

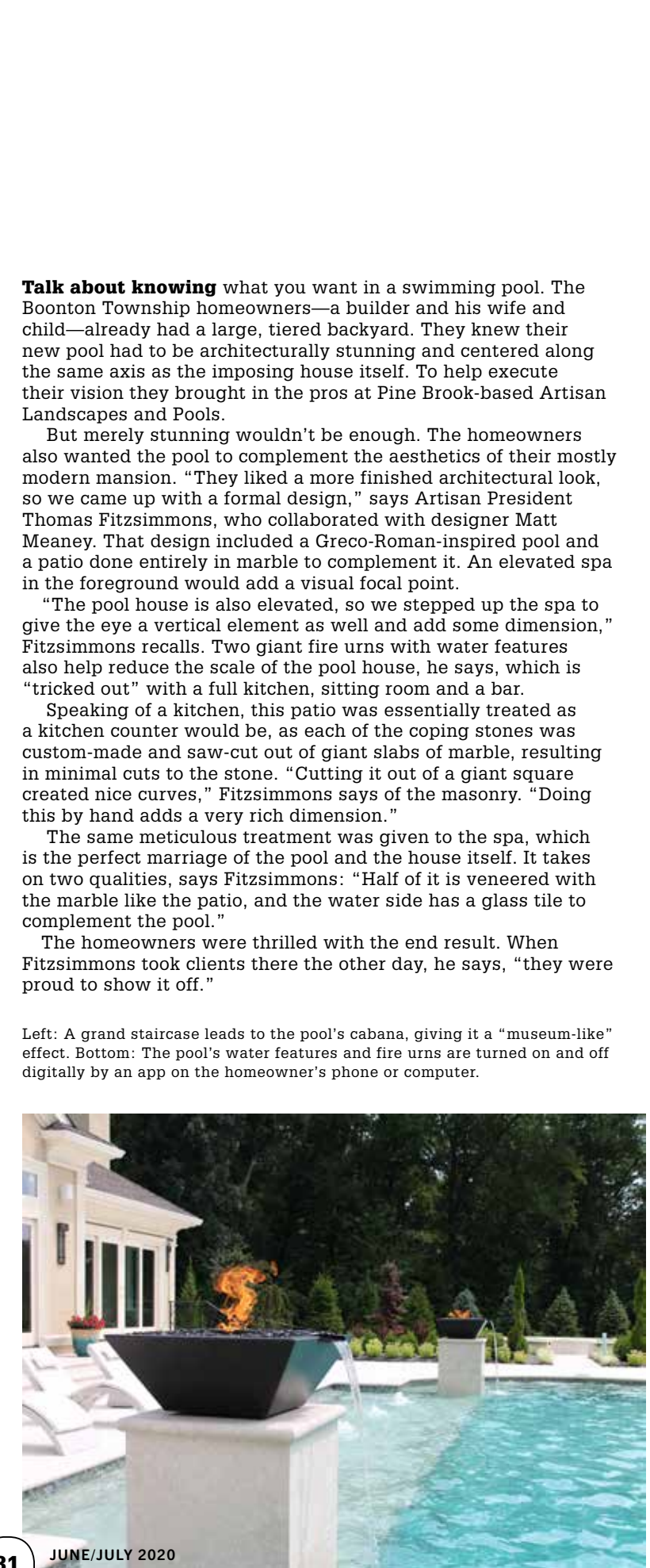
{ OUTDOOR SPACES }

GRECIAN RETREAT

A swimming pool inspired by antiquity turned out to be the perfect complement for a modern mansion with a tiered yard in Boonton.

By Haley Longman
Design by Thomas Fitzsimmons
Photography by Matt Meaney

Designers at Artisan Landscapes and Pools were inspired by Greco-Roman architecture—and the home itself—when creating this picturesque pool in Boonton. Surrounding one end of the pool are custom-made piers placed every 20 feet; they're opposite the large pool house.



Talk about knowing what you want in a swimming pool. The Boonton Township homeowners—a builder and his wife and child—already had a large, tiered backyard. They knew their new pool had to be architecturally stunning and centered along the same axis as the imposing house itself. To help execute their vision they brought in the pros at Pine Brook-based Artisan Landscapes and Pools.

But merely stunning wouldn't be enough. The homeowners also wanted the pool to complement the aesthetics of their mostly modern mansion. "They liked a more finished architectural look, so we came up with a formal design," says Artisan President Thomas Fitzsimmons, who collaborated with designer Matt Meaney. That design included a Greco-Roman-inspired pool and a patio done entirely in marble to complement it. An elevated spa in the foreground would add a visual focal point.

"The pool house is also elevated, so we stepped up the spa to give the eye a vertical element as well and add some dimension," Fitzsimmons recalls. Two giant fire urns with water features also help reduce the scale of the pool house, he says, which is "tricked out" with a full kitchen, sitting room and a bar.

Speaking of a kitchen, this patio was essentially treated as a kitchen counter would be, as each of the coping stones was custom-made and saw-cut out of giant slabs of marble, resulting in minimal cuts to the stone. "Cutting it out of a giant square created nice curves," Fitzsimmons says of the masonry. "Doing this by hand adds a very rich dimension."

The same meticulous treatment was given to the spa, which is the perfect marriage of the pool and the house itself. It takes on two qualities, says Fitzsimmons: "Half of it is veneered with the marble like the patio, and the water side has a glass tile to complement the pool."

The homeowners were thrilled with the end result. When Fitzsimmons took clients there the other day, he says, "they were proud to show it off."

Left: A grand staircase leads to the pool's cabana, giving it a "museum-like" effect. Bottom: The pool's water features and fire urns are turned on and off digitally by an app on the homeowner's phone or computer.