

Real Estate

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2002



Homes and communities

POOLS: Refinishing interior common improvement

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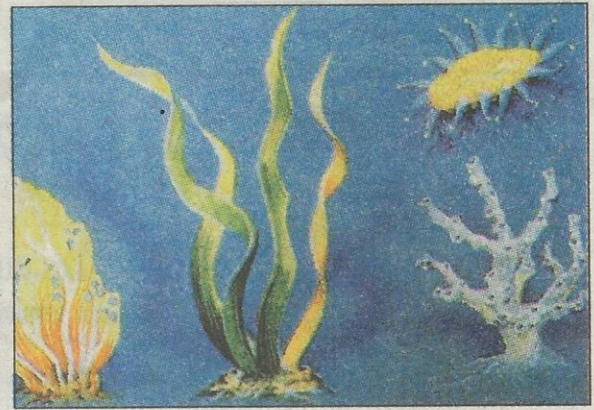
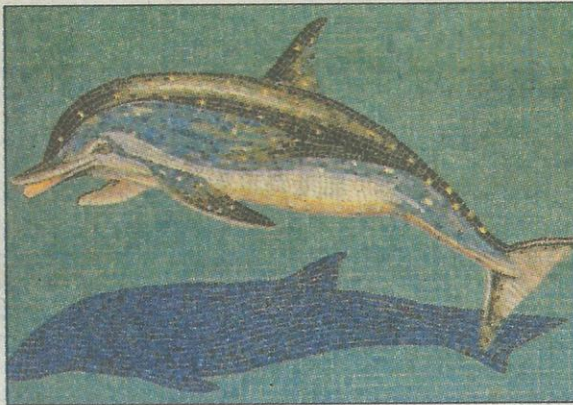
"People who move into a resale home often fix up the pool in the first year. I also get a lot of calls from people getting ready to sell," Ross said.

If a pool at an existing home has a stained wall or other eyesore, buyers will discount their purchase offers, said Jeff Miloff, sales director/partner for Miloff Aubuchon Realty Group.

"I'd advise them to go ahead, and refinish the pool — and they'll capture that (expense) in the asking price," Miloff said. However, he doesn't suggest that home sellers add water features, such as fountains or waterfalls, because those costs usually can't be recovered.

Existing-home buyers, particularly winter residents from the North, seldom flinch at fixing up the pool, because combined with the lanai, "it is an outdoor living area, an extension of their home," Miloff said.

The most common improvements, according to Ross: refinishing the pool's interior; replacing tile at the water line; adding a



Photos special to The News-Press

CUSTOMIZE YOUR POOL: Agape Tile and Murals in south Fort Myers will create a glass mosaic for your pool or spa, including the examples seen above.

fountain or other water feature; installing automatic controls; adding in-pool lights that change the color of the water; and highlighting the bottom with a mosaic.

Pool and spa mosaics are one of several specialties for Agape Tile and Murals in south Fort Myers.

Owner/artist Stephanie Dittrick said prices start at \$1,000 for a glass mosaic, with custom creations fetching more. Examples can be seen on the Internet at

agapetile.com.

Although Dittrick personally oversees installation of many commercial jobs, mosaics for home pools typically are installed by a tile-setter hired by the customer. This most often occurs immediately before a pool is resurfaced, she said.

Troger said he's applied for a patent for his portable waterfalls. Besides costing less than a waterfall from scratch, Troger sees sev-

eral other advantages.

The falls have their own quiet pumps, independent of the pool. They weigh approximately 120 pounds and plug into a waterproof, grounded outlet. No cutting of pipes or concrete is necessary.

"If you don't like it at one area of the pool deck, you can move it. It's like a piece of furniture," Troger said. People interested in the waterfalls can reach him at 772-7375.