

AstralPool has installed its "magic pool" in Shanghai

- The Spanish multinational has installed a suspended pool to host the 2006 FINA World Swimming Championships (25m) in Shanghai (China).

In 2003, AstralPool successfully installed the world's largest suspended pool in Palau Sant Jordi for the World Swimming Championships in Barcelona. As a result, the International Swimming Federation (FINA) has once again entrusted AstralPool with the installation of a pool that will host the 2006 World Short Course Swimming Championships, to be held in the Chinese city of Shanghai from 5 to 9 April.

AstralPool signs responsible for installing both the competition pool and the swimmers' relaxation pool using the same technology it employed in the highly successful Barcelona pool. The system is called "Skypool", and uses free standing panels of steel. This certified technology, developed entirely by the Spanish company, enables the pool to sit on the stadium's floor without having to construct anything or "hammer a single nail".

The competition pool measures 25X25X2 metres and is able to hold 1,250 m³ of water. AstralPool technicians began to assemble this on 12 February and finished on 5 March. One hundred panels of galvanised steel were used to build the competition pool.

Technical figures of the swimming pools

	Competition Pool	Relax / Warm-up Pool
Dimensiones	20 x 25 x 2 m	25 x 10 x 2 m
Surface	625 m ²	250 m ²
Volume	1,250 m ³	500 m ³
Nº of panels	100	70
Total Pool Weight without water	34.8 tm	24.36 tm
Total Pool Weight with water	1,285 tm	525 tm
Used Shipping Containers	10	2
Workers	18	6
Liner	900 m ²	400 m ²
Pressure which the tensioners resist	11,000 kg	11,000 kg

AstralPool has worked in close collaboration in both the planning and assembly stages with the Shanghai Sports Federation, the championships' Organising Committee and, in particular, with the CEO of both organisations, Mr. Qui Wei Chang.

A unique pool for a unique stadium

The pool that AstralPool has installed in Shanghai is the most advanced of its kind. It has been specially designed to help swimmers break records by introducing innovations that favour their wellbeing and performance.

Likewise, the building that houses the pool has unique features. The Qi Zhong Stadium, a building located in Ma Qiao Town of the Minhang District southeast of Shanghai, was inaugurated in August 2005. It was specifically designed to host the ATP Tennis Masters Cup from 2005 to 2007. Its roof is mobile and is made up of 8 panels that open up like a blooming magnolia - Shanghai city's official flower. The stadium has a 12,000-seat capacity during the swimming championships. All seats have an excellent view of the pool.

Special competition pool features

AstralPool applies several innovations in the Shanghai pool, including different products specially designed for competition pools. These innovations were developed by the company and represent significant technological advances.

The starting block is identical to those used with great success in Barcelona 2003. In addition, a series of breakthroughs have also been applied. These make the swimming pool one of the most perfect swimming environments, and include:

- **Adaptable tensioners to adjust the pool measurements to the millimetre:** The pressure of the 1,250 cubic metres of water poured into the shell can warp the final structure by a few millimetres. During assembly, AstralPool has used the tensioners to correct any possible alterations once the swimming pool is full, to ensure that its dimensions are always exactly 25 x 25 metres.
- **Disinfection with bromine:** AstralPool uses bromine for disinfection and silex for filtration. Neither of these compounds generates unpleasant smells. Bromine has another significant advantage: the swimmers will be more comfortable as, unlike other sanitizers, it does not cause eye or skin irritation.
- **Overflow channel on all four sides to obtain a perfect water surface:** Swimming coaches say that the best results are achieved when the water surface is flattest. In this regard, the World Championships' swimming pool features the best possible conditions enhanced by the action of special float lines; and the water being emptied by an overflow channel installed on all four sides. Barcelona 2003 was the first sports' competition to use this system in a suspended pool. It was so successful that it is used again.
- **Float lines with interior turbines:** The float lines have an interior turbine that absorbs a swimmer's waves, thus preventing them from crossing over and affecting the neighbouring lane. This helps the water's surface to remain as perfect as possible so that all participants can compete under equal conditions. According to a study conducted by the Applied Hydrodynamics Institute (INHA) in 2003, these float lines reduce the waves inside the lanes by 80%.

AstralPool, Official FINA Partner

AstralPool is Official Supplier and Sponsor of the International Swimming Federation (FINA). The sponsorship agreement includes, among other things, AstralPool participating as the official supplier of competition pools for various world championships: 25m pools in Shanghai (China) in 2006 and in Manchester (United Kingdom) in 2008, and a 50m pool in Melbourne (Australia) in 2007.

AstralPool shares its partner status with large sponsoring companies from the sporting world, such as Omega, Speedo and Yakult. These sponsors work together to find possible synergies and collaboration opportunities.

AstralPool in China

AstralPool is a European multinational company committed, since 1969, to offer to the pool professional over all solutions and has become nowadays the international Market Standard in the production and distribution of pools and pool equipment.

AstralPool started to sell swimming pool products in China 15 years ago. Therefore there are many swimming pool and spa projects with AstralPool equipment all over China. Following its strategy to be close to his clients and offer best service, AstralPool China has got its own offices and warehouses in the capital cities of the four main Chinese provinces: Shanghai (since March 2003), Peking (2004), Guangzhou (2005) and Chengdu office at the end of 2005. An extensive distribution network allows to cover the whole Chinese territory.

AstralPool China supplies high quality and design equipment for all type of water installations: residential pools, public or commercial pools, water parks, hotel pools, wellness pools & spas, etc.

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