

TRADITIONAL WITH A CLASSIC TWIST



Ample use of white limestone sets this award-winning pool apart for builder Tom Driscoll.

By **Connie Sung**
Contributing Writer

"Elegant," says Tom Driscoll. Not wild, not lavish, not expensive —

"Well, obviously expensive," he says with a laugh. "But that's a given."

That's how Driscoll, president of Cabana Pools Aquatech in Houston, described the pool that immediately came to mind when asked which project he takes most pride in after more than 25 years as a designer and builder.

His 42,000-gallon prized project has all the traditional features of a rectangular Roman-Grecian model, with a classic twist: cool, long-lasting white limestone, which he used to construct the pool's rail, deck and coping.

Driscoll says he began the project with simple instructions from his client: The Houston family wanted something very formal that "would just knock you over." The rest was left to him. This creative freedom — and a sweet price tag — allowed Driscoll to go with limestone instead of conventional materials.

And he didn't use just any limestone either: Driscoll found the perfect native rock available from a quarry in Bertram, central Texas.

In designing the project, Driscoll broke up the flat surface of the yard by elevating the 8-foot-diameter, circular spa and its surrounding deck. The deck's 42-inch-tall limestone railing echoes existing balustrade work around the house and affords the curved spa area a look of privacy.

A fountain on the opposite side of

the pool visually balances the raised spa. Three plumes of water rise from the waterfeature, and notches in the tiled dam wall allow water to flow in five matching streams into the pool below.

The project took six weeks to design and nine months to complete. It won a gold medal in traditional design at the Aquatech Design Awards Banquet in 1997, and received an award of merit at the National Spa & Pool Institute's International Expo last year.

"This exceeded our expectations," says Driscoll. "It's nice to construct something and see someone's face just light up and say, 'It's gorgeous.'"

Connie Sung is a freelance writer based in Los Angeles.