



What's with all the pools?

German photographer Stephan Zirwes has gone from shooting Guantanamo Bay to German public pools. We ask why



paintings by Uwe Schäfer. "I am interested by that public space and what the way we bathe says about us as a culture. It will be great to explore that in different parts of the world."

As with most of his photography, his pool shots are taken from a helicopter, using a small, high-resolution Hasselblad camera with 60 million megapixels. Afterwards, he takes the real sides of the pool and multiplies the patterns.

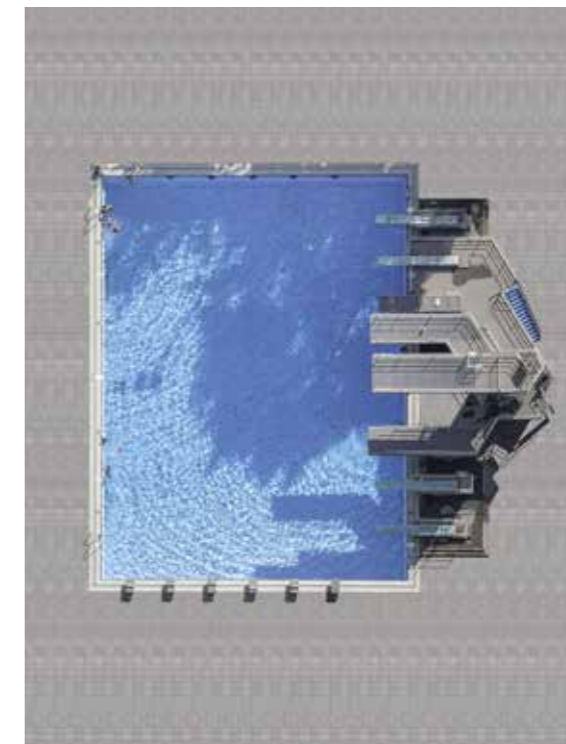
"I'm interested by what the way we bathe says about us as a culture"

"I've tried doing these shots with drones, but it never satisfies me," he says. "Apart from the legal issues, people always tend to look up. In a helicopter, I can take my time and find the right pattern."

stephanzirwes.com

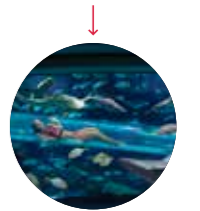


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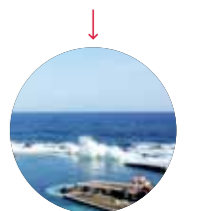


Top: The Morph Wheel packs away easily, ideal for wheelchair users. Below and above: The evolution of the folding wheel design.

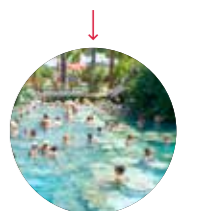
Amazing pools



The Golden Nugget
Las Vegas
The Tank, the famous pool at the Golden Nugget Casino, features a three-storey waterslide that goes through the middle of a huge shark tank. goldennugget.com



Porto Moniz
Madeira
The highlight of the town on Madeira's north-west coast, the natural volcanic pool is surrounded by lava rocks and filled with crystal-clear seawater. portomoniz.pt



Cleopatra's Pool
Pamukkale, Turkey
Hierapolis, the ancient hot springs city adjacent to Pamukkale, has been used as a spa since 2BC. Cleopatra supposedly swam here, before a 7th-century earthquake shaped the modern Cleopatra's Pool, where you swim over collapsed Roman columns in the warm waters.



German photographer Stephan Zirwes is the man who shoots patterns from the sky. From airports to cross-country ski races, soccer fields and refugee camps, he has a curious ability to make the mundane magical, and has won a clutch of awards, including a prestigious Hasselblad Masters award in 2010.

His latest focus is swimming pools – initially German public pools, but with plans to compare and contrast with private pools in South America, spa baths in Hungary and teeming wave pools in China.

"In Germany, everyone goes to the public pool in the summer," says Zirwes, who has already exhibited the work alongside pool