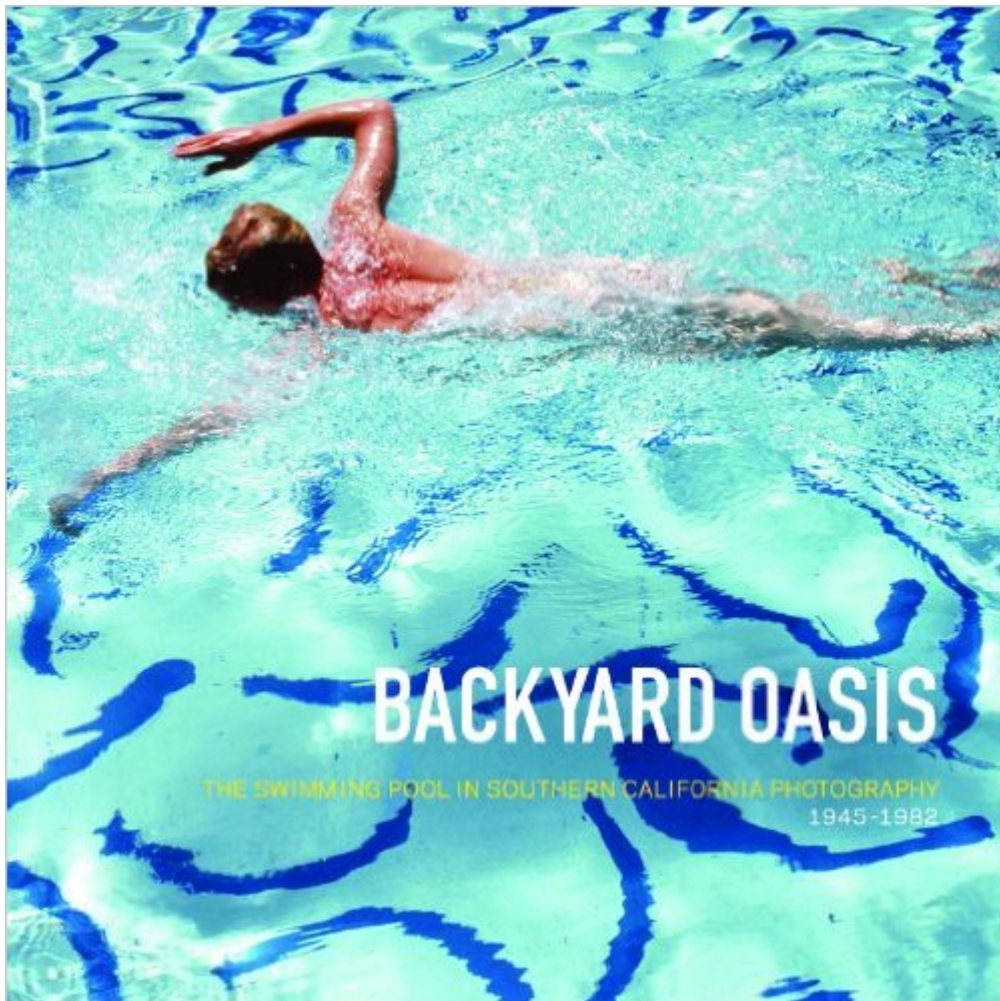


The book was found

Backyard Oasis: The Swimming Pool In Southern California Photography, 1945-1982



Synopsis

Southern California's pool culture is the subject of this unique and luscious collection of photographs that explore the parallel evolution of an iconic symbol and an artistic genre. Since the end of World War II, Southern California's backyard pools--those blue-green oases in an otherwise often arid landscape--have symbolized any number of American ideals: optimism, wealth, consumerism, escape, physical beauty, and the triumph of man over nature. Simultaneously, the field of photography developed as a transformative method for recording the human condition. This exhibition catalog celebrates the nexus of these two phenomena in a one-of-a-kind collection that features more than two hundred works by more than forty postwar artists and photographers. It presents works by photographers and artists including Bill Anderson, John Baldessari, Ruth Bernhard, David Hockney, Herb Ritts, Ed Ruscha, Julius Shulman, and Larry Sultan. Thematically grouped into topics ranging from the rise of celebrity culture, suburbia and dystopia, avant-garde architectural landscape design, and the cult of the body, these images offer a rich study of the cultural connotations of the swimming pool. Six insightful essays provide a comprehensive overview of the development of the swimming pool and its attendant aesthetic and social culture.

Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Prestel USA (January 11, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 3791351761

ISBN-13: 978-3791351766

Product Dimensions: 11.3 x 1.1 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #593,198 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #101 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Photography & Video > Lifestyle & Events > Lifestyle](#) #776 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Photography & Video > Collections, Catalogues & Exhibitions](#) #1232 in [Books >](#)

[Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Individual Photographers](#)

Customer Reviews

Some of these images will be familiar--Herb Ritts' unforgettable shot of Richard Gere taking a poolside business call, oblivious to his girlfriend performing an almost too-perfect dive to his right; William Holden floating dead in the 'Sunset Boulevard' pool, surrounded by press and police--but

most are new to me. Threads emerge: the pool as a piece of the Southwest's modernist architecture (caught best in Julius Shulman's b&w photography, much of it in austere Palm Springs, and in Leland Lee's color photos of the Hollywood Hills); the pool as symbol of prosperity and/or banality (Bill Owens); the long afternoon at the country club (Bill Anderson); abandoned, emptied--or, in one pitiful case, even filled-in--pools (Loretta Ayeroff); and of course an absolute ton of Hockney (no complaints here). There is also much here on the pool as a focus of Hollywood's mid-century gay culture, and it must be said that this last theme rather runs away with things. Aside from a couple Ruth Bernhard portraits, the only women to show up here are either embalmed housewives or gay icons like Marilyn Monroe and Jayne Mansfield. In short, the book got a little sidetracked, if not downright hijacked, by one of its subplots. Really fellas, did it never enter your head that a woman might also feel vital near one of those big vats of chlorine?

Sigh! I put this book on my wish list when it was still on pre-order. I was quite excited at the prospect of vintage photography of vintage swimming pools. I was excited for the watery blues, the tiles, the sneak peak of backyards in Southern California, the families, the lone swimmers, alas, this book had none. The most true-to-what-I-was-expecting photograph was the repetition of the front cover image. The majority of the images are either small, black and white, of people in their bathing suits with no swimming pool in sight, crotches, and penises. Pretty disappointed to say the least. Even so much that I returned it. This book was of no visual value to me.

This is truly a comprehensive overview of the swimming pool culture up to 1982, which is steeped in tradition in Southern California. Beautifully printed, 264 pages, filled with full page photos of many noted images and many unseen images. Great for your library, coffee table or gift.

I wanted to visit the exhibition in Plam Springs for this book last year but couldnt - so next best thing was to buy the book. I love it!! If you are a bit of a pool nut like me and love a bit of nostalgia which california is loaded with then this book is for you!!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Backyard Oasis: The Swimming Pool in Southern California Photography, 1945-1982 Southern
Cooking: Southern Cooking Cookbook - Southern Cooking Recipes - Southern Cooking Cookbooks
- Southern Cooking for Thanksgiving - Southern Cooking Recipes - Southern Cooking Cookbook
Recipes PHOTOGRAPHY: Photography Business - 20 Crucial Tips to Kickstart a Successful
Photography Business (Photography, Photoshop, Photography Books, Photography ... Photography

Business, Digital Photography) PHOTOGRAPHY: Fashion Photography - 8 Practical Fashion Photography Tips For Your Models to Shine (Photography, Photoshop, Digital Photography, Photography Books, Photography Magazines) Sounds of Two Eyes Opening - Southern California Life : Skate/Beach/Punk 1969-1982 How to Build a Natural Swimming Pool Photography: DSLR Photography Secrets and Tips to Taking Beautiful Digital Pictures (Photography, DSLR, cameras, digital photography, digital pictures, portrait photography, landscape photography) Photography: Photography Lighting Hacks: 7 Must Know Lighting Tips For Dramatically Stunning Photos..Every Time (photography lighting, portrait photography, ... photography, creativity, dslr photography) DSLR: DSLR Photography: Learn How to Master the Art of DSLR Photography the Quick and Simple Way: DSLR Photography: DSLR Photography for Beginners: DSLR ... Photography, History of Photography) Van Halen Rising: How a Southern California Backyard Party Band Saved Heavy Metal Photography Business: Sell That Photo!: 10 Simple Ways To Make Big Bucks Selling Your Photography Online (how to sell photography, freelance photography, ... to start on online photography business) Photography: The Ultimate Editing Guide To Enhance And Create Stunning Digital Photos (Photography, Digital Photography, DSLR, Photoshop, Photography Books, ... Photography For Beginners, Photo Editing) Photography Business Box Set: Master the Art of Wedding Photography and Start Your Own Business (business photography, business photography, starting photography business) Southern Sayings' & Sass: A Chalkboard Coloring Book: Well Bless Your Heart: Southern Charm & Southern Sayings Funny Coloring Books For Grownups & ... Relaxation Stress Relief & Art Color Therapy) The Boom of the Eighties in Southern California (California Classics) Backyard Chickens: The Ultimate Beginners Guide to Choosing a Breed, Chicken Coop, and Raising Backyard Chickens Backyard Chickens: The Essential Backyard Chickens Guide for Beginners: Choosing the Right Breed, Raising Chickens, Feeding, Care, and Troubleshooting The Backyard Chickens Handbook: What You Need to Know to Raise Backyard Chickens (Modern Homesteading) (Volume 1) National Geographic Backyard Guide to the Birds of North America (National Geographic Backyard Guides) Midwestern Birds: Backyard Guide - Watching - Feeding - Landscaping - Nurturing - Indiana, Ohio, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, ... Dakota (Bird Watcher's Digest Backyard Guide)

[Dmca](#)