

*"...for the ultimate fusion  
of total outdoor lifestyle design."*

- Candy Lesher, Executive Producer, Food & Life TV

**"Trend Setter"** - AZ Magazine  
**"Master of the Southwest"** - Phoenix Home & Garden  
**"Coolest Pool Designer"** - Phoenix Magazine

**"Bianchi's artistry is the standard. A must-have for every connoisseur of fine living."**  
Nancy Erdmann Executive Editor, Phoenix Home & Garden, Arizona

**"Kirk brings together three disciplines – landscape, pool and exterior architecture, for the  
ultimate fusion of total outdoor lifestyle design."**

Candy Lesher, Executive Producer, Food & Life TV

**"Very Progressive, Fresh, and innovative...Bianchi's Detailing Approaches that of a fine  
jeweler."**

Jeffrey Hennig, Environmental Artists

**"We could tell that Kirk's work was an expression of who he was, and that his personal  
contribution was his gift to us as friends and family, and that's the kind of people we love  
having around us."**

Bill and Linda Langer, Arcadia, Phoenix AZ

**"We were quick to notice Bianchi's diligence and painstaking attention to detail. Kirk has a  
keen eye and carefully analyzes everything."**

Steve and Lauren Gilbard, Desert Highlands, Scottsdale AZ

**"We had no idea how transformative Kirk's work would be on our every day life. His insight  
gave us this environment that is like a living work of art that takes your breath away. The  
good times we enjoy with friends and family at our home has been directly impacted by  
the spectacular setting we now have to share."**

Alan and Cici Zwerner, Troon, Scottsdale AZ



[www.bianchidesign.com](http://www.bianchidesign.com)

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Outdoor Living  
as an  
*Art form*



As Seen In PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

Recognized MASTER<sub>OF THE SOUTHWEST</sub>

# Water Wizard

**Kirk Bianchi elevates pool and exterior design to an art form.** *text by Nancy Erdmann*

*Creating Magic* is something pool designer Kirk Bianchi thrives on—it's what motivates him to perfect his art and push the envelope. Tenacious, meticulous and never quite satisfied, he approaches every project as though it were a work of art.

Bianchi has been in the pool industry since the early '90s and established his own design firm in '99. In that time he has demonstrated a flair for creating one-of-a-kind settings that seamlessly blend swimming pools and waterfeatures with the landscape and architecture at hand.

"I have worked with Kirk on a number of high-end residential projects, and he is a very fresh addition to the industry," says interior designer Teri Mulmed, owner of Do Daz Inc. "The first thing I noticed about him was that he got what I was doing and reflected that architecturally by repeating lines from the inside of a home into his designs on the outside."

As a young boy growing up in Detroit, Bianchi was interested in a number of creative endeavors. He was drawn to photography, motion pictures and model building/dioramas. Later, he dreamed of creating special effects for filmmaker George Lucas. In high school, he had an opportunity to take part in an intensive architectural design curriculum, during which he participated in—and won—several statewide design competitions.

Before heading to college, the young designer took a month long trip to Japan with his father that made a lasting impression. "I was captivated by their sense of detail and ability to creatively integrate even the most modest dwellings with their outdoor environs," he recalls. What he garnered from this experience was a design aesthetic that is still with him today.

"I love the sculptural Zen-like simplicity of form found in modern, minimalist design," he says. "The common denominator in all my projects is that I strive to impart a calming serenity to the scenes I create."

"In a world where we are constantly overloaded by distractions that stress us," he continues, "the garden spaces we live in are often an overdone and misunderstood opportunity for retreat and recovery. I see so many projects that are over-embellished, garish, even agitating to the senses. So I am an advocate that if you truly want to have your breath taken away by a captivating retreat, then less is actually much, much more."

Although Bianchi says he didn't set out to be an outdoor living space designer—a profession he didn't even know existed—various circumstances and influential people along the way helped shape his path.

In the late '80s, he studied architectural design at Arizona State University. Tugged by his own entrepreneurial yearnings, and not sure that architecture was the route he wanted to follow, he decided to leave school and rethink his direction.

"That's when I came across an article on Ted Miller, an ex-professional-fisherman-turned-pool designer," he recalls. "I was intrigued by him and how he would incorporate scenes he had experienced from his travels into his clients' garden spaces."

Miller, who was employed by Sun Pools at the time, offered Bianchi a job. "He started out by digging pools, setting boulders and waterfalls, and pouring concrete, and attending plumbing hydraulic classes," says Miller. "He was thrown in with the wolves. But he hung in there, and that's how he got his initiation and how he paid his dues."

Although Bianchi spent a year and a half in the trenches, he also was given a chance to do some design work. "I would go out at night with company owner Bob Hayne to client meetings and later helped transform his napkin drawings into something concrete," he recalls. "It made for very long days, but having been in the field to see firsthand how the designs progressed from concept to reality later enabled me to take on more technically challenging and unusual designs."

According to Miller, Bianchi was always doing things to increase his knowledge. This included attending Genesis 3, a highly respected and intensive educational program in California for those who want to learn more about waterscape design and construction.

In 1999 Bianchi decided to go out on his own and started WaterScapes by Bianchi Design LLC, a design and construction-management firm. Since then he has collaborated with numerous builders, architects, design professionals and homeowners.

Bill King, a Flagstaff home builder and president of Wm. King Development Co. Inc., has known and worked with Bianchi for a number of years. "He has a true talent for creating beautiful and unique outdoor environments," he says. "Kirk is the kind of guy who is always thinking of and working toward coming up with more aesthetically pleasing and rewarding spaces for his clients. It's as if he is always saying to himself, 'I can make it better. I know I can.'"

Bianchi says his company is unlike any other, for he personally works hand-in-hand with his building team to oversee the installation of every outdoor space he designs. His intention, he adds, is to elevate swimming pool design and construction to an art form.

"Most people don't know good design until they experience it for themselves. So I love surprising and exciting them," sums up this Master of the Southwest. "There is nothing more satisfying than thrilling the daylights out of someone with something they never thought they could have."

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