latest technology and design for speed in the water and comfort on deck. There is also a growing popularity for non-competitive innovative facilities, such as therapy pools with movable floors and family locker rooms.

"There's a surge in new facilities," said Joe Hunsaker, a former world record holder who designs pools with his company Counsilman/Hunsaker & Associates. "It just amazes me. I'm surprised at the quality of what's being built all at the same time—it's remarkable."

University and private prep schools continue to build pools or renovate old ones, acknowledging that good facilities attract both top swimmers and the general student body. Meanwhile, the private swim school market is booming in profitability, leading to the construction of numerous teaching facilities where burgeoning schools can operate without having to lease or share water time.

"People are seeing it as an opportunity," said Bob Hubbard, a board member of the National Association

of Swimming Schools. "Economically, it's a good decision."

Hubbard introduced sports camps and swim lessons as a way to enhance revenues at his USS team while he served as director of the Phoenix Swim Club from 1992 to 1998. Now, like a number of former competitive coaches, he focuses on the "learn to swim" aspect and has made enough money at it to be able to build his own facility. Hubbard's fellow Arizona coach, Mike Troy, former coach of the Tempe Rio Salado club team, also owns a swim school and is in the planning stages of building his own pool.

"People all over the country are beginning to do this," Hubbard said, noting that one swim school owner is building a pool in an old mall. "Generally, you start renting pool time at a Y, school or fitness club, or a lot start in their own backyards. Then when you get the money, it makes

sense to build your own pool."

Hubbard is currently building a new facility for his school in a building that was once a grocery store, then a health club, in north central Phoenix. Profiled below are Hubbard's new pool and examples of other categories of new construction, including the University of Maryland, University of Louisville, Hargrave Prep School, Holland Aquatic Center (Mich.) and the Brunswick YWCA (Ga.).

HUBBARD SWIM SCHOOL Phoenix, Arizona

Opened in September after about five months of construction, two new teaching pools will augment the range and quality of Hubbard's swim school, which he runs with his wife, Kathy. High filtration and warm water—88 to 90 degrees—will be tailored to the lesson usage of the



HUBBARD SWIM SCHOOL

pool, something Hubbard couldn't do while renting space at another pool.

Hubbard started the school in March of 1998 in rented facilities. He describes a swimming school as halfway between a USS team and traditional swimming lessons, in that the time and financial commitment involved are less stringent than with a USS team, but the lessons are more permanent and routine than typical programs run by YMCAs or the Red Cross.

The bulk of the students are age 2 to 6, Hubbard said, with classes for older children, adults as well as "parent and tot" classes. Hubbard thinks the glass-enclosed parent viewing room will also add a lot to the school atmosphere. "We think it'll be a great environment," he said. "We want the parents to be comfortable. So many parents are nervous about swimming and water; they want to be able to see what's going on."

Owner: Bob Hubbard

Architect: Bob Edgar

Contractor: Tom Campbell

Pool Contractor: Bob Edgar

Square Feet: 9,000

Dimensions: Two pools: 30 by 60 feet with depth of 3.5 to 4 feet; 15 by 25 feet for infants and therapy with depth of 3.5 to 4 feet

Cost: \$650,000

Funded By: individual financing

Major Facility Components: There is a long set of entry steps into the main teaching pool, as well as a rim flow gutter system so the water is flush with the edge of the pool. The filtration rate is higher than usual because of the age and high concentration of students, with water turning over every three hours. There is a glass-enclosed viewing area for parents and universal changing room stalls—"like a department store," Hubbard says—with showers on deck, so that parents can change with children of the opposite sex. There are also locker rooms, a snack bar, bath-rooms and a filter room.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
College Park, Maryland



"Immense," "amazing," "really something else" and "a special place" are phrases University of Maryland head coach Mark Murray uses to describe the school's new pool, which will host World Cup meets in December 1999 and 2000, YMCA Nationals in 2000 and 2001, USMS Long Course Nationals in 2000, and has already hosted the ACC Championships and summer YMCA Nationals this year.

"Already we've found the pool's very, very fast," said Murray, whose teams used to train in the Cole Field House and started training in the new pool in February 1998. "It's been a great addition to the school. It's really serving the students' needs."

The main natatorium, which is housed in the same building as various other sports facilities and meeting rooms, can be divided into as many as three separate pool spaces, and it includes four one- and three-meter diving boards. There is also an indoor 25-yard by 25-yard instructional pool for teaching and therapy, and an outdoor 25-yard pool with diving boards.

Owner: University of Maryland

Architects: Sasaki Assoc., Inc. and Ayers/Saint/Gross, Inc.

Contractor: Clark Contracting, Inc.

Pool Contractor: Olympic Pools of Forestville, Md.

Aquatic Consultant: Rowley International, Inc.

Square Feet: 230,000 in complex; 29,000 of outdoor pool and deck space

Cost: \$40 million

Funded By: Student fees, state grants, memberships

Major Facility Components: Natatorium: 55-meter by 25-yard competitive pool with movable bulkheads and underwater light and sound, diving well with one- and three-meter boards, 25-yard by 25-yard instructional pool with ramp and stair entrances, lifeguard station, two coed saunas on deck, seating for 1,000, Colorado timing system and scoreboard. Complex also includes martial arts rooms, sand volleyball courts, fitness area (3,000 square feet) with cardiovascular and strength machines, multi-purpose room, walking-jogging track, two gymnasiums, six racquetball courts, pro shop and wellness center.

Outdoor Aquatic Center: 25-yard by 25-yard heated recreational pool with one-meter diving boards, water basketball and volleyball.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
Louisville, Kentucky

Like Maryland, the Louisville coach hopes his planned new pool will