

# DISTINCTIVE POOLS BY JAMES SANKEY

*Sankey Pools brings next-level quality, integrity and experience to its award-winning pool design and construction*

by Robyn M. Feller

*James Sankey & Associates, LLC* (“Sankey Pools” as its common moniker) is Jim Sankey, the man. As the founder and CEO of his namesake company, Jim takes extreme pride in the ability to provide customers with the knowledge, expertise and resources to add unique equipment and water features to everything from high-end residential and commercial properties to one-of-a-kind design/build and renovation projects. Sankey Pools can deliver a distinctive project to enhance these facilities, offering indoor and outdoor pool services—including award-winning rooftop and elevated swimming pools, spas, therapy pools, saunas and steam rooms—for a wide variety of clients, such as hotels, resorts, spas, colleges, community centers, developments, hospitals and more.

## Done Right. The First Time.

Jim explains the business philosophy that has guided his career for 42 years: “We always say ‘Done Right. The First Time.’ We look at a project and figure out how we’ll make it right. We’re good at what we do, and the services we offer are very unique compared to what my peers/competitors offer.”

According to Jim, his company has never missed a deadline, and 95 percent of its projects have “No Punch List Items.” Not only that, he states, the Pennsylvania-based company “integrates with your team of architects, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, plumbing engineers, and civil engineers on their level,” offering a multitude of services, and is state-licensed and insured in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.

## Bringing Professionalism to Every Project

While Sankey Pools isn’t the “cheapest game in town,” Jim adds, “we know what we’re doing. We have the experience to provide pragmatic, cost-effective



The Sankey Pools team includes (left to right): Jeff Myers, Tim Keiper and Jim Sankey.

solutions. There’s a high value to that. Our attention to detail, electrical, mechanical, plumbing...we bring all of that to every project, a lot of which is design/build. We meet or exceed every code. And our knowledge of architecture helps as well. Our projects are *safe*.”

Jim, in fact, leads a talented team, including Jeff Myers, Vice President and project manager; Tim Keiper, project manager; and Mitchel Abramowitz, RA, AIA, a longtime project architect for Sankey Pools. The team takes pride in their work, paying special attention to excellent client service and quality construction.

Jim explains that on projects big or small, he never cuts corners. “It’s not worth it,” he says. “It’s going to bite you in the end. With us, a bean counter doesn’t build your pool. Jeff, Tim and I build your pool. There’s no salesman. You’re dealing with us. We operate from a project management

standpoint, like our clients, not one where the salesman just shows up to sell the job and then you never see him again. If you've got a question, we're there; we've got solutions and answers."

## The Architect Factor

Having an architect on the team is another unique aspect of the company. Mitchel Abramowitz, who has been designing pools since 1960, adds to the level of service Sankey Pools can offer. Having met about 10 years ago, Mitch and Jim just hit it off.

Mitch shares in Jim's business philosophy, noting, "We go at things from a very professional standpoint, trying to do more for the client than if we were just going in there like a general contractor. If that's what we did, we'd basically be looking out more for ourselves than for the client. We always try to make sure that the client has no reason to call us back for anything, other than a new project. When it's done, it's done right—and it's done right the first time. My job is to ensure that whatever our customers expect, they're going to get. We want clients for life!"

One such project was a pool upgrade performed for an International Hotel Group (IHG) franchisee, a Holiday Inn. The project required a property improvement plan (PIP). Jim and his team, along with another local architect, came up with a vision and expertly executed the plan. Sankey has done four other projects for the owner, most recently another PIP for a SpringHill Suites by Marriott hotel.

And while some may think a pool is just a pool, Sankey Pools really stands out with its ability to create breathtakingly beautiful specialty projects, such as a rooftop resort-style pool at The Metropolitan at State College apartments; a show-stopping—and award-winning—skydeck infinity pool at Dalian on the Park, overlooking the Ben Franklin Parkway featuring a view of the Philadelphia Art Museum; and a spectacular award-winning residential elevated swimming pool with an infinity edge, steam and sauna room, which was done on the fourth floor of a high-end city home.

## Name Recognition

Jim acknowledges that the way people refer to his company, Sankey Pools, says it all. With no plans to stop doing what he's doing, Jim is confident the Sankey name will remain synonymous with what he has built over these past four decades.



James Sankey & Associates, LLC built this rooftop resort-style swimming pool at The Metropolitan at State College near Penn State, a luxury college living facility with first-class amenities.



This project, a stainless steel residential elevated pool with infinity edge, is a winner of the 2018 APSP International Awards of Excellence - Silver Award in the miscellaneous pool category for Residential Interior Pools and the 2017 NESPA Outstanding Achievement Awards - Silver Award - for Specialty Pool Interior.



James Sankey & Associates, LLC built this show-stopping skydeck infinity pool at Dalian on the Park. The project won two 2017 NESPA Outstanding Achievement Awards: Gold Award for Safety Cover and Merit Award for Commercial Pool.



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