

Pool fence ideas - expert explain how to create the perfect - and safe - backyard oasis

Expert pool fence ideas for rural idylls and sleek city gardens alike, from sculptural borders to child-safe enclosures



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Finding pool fence ideas that work for your garden, home and budget isn't always an easy task. Choosing the right enclosure for your swimming pool depends very much on the job you need it to do, as well as the style and size of your outdoor space.

For example, if you're simply looking for [pool ideas](#) to define an area within your garden, then box hedging or naturalistic planting might be sufficient. If privacy is key, consider full-height timber fencing or solid brick or stone walls to shield your pool area from view.

'Natural borders, like a fence that is hidden within a hedge, is usually the most cost-effective option and are an unobtrusive addition to the landscape,' says Stephen Eich of Hollander Design, who recommends taking design cues from the surrounding environment, as well as the architectural style of your home. 'A contemporary enclosure within a traditional landscape could feel out of place, in which case your focus will be on the fence instead of the overall experience,' he explains.

Aesthetics aside, one of the most important concerns when it comes to pool fences is safety, for both children and animals. If you're looking to child-proof your pool, then there are a number of incredibly important factors to consider when choosing a barrier. Any fence or wall surrounding the water needs to be unclimbable and impenetrable. 'Gates must have childproof locks, and have a rapid self-closing mechanism,' adds Andy Wigley, director of glass fence manufacturer Ammonite Design, who advises looking to the French AFNOR NF P90-306 regulation for guidance on pool safety. 'Ultimately, the idea is simple: if children don't have access to the pool area, then they can't fall in,' he concludes.

4. DRAW INSPIRATION FROM RURAL ARCHITECTURE



(Image credit: Unique Homestays)

Extended and refurbished by De Rosee Sa architects, Kilnwood (now part of the Unique Homestays collection) is a converted barn located on the edge of the Mendip Hills in Somerset.

The project included an overhaul of the [pool landscaping](#) area, which referenced the familiar agricultural language of the adjacent working farm, such as the shiplap timber boarding and utilitarian metal pool fence, both painted black.

'The construction details are designed so that they are simple, but a little more crisp and contemporary than the surrounding vernacular,' says architect Max De Rosee. 'The result is a combination of a refurbishment and new build that remains sympathetic to the project's agricultural surroundings.'