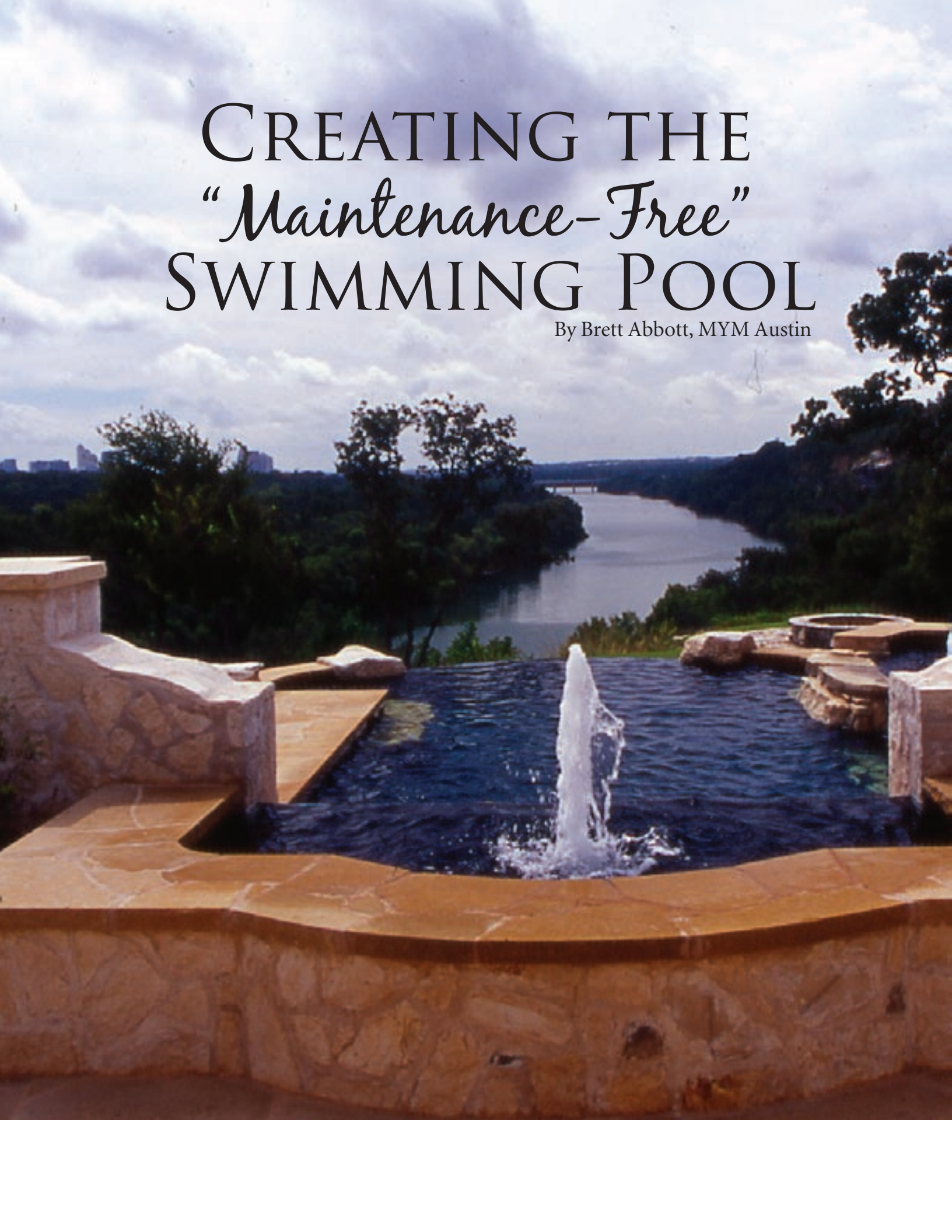
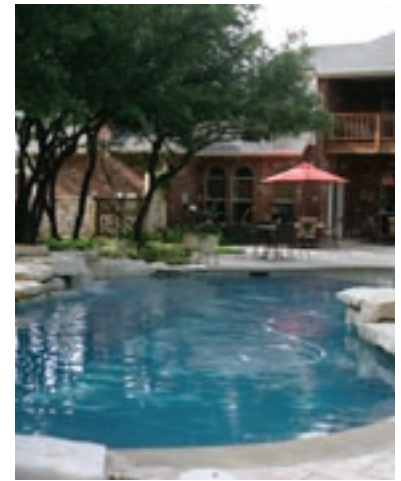


# CREATING THE *“Maintenance-Free”* SWIMMING POOL

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In years past, the downside of owning a swimming pool was the weekly ritual of skimming leaves, clumsy vacuuming, and dumping smelly powdered chlorine into the water. But recent developments and new technologies have made these old headaches a thing of the past. Today's swimming pool is fast approaching the point of requiring virtually no maintenance at all. The secret lies in controlling the three biggest challenges to pool cleanliness: Dirt, debris and chemicals.

The first step in keeping the pool clean is vacuuming up any dirt that collects on the bottom. There are several excellent "automatic cleaners" on the market, but they all have one drawback – You have to haul the contraption and its assorted hoses out of the pool and store it somewhere whenever you want to use the pool. Not too terribly difficult, but still a nuisance and a bit of an eyesore. A better solution is the new "in-floor cleaning" system. Somewhat reminiscent of a pop-up sprinkler head, a collection of nearly invisible, flush mounted cleaning heads are strategically located throughout the bottom of the pool. Permanently built in to the pool, but never in the way of any swimmer, these systems make old-fashioned "vacuuming" obsolete. One catch – You can't retrofit an existing pool with this system; It needs to be installed when the pool is built.

The next step is to minimize the dirt that gets into the pool in the first place. This is where automatic pool covers come in. Any pool or spa can be fitted with a durable cover that not only blocks out dirt and debris, but also provides excellent safety protection against anyone falling in the pool.

