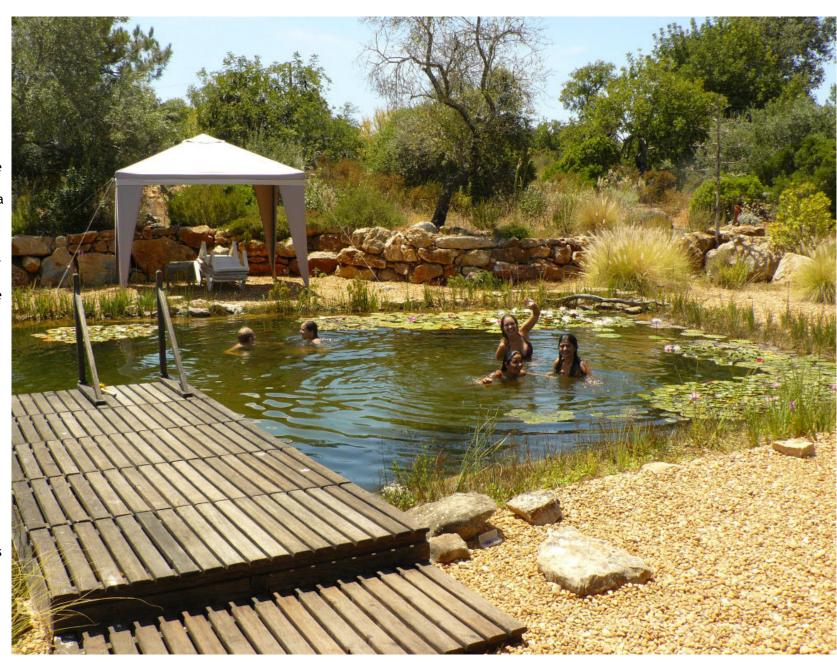


A swimming pond is much more ...

- ... than the sum of its parts. A swimming pond is for contemplation, communication and imagination a shelter from the storms of modern living. It is our place to dream and sing, bathe and admire, to feel more alive among other living beings.
- A natural swimming pond is biologically alive. It offers much more than simply the opportunity for a swim. A different look each season a new look every day! It allows you to get close to nature in an extraordinary way, diving with frogs, smelling the sweet perfumes of water lily flowers enchanting and inviting for everyone, even if not yet a nature lover.
- Natural swimming pools are ornamental lakes with biological treatment where you can swim without any risk to health: a perfect copy of a biotope.
- A swimming pond is not just for swimming it is also an ornamental water feature which has a natural visual aspect and, thanks to the species living in it, the water is purified.
- The biological water treatment is done by bio-activity of plants and micro-organisms. Plants enrich the aquatic environment by contributing oxygen. Oxygenation benefits the bioactivity in the water and keeps it clean and clear.



Enjoy natural swimming water!

Piscinas biológicas = natural swimming ponds



Swimming ponds, in portuguese called *Piscinas biológicas*, are designed in Portugal by the German landscape architect Claudia Schwarzer.

The idea: creating an artificial but living pond by copying the workings of a natural pure water lake. The system simply uses the surplus of oxygen together with a minimal input of nutrients produced by certain underwater plants.

Claudia Schwarzer: "You can jump into your swimming pond biotope without any risks of health. Nature is cleaning in a perfect way and our swimming ponds are reproductions of pure nature".

The first swimming ponds were built in Austria, Switzerland and Germany. In these countries the idea of having a so called "biotope" in the home garden spread by word of mouth during the eighties. In the nineties the swimming ponds appeared and nowadays there are specialised architects constructing hundreds of swimming ponds.

"Creating something good for the environment is one thing. But there is something more that everyday leads to more and more people asking for swimming ponds instead of swimming pools: the swimming pond is always full of action with all the natural creatures you can imagine.

It is a pretty and constantly changing place in the garden throughout the year".

Those who are afraid of frogs, dragon flies or a stray leaf from a water plant swimming by them have two options: ask for a biological pool or become friends with all the living beeings who are so much at home in this beautiful environment.

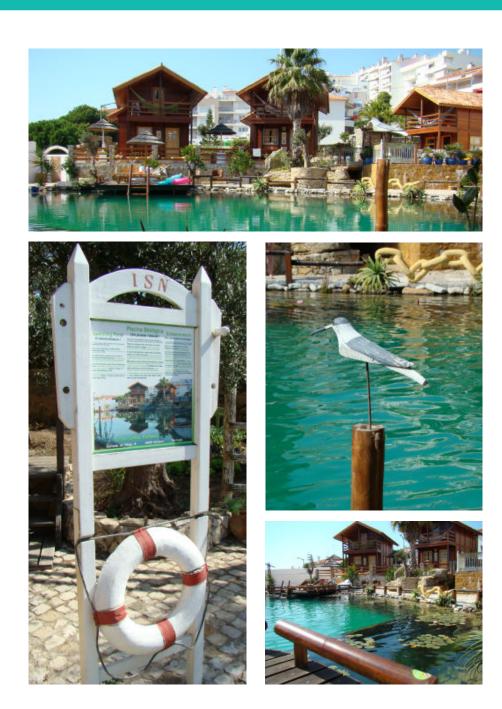
Sure, there are some tricks to keep the water clean. For example separate the border between the swimmer's part and the planted area. Normally this border is a special underwater construction in keeping with the natural aspect of the artificial lake. The actual swimming part is always free of plants. One of the most important things is the creation of a dinamic ecological equilibrium based on only a few nutrients in the water.

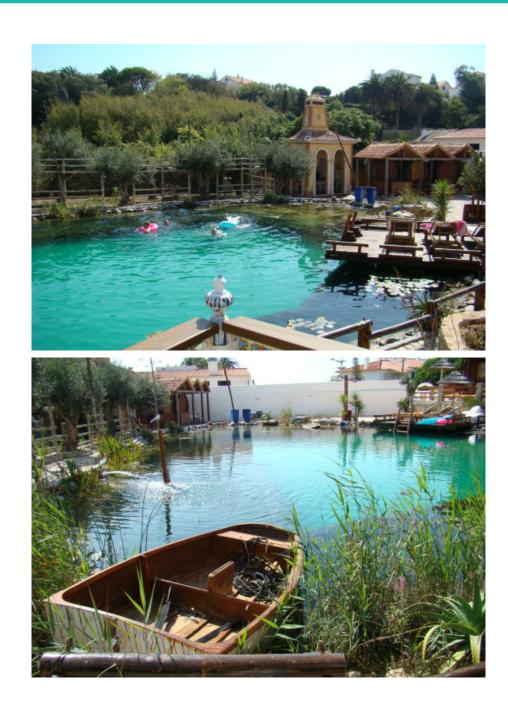
Landscape architect Claudia Schwarzer has built more than one hundred and sixty swimming ponds in the last seventeen years in Portugal. The biggest was for a rural camping site near Comporta which has an area of 1.000 square metres. The smallest swimming ponds occupy an area of one hundred and thirty square metres with a swimming section of approximately forty square metres. The average cost is less than for a traditional swimming pool.



Have a splash in a swimming pond!

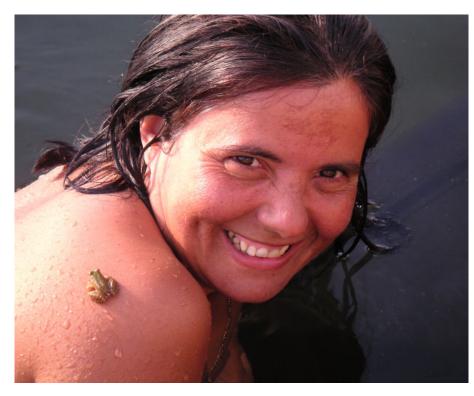
Much more examples online: www.biopiscinas.pt





Have nice holidays with Piscina biológica!

Swimming with nature: Piscinas biológicas!



The Swimming Pond

What is a natural swimming pond? Natural swimming pools are ornamental lakes with biological treatment where you can swim without any risk to health: a perfect copy of a biotope. A swimming pond is always sealed with a high quality liner. It has a part for swimming and another for the water treatment which works solely by mechanical and biological processes. How does it work? A swimming pond is a perfect union of an ornamental pond and a natural

swimming pool - recreational swimming water quality guaranteed thanks to the species living in it. Remember an untouched lake in nature: without any impact of industry or agriculture. The water is clean. In this lake you find healthy, vibrant plants... The light penetrates the surface of the water easily and helps generate the energy for photosynthesis. Specific plants are producing oxygen during the day. So much that you can see the bubbles pouring out from the surface of the leaves. A balanced swimming pond mirrors all the above using plants which are able to create and keep the water transparent and 100% filled with oxygen. Under these conditions there is no way for microorganisms to multiply to dangerous levels in European locations. All swimming ponds have an area for swimming and one or more sections for the plants. Because of this separation you will not be in direct contact with the plants and small creatures such as frogs and dragon flies which will have made themselves at home. As the swimming pond is designed to be a copy of nature you will certainly find a range of wild life and flora that is guickly drawn to your newly created habitat.



How to use your swimming pond

To maintain the good quality of water within the swimming pond it is necessary to follow certain rules.

All the users of the swimming pond must take a shower before entering the water. This way the accidental introduction of sun cream products and bacteria is reduced to a minimum

bacteria is reduced to a minimum. In the early weeks after planting it is better not to jump into the pond. Allow the water to settle. This will help the plants to root.

The planted part is exclusively for the plants! To clean and oxygenate properly they need to become established. Do not handle or move the plants and do not swim or allow any water toys or any excessive movement of water in the immediate area.

It is particularly important not to allow any domestic animals into the water. Dogs especially are able to destroy the plants and may cause significant pollution. Therefore it is forbidden to bring dogs to the swimming pond or to the area surrounding.

Never put fish into the water! Fish may seriously disturb the equilibrium of the swimming pond.

The swimming pond is a place for children only when accompanied by adults. Children who cannot swim should use water-wings.

If you have a swimming pond and rent out your property make sure that all of your guests are aware of the above rules and that the depths in the swimming area is clearly marked.

Piscinas biológicas - a natural delight!