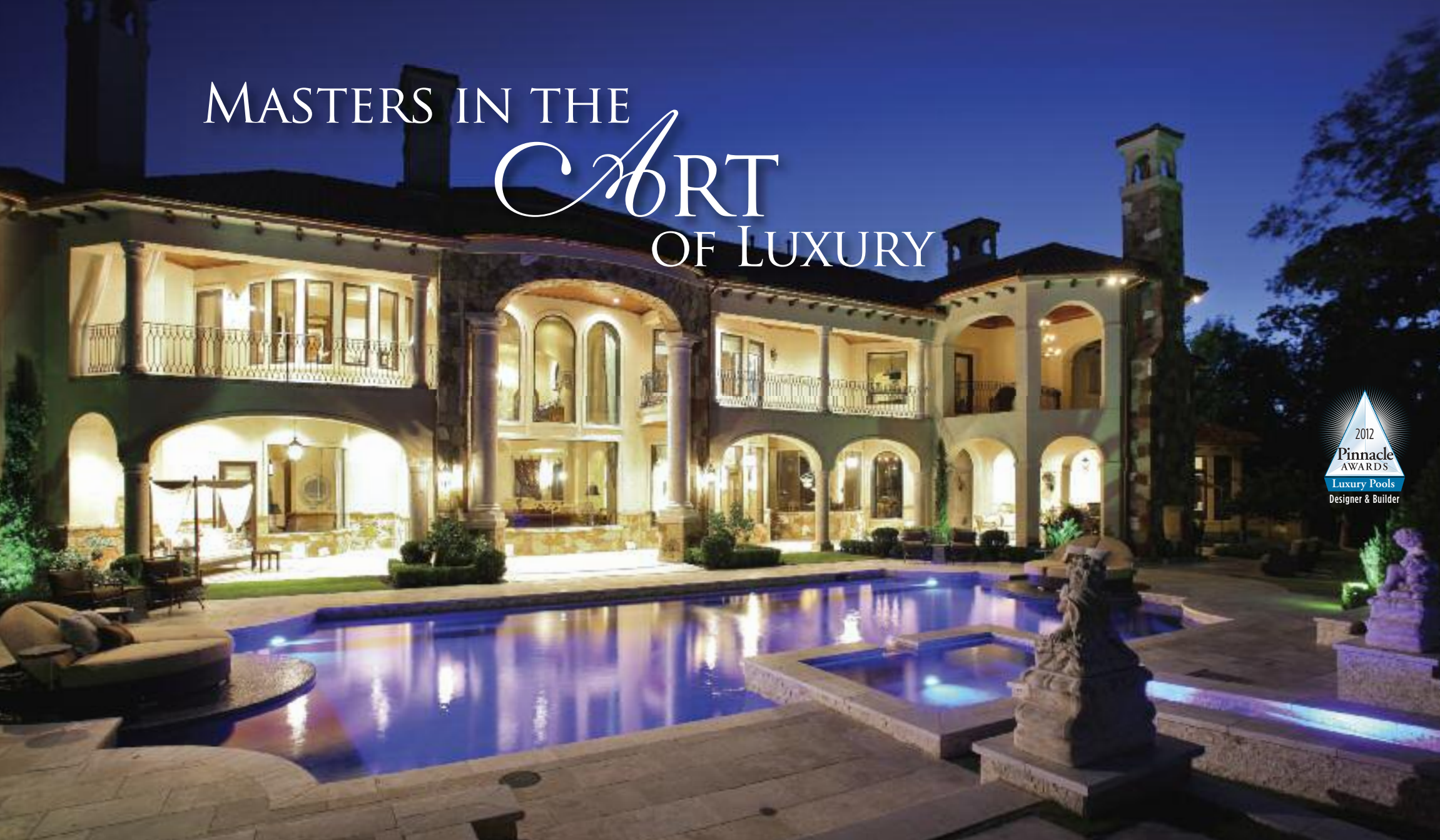


MASTERS IN THE ART OF LUXURY



ABOVE: This project represents true over-scaled Italian style. All of the glass in the pool was special ordered from Italy and the decking is chiseled edge 24-inch by 24-inch pieces of travertine that are brushed and tumbled to create the cobble floors seen all over the Italian region. Multiple temperatures of lighting were specified to create the warmth of Italy, and still showcase certain parts of the garden with the cool temperatures of the mercury vapor lights.

BELOW: Here the image illustrates the importance of having in-house landscape architects involved in all stages of site planning and design. Defining where you are going to cook, where you're going to dine, watch the ball game with cigars and cognac—all of these things play into the flow of the landscape architectural plan.



Marquise Pools, one of the Houston's area's premier pool designers and builders, has built a great reputation on creating fantastic poolscapes that are not only visually beautiful, but also professionally constructed with superior materials. Over the years, these practices have won the builder a number of awards from the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals, trade publications, and this year, a prestigious honor from *Luxury Pools*. The images shown here are different angles of the 2012 Pinnacle Awards-winning Chimenti project.

Chris Smith and Greg Watson are partners in the business, with Watson handling all construction and implementation and Smith managing the landscape architecture staff. Smith attributes his

company's success to employing only expert craftsmen. "We take a comprehensive approach to design, pools and outdoor living spaces," says Smith. "We can seamlessly integrate a home with a setting's landscaping because our professional team is comprised of registered landscape architects, pool industry veterans, and top-notch service technicians." In fact, Marquise Pools can design the entire project: hardscape and pool design, landscape, drainage, irrigation, lighting, decks, summer kitchens, cabanas, and pergolas.

The story behind the Chimenti pool is intriguing. Situated on a site that has over 11 feet of elevation drop to the rear of the property, the pool presented a set of challenges that Marquise Pools was able

to overcome. "We always create a master plan before we start a project," says Smith. In this case, Marquise decided to keep the lines of traditional appearance while incorporating more updated techniques of false perspective, elevation, scale, and proportion. The biggest test was creating a master plan that married the house architecture and scale to the unique natural characteristics of the property. "Having landscape architects involved in the entire pool design and construction process, creates the flow that many sophisticated clients want and are willing budget for," says Smith. "They see the value-added element of true design-build firms that invest in a staff with professional credentials." ❖

The highest point of this project is the upper fountain feature, which is perched 36 inches above the lower pool elevation. There is a sloped spillway channel that takes water from the upper fountain and cascades it into the spa, which then flows into the lower pool. The pool decking systems increase in height to the rear set of balustrades to complement the increasing series of water elements to the back retaining wall. This false perspective technique gave us the scale and prominence to fit next to an 18,000 square foot house footprint.

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