Project	Garden Pools and Fountains

The tranquil beauty and playful shimmer of a reflecting pool or fountain is just the thing to enhance the charm of your garden or patio. Best of all, you can do all the work yourself. Add goldfish or water plants to increase the pool's appeal; fish will even help control the insect population.

Free-Form Concrete Pool

This pool can be given the dimensions and shape you desire, and all you need to build it is simple construction know-how and a few tools.

Required Tools & Materials

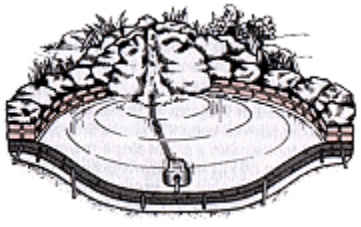
- QUIKRETE® Fiber-Reinforced Concrete Mix
- QUIKRETE® Mortar Mix or Mason Mix
- QUIKRETE® Masonry Coating
- Sand
- Chicken wire reinforcement
- 1"x2" scrap wood
- 2" drainpipe and fittings
- Shovel
- Hoe
- Mixing box
- Hammer
- Wooden float or trowel
- Brush

Step by Step

Construction

1. Dig a saucer-shaped excavation for the pool with center 24" deep.

2. Install the drainpipe at the center of the pool as shown. The coupling should be 6" above the soil bed. The pipe end is connected to a drain or led away to a dry well.



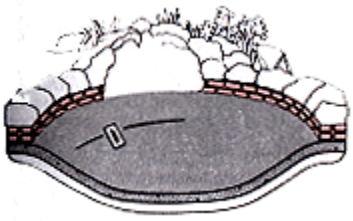
3. Cut the 1 x 2s into 11" stakes, marking each at 2", 5", and 8" distances from the head. Drive them into the bed at square-foot

intervals up to the 8" mark.

4. Fill the pool with 3" of sand or gravel as a subbase (up to the 5" marks).

5. Lay the chicken wire into the pool, supporting it about 2" above the subbase with small stones or brick bits.

6. Pack the prepared QUIKRETE® Fiber-Reinforced Concrete Mix firmly around the chicken wire with the shovel up to the 2" stake marks. This will give you a 3" concrete basin.



7. After the concrete loses its sheen, finish it with a trowel or wooden float.

8. Keep damp for 24 hours and then fill with water.

9. The perimeter of the pool can be built up using QUIKRETE® Mortar Mix or Mason Mix and brick; mortared or dry-laid stone can also be used. The addition of plants and shrubs creates a cool, shaded effect. Painting the bottom green or dark blue will make the pool appear deeper.

10. You may wish to install a submersible, circulating pump to create a tiered waterfall or spray fountain effect in the pool; if so, follow the manufacturer's directions carefully. Naturally, running water produces noise, so you may want to limit the drop of the water or its volume. Be sure to know what type of pump setup you are going to use before building the pool's perimeter. Tubing or electrical cable will likely have to pass through or be concealed by these items.

11. Thoroughly clean and flush the surface of the pool before stocking it with fish or plants.

For Best Results

- Vary the depth of the pool to suit your taste, but it should have a minimum center depth of 14" to keep fish safe from the other animals and a 16" depth for water plants.
- A gentle slope makes laying the concrete easier; however,

you can make the slopes as steep as you wish. For a steeper slope, mix the concrete with slightly less water that in other construction for convenience in laying it.
- For added effect, brush a coat of QUIKRETE® Masonry Coating on the basin. It's available in white, gray, and other popular colors.

Concrete Block Pool

An uncomplicated design, the concrete block pool has rectangular corners that add a dignified elegance to any garden, and its construction makes it an easy and economical project to do it yourself.

Required Tools & Materials

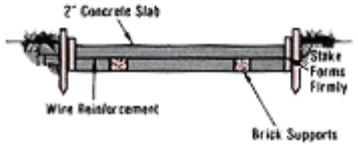
- QUIKRETE® Concrete Mix
- QUIKRETE® Surface Bonding Cement
- QUIKRETE® Masonry Coating
- QUIKRETE® Hydraulic Coating
- QUIKRETE® Hydraulic Water-Stop Cement
- QUIKRETE® Concrete Acrylic Fortifier
- QUIKRETE® Acrylic Concrete Cure & Seal
- QUIKRETE® Marble Chips or Deco Pebbles
- 6"x 8"16" concrete blocks
- 2"x 8"x 16" concrete capping or plastic tubing
- 8" length of ½" copper or plastic tubing
- 1"x 2" scrap lumber
- Shovel
- Mason's hammer
- Trowel
- 4" level
- Ball of line
- Screed
- Wooden float
- Portable mixer
- Brush

Step by Step

Site Excavation

1. Plan the size of your pool so that no blocks with have to be cut. Since no mortar will be used, use the actual dimensions of the block, which are 1/8" less than the nominal dimensions.

2. Stake out an area 1' wider on the sides and ends than the planned external dimensions of the pool.



3. Excavate the site. For a reflecting pool using only 1 course of blocks, excavate at least 4"; for a fish or plant pond using 2 block courses, excavate at least 12". For the overflow pipe to work, a minimum of 3" of the pool, including the capping blocks, must be exposed aboveground.

4. The bottom 2" of the site are excavated only to the external dimensions of the pool; try to keep these edges straight so that the concrete slab can be poured without a form.

Pool Base Construction

1. Lay the reinforcing wire into the pool bed.

2. Pour the prepared concrete around the wire depth of 2". Use a hook to keep the wire near the center of the slab for maximum strength.

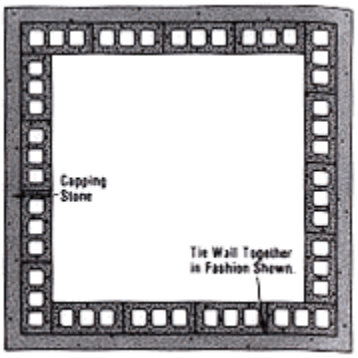
3. Screed and float the concrete.

4. If desired, QUIKRETE® Marble Chips or QUIKRETE® Deco Pebbles can be seeded into the top surface of the wet concrete to create an interesting exposed aggregate finish for the pool bottom.

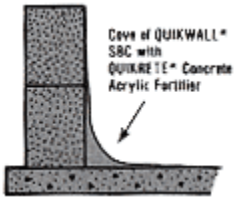
Pool Wall Construction

1. Set the blocks lengthwise into the fresh concrete. Lay them outward from the corner, putting them together as tightly as possible and keeping them aligned with the level.

2. Create a watertight seal between the base of the pool wall and the pool base by forming a cove-shaped joint of QUIKWALL® Surface Bonding Cement.



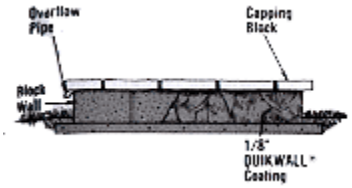
The batch of QUIKWALL® SBC used to create the cove must be fortified with QUIKRETE Concrete Acrylic Fortifier. The bottom edge of the cove should extend onto the pool base. The top edge should extend up the wall until it feathers out.



3. The remaining batches of QUIKRETE® Surface Bonding Cement do not require QUIKRETE® Concrete Acrylic Fortifier. Trowel the prepared QUIKWALL® on both sides and on the top of the blocks, taking care to completely cover them. One 50-pound bag is sufficient to cover an area of approximately 50 square feet to a depth of 1/8". The bed on top of the blocks should be a minimum of ¼" thick.

4. Lay the capping blocks into the QUIKWALL® SBC bed, overhanging the edges of the wall at least 1" on all sides. Level the block in two directions and make certain they are correctly aligned.

5. Insert the tubing as an overflow pipe under the capping blocks in an appropriate location in your wall. Use QUIKRETE® Hydraulic Water-Stop Cement to seal the opening around the pipe. Do this before laying the capping block.



6. Apply QUIKRETE® Acrylic Concrete Sealer to the concrete.

For Best Results

- A drainpipe can be installed in place of the overflow to drain water at the onset of cold weather.