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# POOL resources

**We love swimming pools. We also love top end sound systems and impeccable design. So when JACK BRAND heard about the latest Vividsearch.co.uk install, he dived right in...**

As the staff on this fine organ know all too well, when you work hard and put in long hours, time for relaxation becomes even more precious. As busy business people, the owners of this Hertfordshire home don't have a lot of free time either, so when they had their hearts set on a swimming pool extension, maximising the enjoyment they got from it from it was a must. To this end, their plan was to bring together the best designs and features they had seen in their travels all over

the world - stone flooring from Portugal, patio doors from Germany, luxurious heated pool loungers from Austria, and silver and grey pool tiles based on an idea they had seen in Mauritius - a global effort in no uncertain terms. However, when it came to sourcing the AV side of things, they discovered the ideal solution much closer to home...

These days, no pool is complete without the latest audio-visual kit. And this pool was to be no exception, but with one extra proviso: the AV system had to be in harmony with the rest of



the pool area; it had to be stylish and it had to keep the visual clutter to a minimum. Now, whilst this is not a problem for the media servers which can be hidden in another room, or TV screens which are now so sleek that almost any would fit the bill, the loudspeakers were a different matter altogether. After all, how do you install loudspeakers without ruining the interior aesthetics? Well, it was with this in mind that leading AV installer, Graham Edmondson of Vividresearch.co.uk, proposed a very local solution: Amina Invisible loudspeakers.

Made in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire - the home of the UK loudspeaker industry - Amina's



Water result: the perfect fusion of design and technology in Hertfordshire.

cunning audio innovations have been getting rave reviews all over the world, and Graham knew that only these loudspeakers would have the zero visual impact required, whilst still providing the pool complex with superior sound.

### Heard but not seen

As if being invisible wasn't enough, these unique speakers offer other benefits too, which are especially useful when it comes to providing audio for swimming pools and other large areas. One is that Amina speakers produce sound energy in a highly diffused manner. This means that the sound sweeps through large areas, filling them with ambient audio, with hot and cold spots much reduced and the detail of higher frequencies retained. In essence, in the same way a grand piano can fill all corners of a concert hall with music, yet not deafen the player.

A further attribute of the technology is that the speakers are very good for acoustically hard areas. Negative effects such as echoes and patchy sound are much reduced, giving a better listening experience.

Unlike that aforementioned grand piano, however, the speaker is surprisingly compact,

measuring a modest 450x34 x42mm, making them an easy fit between standard studwall posts or ceiling joists. And as for weight, even the heaviest option (the AIW5 80W speaker) weighs only 1810g.

Of course there is another added advantage – the speakers are protected from the room's environment by its thin layer of plaster. Yes, if

you were wondering just what makes the Amina so invisible, it's the fact that you can plaster and paint over them, leaving your walls seemingly speaker free... yet emitting some of the finest sound you'll ever experience. Plus, as the plaster protects them, this also makes them the perfect choice for all areas with high moisture content, such as kitchens, bathrooms and of course, pools. Ingenious.

### Making (sound) waves

*"We listen to a wide spectrum of music, from Buddha Bar to The Beatles," said the owner. "The Amina speakers are excellent. At first we thought that we would need the added clout of a sub, but the speakers work just fine in this environment."*

For this installation two Amina AIWX 5 (80W each) invisible loudspeakers were used to provide the audio to the swimming pool, linked to the central media server so that they can also relay the sound from the Aquivo 42-inch waterproof television.

The entire project took around two-years from deciding what was required to the final filling of the pool. This also included a lengthy period winning planning permission – some protected trees were right next to the proposed site of the extension. The installation of speakers was a bit quicker, and once the cabling was in, they were easily installed within a couple of hours.

*"Everyone we have round to our pool is amazed. They first realise that there is music playing. They then start to look round for obvious speakers. Then they start to look for white discs on the ceilings and walls. And in the end they always ask 'where's the music coming from?! When we explain the way the Amina speakers work and that they are plastered over, they are amazed!"*

Having designed the pool extension with products and ideas from all around the world, it is quite amusing to the owners that one of the most amazing parts of the project originates from a factory a mere 50-miles away, rather than on some sun-kissed isle. But regardless of place of origin, there's little doubting that the Amina Loudspeakers' advanced technology add just the right touch of exotic to this perfect pool, down to the last invisible detail.



Wall of sound: epic, high-end music is available at the touch of a button.