

TWO plunge pools, one hot and one cold, form part of an outdoor leisure space at a Victorian villa in London.

A new Classical pavilion created by Hackett Holland act as the focal point of the project. The building is fronted by a terrace within which sits a pair of symmetrical pools, reflecting each wing of the pavilion. Below the entire area is a subterranean gym and spa which extends underneath the pools themselves.

Architect Johnny Holland provided the original concept idea of creating a hot and cold pool side by side within a single formation to offer the various benefits of different temperature water and hydrotherapy. London Swimming Pool Company provided the design and engineering expertise for the pool specification, supplying the final design which included the pools to be constructed in their own shells with separate flow, mechanical and controls services to accommodate for the extensive hydrotherapy features, particularly in the hot pool which is open all year round.

The pools each measure 2.60m x 1.80m accommodating six to eight people at any one time and are deeper than a regular spa at 1.10m deep providing ample space for

seats in the hot pool and enabling the bather in the cold pool to wade in and out via the full width set of underwater steps and remain standing. The hot pool is set at a hydrotherapy temperature of 34°-37°C, features eight massage jets including a cascading jet for the upper back and shoulder muscles and a circular air mat in the floor for foot massage. Both pools are subtly lit with specialist LED underwater lights from Germany and all fixtures and fittings are 316 grade stainless steel.

The understated colour scheme of the villa is complemented by the natural materials of the leisure area, where the interior pool finishes are a dark green/grey shade of Burlington slate. Large format vertical porcelain tiles are offset with smaller oblong mosaic versions creating a minimalist look. In order to reduce the free board and eliminate the need for skimmers, the York stone coping was cut to form the actual freeboard so that the water appears to be running directly under the coping resulting in an unusual variant of a deck level water flow system.

The complex pool technology required two plant rooms where the one on the ground level in the pavilion houses the feature pumps and airblowers. The balance

tanks servicing the semi level deck channel specially designed by London Swimming Pool Company at the end of each pool had to be custom made to fit in the confines of the downstairs plant room where intricate pipework services the numerous features of the hot pool. High technology glass foam made of 70 per cent recycled glass was chosen to surround the pool shells since it is the most structurally sound insulation material. Town and Country Conservatories were specialist subcontractors for the garden building.

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