



CASE STUDY

Residential | Paradise Valley, Arizona

BILCO Doors Help Bring Backyard Fun To Elaborate Arizona Residence

An Arizona construction business established the gold standard for backyard fun in delivering a project that includes a shark tank, lazy river, water slides and swimming pools.

"It's a theme park, but it also happens to be somebody's backyard," said Rick Chafey, co-owner of Red Rock along with Brett Blauvelt. Their crew completed the project in three years on 2.5 acres, and it required the involvement of consultants, mechanical and structural engineers, electricians, general contractors and landscapers.

The centerpiece to the project is a 30,000-gallon shark tank. The tank – which can hold up to 10 sharks and as many as 50 over supporting species – includes a shared wall between the main pool and living room.

The main pool at the house includes a pavilion, and stairs lead to another pool at the basement level of the home. A waterwall spills from the main pool down to the basement pool. The backyard features a 540-foot lazy river. Part of a 494-foot go-kart track winds underneath the lazy river. A FlowRider® surf simulator, rock waterfall, grotto and slides complete the fantasy backyard.

Powerful pumps throughout the project generate water movement, and they are protected by floor doors manufactured by BILCO. Sixteen doors of various sizes are included in the project, and allow access for maintenance, repair and removal.

"We've used BILCO for dozens of projects, both for commercial and residential jobs," Chafey said. "They have inherent qualities that we like to use. We can get them in a number of sizes, and the average service professional or owner can access equipment easily."

Many of the doors are the company's terrazzo doors, which accept a wide variety of architectural materials. Red Rock installed a synthetic lawn and small amounts of gravel so that the doors blend into the natural landscape. The design of the doors allows the grass fill to match the lawn, and the doors are easy to operate despite the heavy weight of the fill. Foster Engineered Products, BILCO's manufacturers' representative in Arizona, provided the doors for Red Rock.



"We like that a lot of times we can hide them onto the floors and decking," Chafey said. "We can load the top of those doors with similar materials to the decking around them. We've even poured epoxy and gravel around them or put turf on them to match the surrounding landscaping."

BILCO's floor access doors are frequently used in commercial projects related to stormwater and wastewater management. The doors are constructed with corrosion resistant materials and are engineered with lift assistance for smooth, easy one-hand operation regardless of size. Automatic hold-open arms lock cover in the open position to ensure safe egress.

"The hatches are a very good quality product, and we can get it in a number of different sizes," Chafey said. "They offer very good accessibility for a lot of these locations vs. either custom-built or handmade devices. These are user-friendly, and they are a good solution for projects similar to this."

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