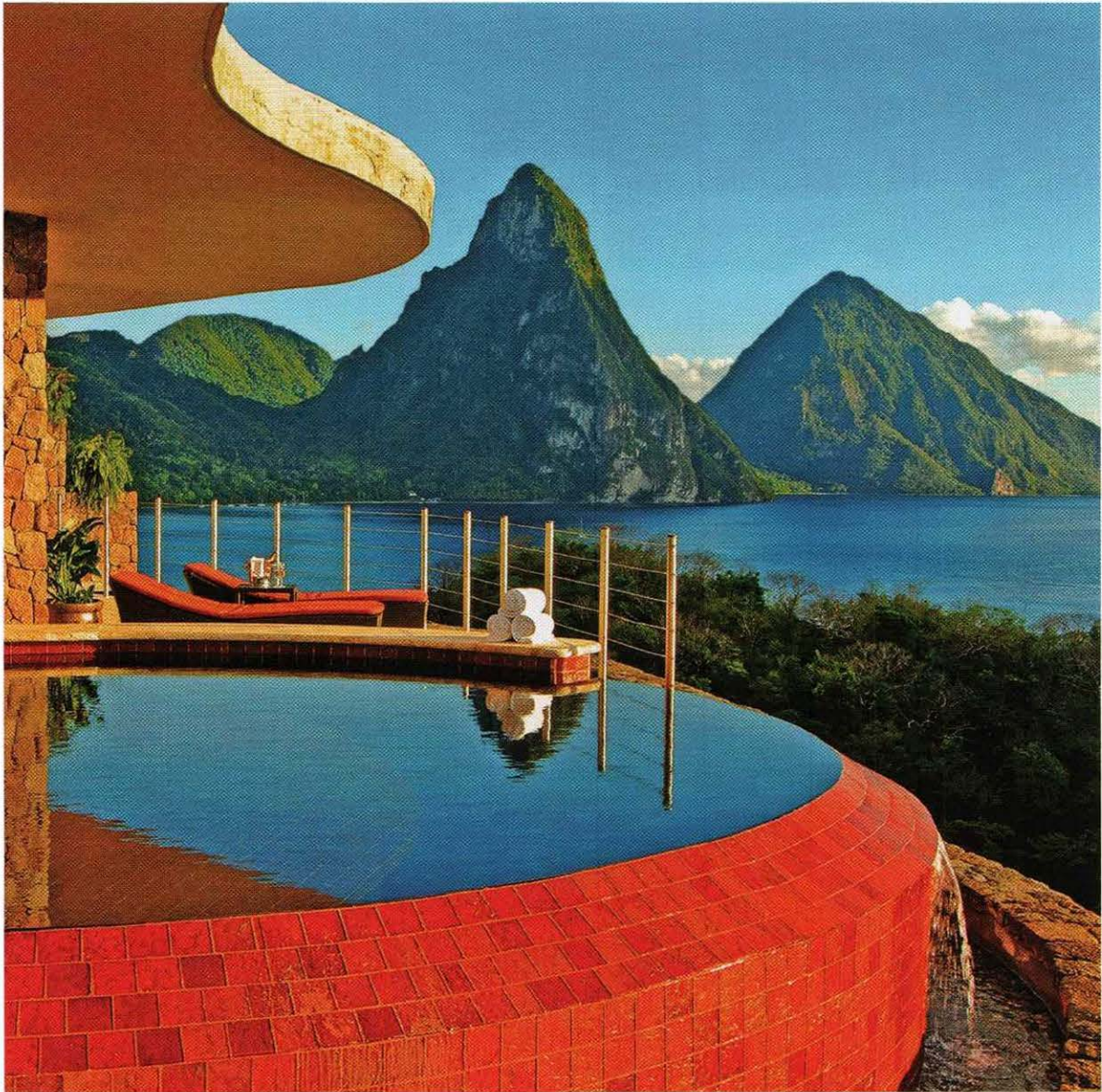


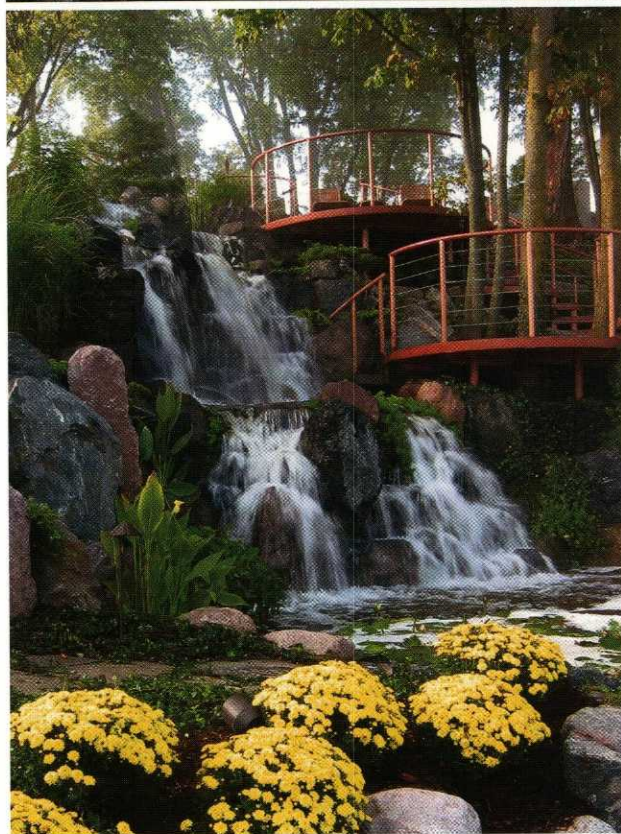
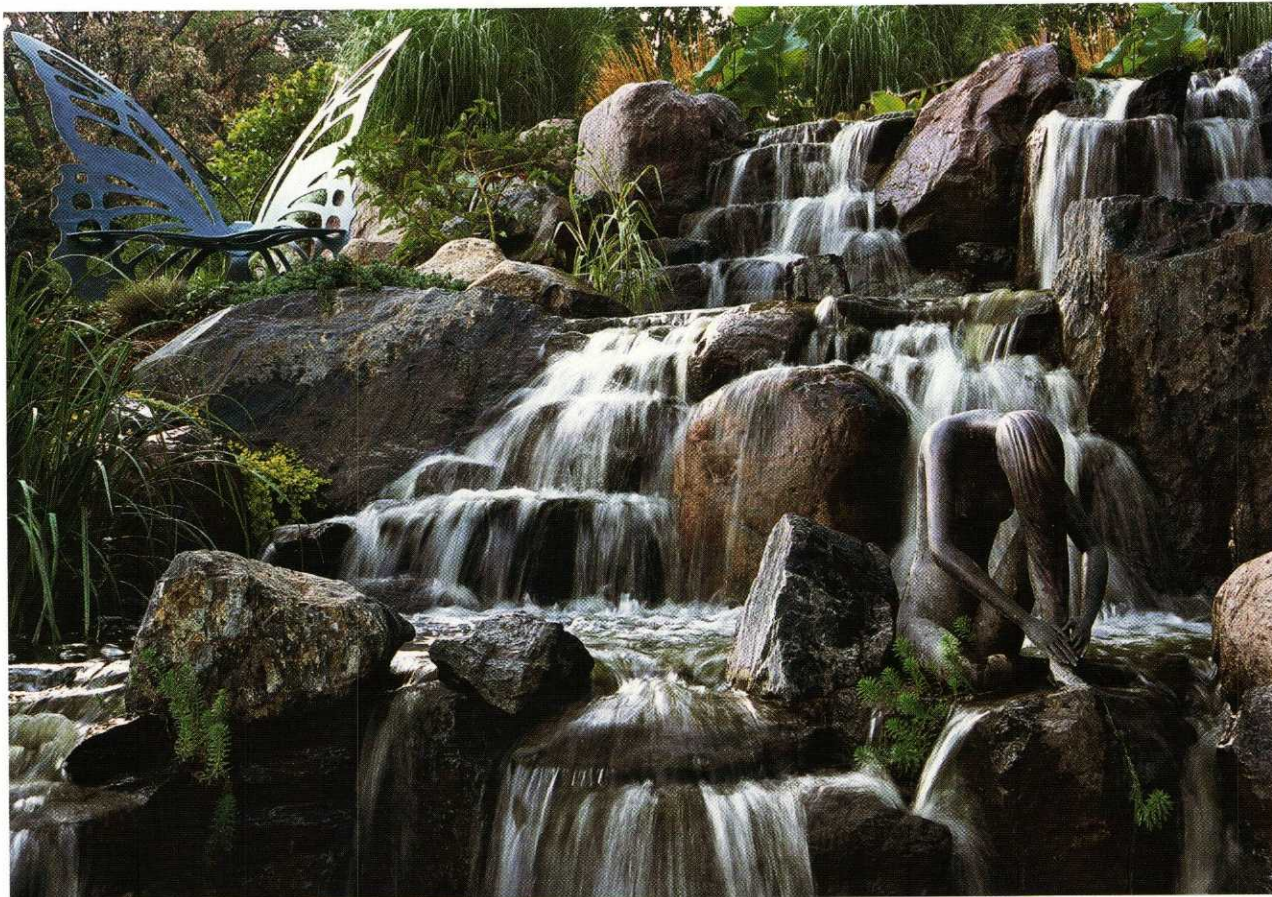
The Robb Report COLLECTION™

REAL ESTATE AND HOME DESIGN



Pool Extravaganza

REFRESHING DESIGNS FOR YOUR SUMMER RETREAT



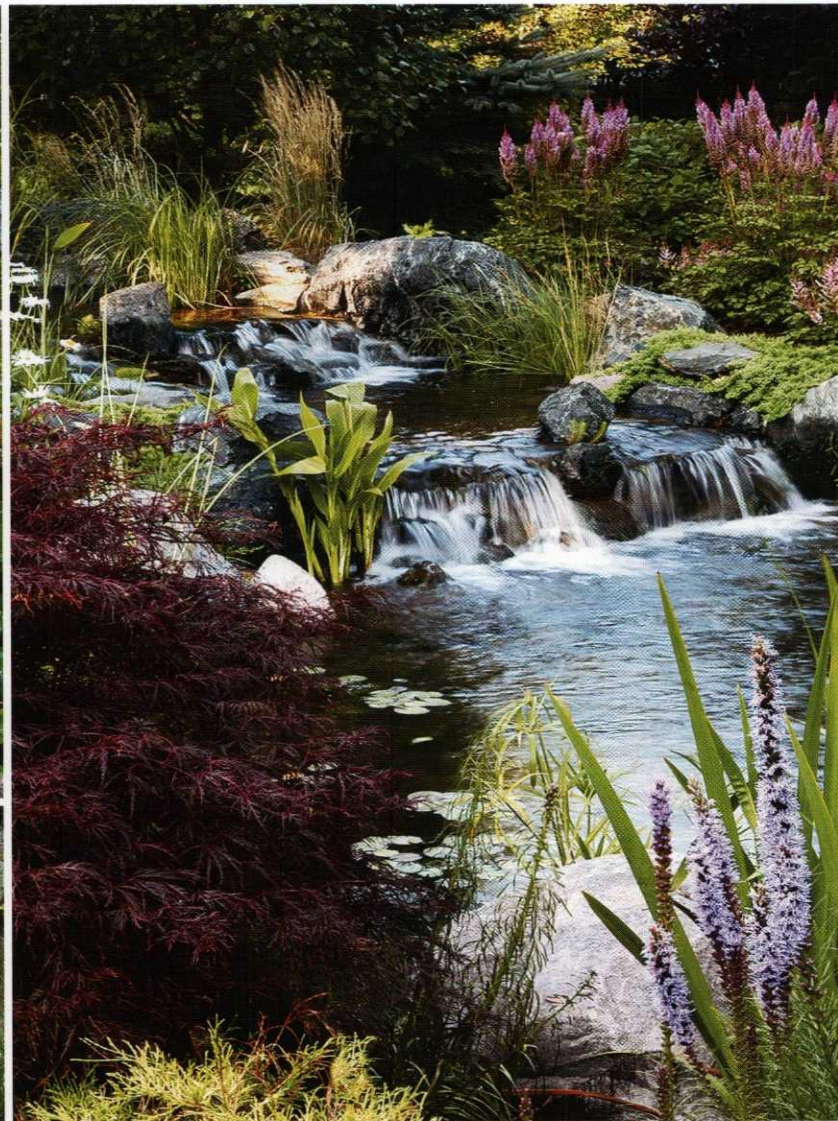
Illinois-based brothers Chris, Frank and Jeff Kane create one-of-a-kind waterscapes, many with waterfalls, for private clients.

The Water Bearers

Falls, features and follies from the Kane brothers.

BY KATE WAFER

“A LOT OF THE INSPIRATION for our projects comes from observing water in our travels,” says Chris Kane, who, along with his brothers, Frank and Jeff, craft elegant, organic, large-scale waterscapes. “Our forte is incorporating natural stone elements. We try to use both aquatic and terrestrial plant life—from ground cover to trees—to disguise elevation changes and draw the eye to the scene. We create an environment for our clients.”



On one 12-acre property, waterfalls pour into an elaborately filtered pond that allows the family to swim with their koi fish.

The Kane brothers draw on their creativity to alter open terrain into visually stunning landmarks. At a residence outside Chicago, a plunging drop-off that roughly descended to the Fox River was transformed into five waterfalls that spill and tumble over 150 tons of boulders, dropping 30 feet to the river below. "For us, it's an art form," says Chris. "The scale is the most crucial aesthetic point. It requires patience, practice and skill to set large-scale stones that can weigh anywhere from five to 40 tons." Huge rocks anchor the design, along with several large circular viewing decks set at different levels. This setting allows the owner to entertain in an intimate or grand style with aquatic and terrestrial plantings integrating the waterfalls and new gardens into the surrounding wooded area.

While many of their designs recycle water and employ no filtration systems beyond the aquatic landscaping and aeration from the waterfalls, other water features require elaborate behind-the-scenes filtration. "Swim ponds have gained popularity in Europe," notes Chris, "and an eco-

friendly view has opened our clients' eyes to natural landscapes with plants and without chemicals."

Able to fulfill unique requests, the brothers have made water features for clients and their children to safely swim in with their cherished Japanese koi. For a recent project, such a scenario was created with delicate waterfalls designed to highlight a 90-foot stream that is at times 12 feet wide and meanders over a portion of the 12-acre property. A stone staircase allows swimmers to easily step in and out of the water. Depending on the site, the Kane brothers might add rocky outcrops to allow a person to traverse across the face of a waterfall or cool off under a seven-foot fall.

From elaborate garden settings incorporating ornamental plants to natural stone elements built into the earth to form ponds and waterfalls, the Kane brothers manipulate bucolic elements into bold proportions to recreate the wellspring of peaceful life: flowing water. ☐

Kane Brothers Water Features, 630.794.9180, www.kanebros.com