

Serene Scene

November 2022

New Options for 2023 Pools

PebbleTec announces two new pool finishes for the 2023 season!

Employee Spotlight

TJ Varghese, Director of Design: virtually constructing entire projects in 3D from start to finish.



Meet Director of Design: TJ Varghese

Our Plans for Thanksgiving

Vendor Profile: PebbleTec announces new pool finishes

The Future: Steel City Scapes

Project Update: 3 projects are coming to life!

Meet TJ



Director of Design: TJ VARGHESE

When he arrived at PSW, TJ Varghese took ownership of a division that was lacking direction and focus. Over the past year and a half, he has taken a division of one, using outdated technology, and grown it to what it is now. Today, the design division has three full-time employees and a

network of industry leaders including architects, designers, and specialists.

Varghese has always had a passion for designing. He started his career in audio, creating spaces specifically designed for musical performance and recording. And, while he excelled at making rooms sound good, he also

wanted to make them look as good as they sounded. That's the curiosity that led him into interior design and architecture.

In February of 2021, Varghese began his journey at PSW. The first thing on his agenda was to change the way PSW approaches design. "We live in a three-dimensional world", Varghese stated. "Typical construction companies measure with tape and design in two dimensions. PSW utilizes point cloud technology to scan in three dimension. We then transfer the data into the latest BIM (building information models) software to virtually construct the entire project in 3D from start to finish."

For Varghese, working with point cloud data is the future. "Point cloud technology uses laser scanners to take measurements of large or complex areas. It literally collects millions of data points and stitches them together to create a 3D model that is accurate down to the millimeter."

Measurements collected by PSW are vital to the overall design of the project. "Form follows function" states Varghese, "The form, or the final product, is perceived as 'art', but the reason for why and where everything is placed is based on the data."

When a client first comes to PSW,

For me, it's like putting the *pieces of a puzzle together*

bringing together aesthetics, function, and value.

they have an idea of their vision in their head, and it is Varghese and his team's job to turn it into a functional design. "For me, it's like putting the pieces of a puzzle together; bringing together aesthetics, function, and value to create the perfect layout." As much as he would like them to, those puzzle pieces can't just go anywhere. "It's all about location, location, location. Every design comes with certain constraints from the topography, building codes, township and HOA restrictions, as well as a client's aesthetic preferences."

In his time at PSW, Varghese has placed a strong focus on professional growth. He was recently awarded a builder certification from Watershape University to build shotcrete pools. "As a designer, it is crucial for me to understand the intricacies of how to build these features, not just design them. I need to understand the challenges our crews will face out in

the field so I can provide them with the best and most detailed information possible."

Working at PSW has allowed Varghese to get his creative juices flowing. "My favorite project so far is one in Mt. Lebanon. It has a free form pool with a swim up bar and water slide. I particularly love this one because the terrain we are working with has a heavy slope with many elevation changes that need to be incorporated. Originally, this looked like an impossible challenge, but it has simply provided for a completely unique and innovative design that incorporates natural shapes and the intricate terrain."

Varghese has also changed the way PSW clients are able to view their vision before a contract is even signed through an animated overview of the project during the presentation. "I had a client who has worked in the

construction industry for a long time tell me that, in all his years, it was the best presentation he had ever seen. That comment was more rewarding than any award I have received."

In his spare time, Varghese enjoys spending time building and repairing electronics in his garage, as well as playing music. He also enjoys golfing when the Pittsburgh weather allows. Free time is at a premium these days as Varghese, and his wife Brooke, just had a little baby girl. "In reality, most of my time outside of work is spent playing with, and taking care of, my newborn daughter, and I couldn't be happier about that."

Our Plans *for Thanksgiving*



JOSH H.

Thanksgiving Day plans:

I will be sleeping in until at least 10 am. For Sure. Follow by eating copious amounts of foods and deserts with my family.

Thankful for:

My niece and nephew, personal relationships, good health, and personal growth.



JEFF B.

Thanksgiving Day plans:

We'll be spending the holiday together as a family along with my brother and parents.

Thankful for:

I'm thankful for all the good people in my life, my health, my family, and my for all the great people I get to work with daily.



DESIREE F.

Thanksgiving Day plans:

Relaxing with my wife and kids, eating some delicious food, and watching football.

Thankful for:

All the new adventures we are experiencing.



JEFF K.

Thanksgiving Day plans:

Thanksgiving usually comes around when it is most needed. As the weather gets colder and the skies get grey, it is important to be thankful for what we have. For me, Thanksgiving usually includes some well-deserved sleeping in and then a day with the family. Getting to see my niece and nephew is always the icing on the cake!

Thankful for:

I'm thankful for all of the friends, family, and work family in my life. Of course, I am thankful for Roxy the Dog!

ROB H:

Thanksgiving Day plans:

We will be having an early dinner with my in laws and then going to dinner with my moms long lost half brother from Cresent city Florida.

Thankful for:

Thankful for my wife and kids, and being able to do what I love for a living.

MIKE H.

Thanksgiving Day plans:

Thanksgiving dinner with family

Thankful for: good health and great family.



SHELLY H.

Thanksgiving Day plans:

I'll be decorating the office and house for Christmas! My family and I will celebrate Thanksgiving Friday, after my husband gets off a 24-hr EMT shift. At the end of a relaxing, lazy day at home with a little cooking, the 4 of us will have yummy turkey, homemade stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.

Thankful for:

God's healing power and continued provision this year!

JENNIFER M.

Thanksgiving Day plans:

Quiet thanksgiving with immediate family, followed up with a Friendsgiving at the casino.

Thankful for:

Health & hope



KORTNEY Z.

Thanksgiving Day plans:

Kick off the day with a Turkey Trot with my dad and my dog, then a mid-day nap and fasting in preparation for a huge feast at my in-laws.'

Thankful for:

I am most thankful for the people in my life who love and support me through all of life's ups and downs. Special shout out to my husband Rob who puts up with me on a daily basis, and our dog Geno who can brighten just about anyone's day.

YOUSEF H.

Thanksgiving Day plans:

So my wife and I going to have thanksgiving dinner at my Parents in law house. Thankful for everything has a good vibe and love.

Thankful for:

I am thankful for getting here to this country to live with my wife. Thankful for this job opportunity at PSW and having a good team to work with.



DANE M.

Thanksgiving Day plans:

Thanksgiving typically consists of getting up early, preparing way too many side dishes for two dinners, hearing that the kids are starving for breakfast, trying to get everyone dressed and ready for a 1pm dinner, and then off to the next dinner by 5. At this point the kids are now complaining that they are too full to move and usually asleep on the family couch by 7. At this point I'm trying to relax and watch the game, but then I too follow suit, and am asleep in the recliner.

Thankful for:

I am most thankful this year that some of my close family members got over some health issues early on this year, and I know I will be able to spend the holidays with them. I am also thankful for being part of a very successful team at PSW.

TJ

Thanksgiving Day plans:

Just a meal with family.

Thankful for:

Thank you God that I was blessed with a healthy baby.

Finishes and colors will be available for all PSW pools starting Spring 2023.



Introducing revolutionary new technology!



Two **NEW** Options for 2023 Pools

PebbleTec announces two new pool *finishes*

On October 30th, PebbleTec announced the addition of two new finishes to its line of pool finishes. These finishes and colors will be available for all PSW pools starting Spring of 2023.

PebbleEssence™ and PebbleBreeze™ offer the beauty and durability PebbleTec pool finishes are known for, while providing two new textures and eight unique water colors.

Created using revolutionary new technologies, here are the exclusive features that make each finish so special:

- PebbleEssence is a radiant, textured finish that promises to be one of PebbleTec's most popular products ever. It features the same appealing texture of the company's (most popular) PebbleSheen finish, but it is further enhanced with

"Shimmering Sea" and smooth glass beads for extra water color sparkle. This new finish is available in five beautiful colors, and to be used with PebbleTec's proprietary P3 additive for extra durability and strength.

- PebbleBreeze is a supremely polished finish, the very smoothest of PebbleTec's entire line. The finish combines the beauty and durability of the brand's traditional pebble finishes with an exceptionally smooth

polished surface. Vibrant glass beads add a mesmerizing sparkle while proprietary additives deliver top industry durability. Three color options are available.

To get more information on the colors available and how they will look in your pool, visit <https://pebbletec.com/inspiration/watercolor/>. To learn more

about how PebbleTec can enhance the overall look and quality of your next pool project, reach out to the experts at PSW.





"My skills continue to improve every day."
— Lindsey Fellman

The Future Faces of Construction

The future is *looking bright* at Steel City Scapes



Contrary to the common misconception that the owner is the reason for the ultimate success of a construction company, often it is the strength of its employees that determine success. If that's the case then Steel City Scapes, a PSW partner of over 8 years, has a very bright future. Steel City Scapes typically works with PSW on its largest and most complicated projects and that's the way they like

it. "We love the challenge of taking a beautiful design and turning it into a reality", says Matt Dammond, co-owner of Steel City Scapes. "We bring in individuals that have an internal drive and teach them the skills that they need to be successful."

This past Summer, Steel City hired two such individuals; Lindsey Fellman and Aloysius Williams Jr. Both were encouraged by friends to join the

company. "I wanted to work outdoors", said Williams. "Knowing this about me, my friend suggested Steel City Scapes. I started in May, and I love it." Fellman started with Steel City in July but has fit in well with the team stating, "it's like a family".

ABOVE:

New employees: Lindsey Fellman (left), Aloysius Williams, Jr. (right)

While both Williams and Fellman enjoy their work, each has specific areas that they prefer. "Building pools is cool, but I enjoy working with pavers more. When you first start laying them out, it can look a little rough, but as it comes together, and you begin to see the pattern, it really starts to look good." Fellman, on the other hand, loves masonry. "With masonry, I really enjoy cutting and placing natural stones."

As is the case in many instances in life, at Steel City Scapes, there is a direct correlation between teamwork and success. "What's most important is teamwork, and everyone collaborating with each other", states Fellman. To Williams, the people he works with are just as important to the success of a project than anything else. "I love being around individuals who are fun and knowledgeable. Not only do I learn a lot, but I like to have fun. Here, we can have fun while we work."

In the short time with Steel City Scapes, both Fellman and Williams have both improved their skills. "I learn something new every single day," states Williams. "Even if it is a small detail, it is going to help me improve whatever I am doing. You can always

grow." For Fellman, working with Steel City Scapes has provided her the opportunity to try things she has never done before. "I've never had the chance to build concrete pools. And, while it was challenging at first, with their guidance, my skills continue to improve every day."

Just as important to these young employees is how the owners at Steel City Scapes have helped them grow as individuals. "The dedication I have had to put into my work at Steel City Scapes has translated to my personal life as well", said Fellman. For Williams, it is all about the discipline. "Before I started here, I was on my own time and did things whenever I felt like it. Here, you have to wake up early, get here on time, do the work, and not lollygag off. I've learned accountability and responsibility for my actions."

As the projects at Steel City Scapes continue to grow in quantity, size, and complexity, both Williams and Fellman understand that they are going to need more individuals to step up and join their team. "For those that think they need to go to college, you don't need to spend money to learn something that you may use

afterwards, and hope that it will apply to you. The trades allow you to learn valuable skills while making good money."

And, for those that think that this is a man's world, Fellman has a message for the young women out there. "It will be challenging at first, but you will be supported in everything you do, and we will help you learn and grow both as an employee and as a human being."

PSW takes pride in working with Trade Partners with both high integrity, values, and skills. With future leaders like Lindsey Fellman and Aloysius Williams Jr., the partnership with Steel City Scapes will continue to flourish for many years to come.



Project Update

3 Projects are *coming to life!*



ABOVE:

This basement in Sewickley is almost complete. We will share the full project in the December issue.



ABOVE:

This family in Pittsburgh will soon have even more space for their family.



LEFT:

When they open their pool in the spring, the kids are going to have a blast sliding down this custom waterslide.



PSW

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