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GO GILBERT!

POW! KAZAM! WOW!
TEEN SUPERHEROES HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL IN STYLE

**THE WEIGH IN:
MEET OUR BIGGEST
LOSER COMPETITORS!**

**BEHIND THE
FENCE OF GILBERT'S
MILLION-DOLLAR
BACKYARD!**

JAVA FIX
THE COFFEE SHOP BREWS
HIP, LOCAL FLAVORS

BUILDING A FAMILY

**ADOPTIONS BRING LOVE
HOME TO GILBERT FROM ALL
CORNERS OF THE WORLD**

LOOK INSIDE
to see how YOU can
join our Biggest Loser
Reader Challenge!

Paulette Salvia with her adopted daughter, Jessica Salvia.

WRITTEN BY SONDRA BARR
PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF RED ROCK POOLS & SPAS

Water Wonderland

Million-dollar Gilbert backyard featured on the *Travel Channel*

What does it take to build a pool named the world's most extreme private pool by the *Travel Channel*? A lot. Sure, it took wads of dough - over \$1 million, but it also required the construction ingenuity of Rick Chafey and Brett Blauvelt, co-owners of Red Rock Pools and Spas, to realize the one-of-a-kind pool dreams of Gilbert homeowners Tony and Marianna Kitchukov. Here's Blauvelt's take on the extreme project.



It takes over 130,000 gallons of water to fill the Kitchukov's two pools and spa!



WHAT UNIQUE FEATURES DOES THIS BACKYARD HAVE?

The pool, besides being over the top for any residential home, has over 200 tons of boulders in the yard, as well as water features - some the size of small cars. The biggest boulders range from 6-8 tons a piece. The amount of fire features in the yard is something to see. There are over 4-million BTU's of gas in the yard.



We had to up-size the meter to a commercial grade meter to handle the 22 fire features. This is also one of the biggest pools ever done in the state with a Paramount In-Floor Cleaning system. The whole pool is surrounded by a bullnose travertine tile coping and a random 3-piece travertine deck. I think the coolest thing in the yard is the fact that we have four different bodies of water at different elevations. This sounds like something small but to accomplish that, and have all of the flow rates right, is impressive to me.

WHAT WERE THE CHALLENGES TO BUILDING A POOL OF THIS MAGNITUDE?

There are challenges with every job, but for this particular job it was space. Typically when a pool, or should I say yard, of this magnitude is built, you are starting with a clean canvas. With this job, we actually had to destroy and remove existing items in the yard to create the space to build. Once the yard was at a point where we could do a layout of what was going to be done, it was much easier. The big challenge was to start basically in the back of the yard and build forward. Typically with the size of yards now everything is right in front of you. With this job, the yard was so massive

Homeowners Tony and Marianna Kitchukov's Gilbert backyard was inspired by the Mirage Hotel and Resort in Las Vegas. Their elaborate setup includes...

- Two salt water pools (able to comfortably hold 100 people)
- A 15-person hot tub
- Five waterfalls
- A waterslide
- Twenty-two fire features
- A putting green
- A 3,000-square foot skate park & skate pool
- A full size bar

The 3,000-square foot skate park features grind rails and a large concrete skate pool!



and stretched around the existing guest house, we had to plan carefully.

HOW DID THE TRAVEL CHANNEL FIND OUT ABOUT THIS HOME?

They heard about us through the editor in chief of Aqua Magazine, Kristen Pires.

HAVE YOU AND RICK WORKED ON COMPARABLE PROJECTS?

We have built some other big projects and have some going on right now but this was the first residential job of this magnitude. This pool also has more features than even most resort pools, making it very unique.

Due to the fact that my business partner Rick and I are from Gilbert and have lived here most of our lives it was an incredible feeling to be able to build a project like this and get the recognition that it has. You hear about guys growing up in a small town and making it happen. The funny thing about it is we lived in Gilbert when there was nothing but fields, dairy farms, and one light in the center of town. To be able to start a business and run it in the town we are from is a great thing.



It took five months and thousands of workers to complete the project!