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OLYMPIC POOLS Receives Gold Medal in APSP International Awards of Excellence Competition

Shakopee, Minn- Feb 4, 2008 – Olympic Pools, based in Shakopee, MN, won the prestigious Gold Medal during the 2007 Association of Pool & Spa Professionals' (APSP) International Awards of Excellence ceremony in Orlando, Florida. This award was in the free form concrete, 451 – 750 square foot pools category. More than 900 installations were entered in the 2007 Awards of Excellence competition.

The Awards of Excellence, presented annually, recognize and reward the most beautiful and creative installation of pools and hot tubs across the United States and around the world. Competition is open to Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) member builders, designers and service and retail firms.

The company received the Gold Medal Award for its free form pool, which was built in Hampton Minnesota. The pool was installed into the base of a hill to create the impression of a pond at the bottom of a quarry. Olympic Pools worked closely with the landscape architect, Herb Baldwin, the homeowners, and multiple other trades to create a spectacular pool and landscape plan. Unique features include black plaster to create the appearance of a natural pond, generous lengths of steps and benches below the water surface for relaxing in the pool, a tanning rock, underwater lighting, and a water fall rock that creates an illusion that a stream flowing from an elevated copper fountain flows into the pool.

Jerry Kalin, owner of Olympic Pools, reports that concrete pools are used in all forms of commercial indoor and outdoor pools. Many of these pools are still in operation 40 years and longer after the initial construction. Although more expensive than vinyl or fiberglass pools, concrete pools provide more artistry and flexibility of design than any other type of construction.

About APSP

The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals is the world's largest international trade association representing the swimming pool, spa, hot tub and recreational water industries with a mission to enhance the business success of members. The over 4,500 member companies of the APSP include manufacturers, distributors, manufacturers' agents, designers, builders, installers, retailers, and service professionals. APSP members adhere to a code of business ethics and share a commitment to public health and safety in the use of pools, spas, and hot tubs.