

10 Architecturally Stunning Hotel Pools

From Switzerland to the Caribbean, these pool views are beautiful whether you're looking in or gazing out.

When it comes to hotel design, building architecture tends to get a lot of the glory. But even as hotels and resorts up the ante with dramatic skyscrapers, charming farmhouses, and overwater bungalows, exteriors aren't the only eye-catching structures to pay attention to.

Take, for example, the **humble hotel pool**. While in many cases, it's simply a tiled rectangle, at some hotels, they come in intricate shapes, complete with features made from materials like quartzite stone, marine-grade steel plates, and shiny black granite. Many are designed by award-winning architects, from Bill Bensley to Peter Zumthor, who draw inspiration from places as diverse as ancient ramparts, a rainwater reservoir, and **Angkor Wat temple** in Cambodia. These are the most stunning architectural hotel pools to take a dip in around the world.



Cristobal Palma/Courtesy Vik Retreats

Playa Vik Jose Ignacio, Uruguay

This dramatic, cantilevered pool is at **Playa Vik Jose Ignacio**, 93 miles from the capital of Montevideo in Uruguay. The **boutique beach house** escape opened in 2009 and is focused around art, and the pool is a towering, swimmable sculpture designed by Carrie and Alex Vik in collaboration with Uruguayan architect Carlos Ott. The 75-foot cantilevered pool is made of Uruguayan black Absolute Nero granite and stretches out past the terrace to hover 32 feet over the beach below. The pool also features a fiber-optic light celestial map of the Southern Hemisphere's night sky, created by small optic light points set within the pool floor.