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COOL

FROM R1

When they party, they do it on their huge new deck overlooking Lake Erie. Friends and family crowd into cabanas and admire the 16-foot waterfall cascading from an infinity pool on the upper deck as colored lights flicker across the rippling water.

Sometimes the parties go on a bit too long, but the Niedersts are enjoying themselves. "If the neighbors wouldn't call the police, Canada would hear our sound system," Adrina laughs.

The Niedersts, both 48, moved to Rocky River from Brunswick in 2005 because they wanted to live close to Lake Erie. Their previous home was next to a pond, but that wasn't enough water for David.

"I said, 'You have water.' He said, 'I want real water,'" Adrina recalls.

The couple decided to add decks, waterfall and an infinity pool to their Rocky River home's landscaping last year. The upper deck's main focus is the infinity pool which, from certain angles, gives the visual effect of water extending to the horizon.

The pool faces the lake, so "it feels like the lake got pulled into the backyard," says David. At night, fountains shoot out of the 20-by-40-foot pool, lit by beams of color.

Lounge chairs next to the pool invite guests to relax on the upper deck, but don't get too comfortable. Walk down wide terraced



Cool Spaces

Curling up to the lake

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Adrina and David Niederst met when they were young and working at the old Kenny King's restaurant in Parma in the 1980s. She was a waitress; he was a dishwasher. ¶ She offered him a ride one night when she saw him walking home after work. There was a spark, but David couldn't invite a girl to his sparse apartment until after he got furniture. ¶ From those humble beginnings, the Niedersts have built a life that includes their own apartment management company, two children, six grandchildren and a large house on the lake in Rocky River. There's room for Adrina's collection of porcelain figurines and David's sports car collection. ¶ "He wants to be like Jay Leno," Adrina jokes, referring to Leno's famously large car collection.

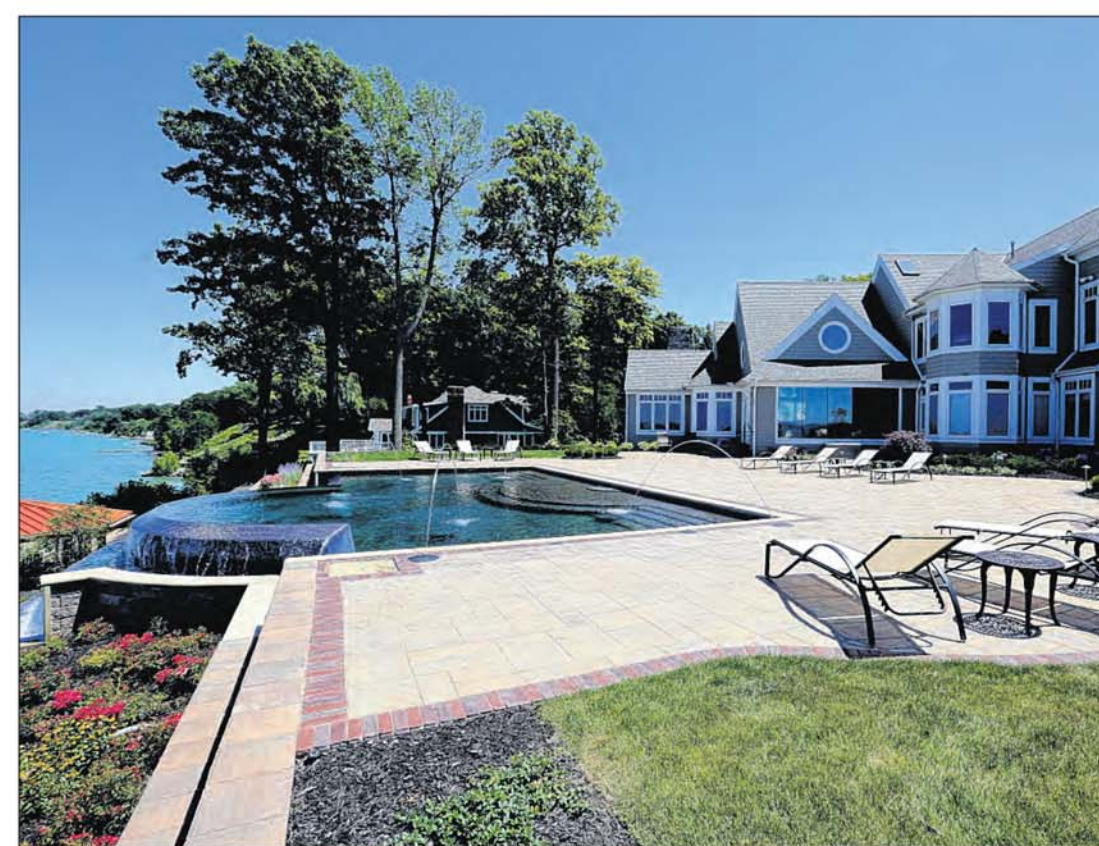
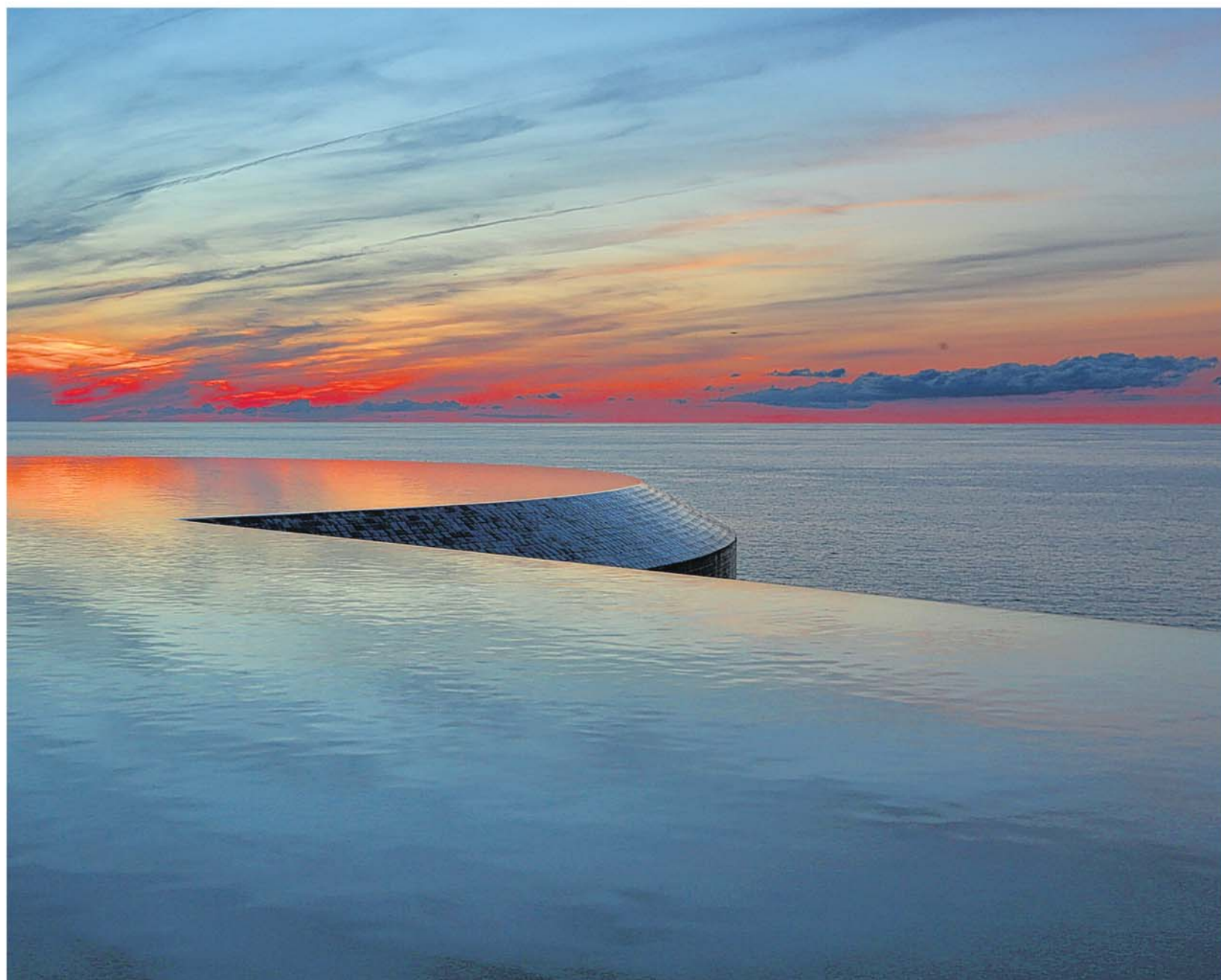
SEE COOL | R2

Above: Gas fires on both sides of the infinity pool glow at the lakefront home owned by David and Adrina Niederst.

Below: The infinity pool offers an unobstructed view of the sunset on the shores of Lake Erie.

The Niedersts live in a 1998 house in Rocky River with a two-level deck. The upper level has the 20-by-40-foot infinity pool, and the lower deck has a multilevel waterfall, lights, bar hut and a sound system.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LISA DEJONG | THE PLAIN DEALER



Above: The Niedersts decided to add decks, a waterfall and an infinity pool to their Rocky River home's landscaping last year. The 16-foot waterfall cascades over six tiled terraces until it reaches the bottom, where the water is recycled back to the pool.

Far left: About 20 submerged colored lights illuminate the waterfall after dark.

Left: The infinity pool seamlessly incorporates sweeping views of Lake Erie.

Below: Streams of water, or "leapers," arc over the infinity pool. From certain angles, this gives the visual effect of water extending to the horizon.

steps to the lower deck and a waterfall cascading from the pool.

Instead of flowing straight down, the 16-foot waterfall dances over six tiled terraces until it reaches the bottom, where the water is recycled back to the pool. About 20 submerged colored lights illuminate the waterfall after dark.

On either side of the waterfall, the terraces are planted with roses, daisies and pansies.

The 2,700-square-foot deck gives unimpeded views of Lake Erie's expanse through a glass railing. The deck was designed and constructed by Dream Decks located in Uniontown and is made out of man-made materials.

The deck, with its conversation groupings of outdoor furniture,

is comfortable for lounging. But when it's time to party, there's a tiki bar hut complete with a large-screen TV, full bar and mini-fridge.

"There are little speakers here when I don't feel like uncovering the big ones," says David.

The other end of the deck has a cabana with chairs and heating towers for chilly evenings.

Creating a large and elaborate deck on a beachside cliff was quite a feat of engineering, especially since it has to withstand storms and erosion. David describes how cranes had to reach over the hill to dig cement holes 20 feet deep and 18 inches in diameter for the deck's pylons.

Deck installation took 17 months. "My backyard was a mud pit for a year," he says.

The structure is set back 100 feet from the water's edge, so the Niedersts are confident that it's stable. "Nothing's going to happen," says David.

The couple declined to say how much they spent on the deck addition. They run NM Residential in Rocky River, which owns and manages apartments across

Northeast Ohio.

The interior of their home, built in 2000, is comfortable and stylish with an octagon-shaped grand entrance, five bedrooms, home theater, stone fireplace hearth in the TV room and heated oak floors.

The indoor spaces will be cozy when winter arrives, but while the mild weather lasts, Adrina prefers

to be outside on the deck or on one of the side porches.

And who can blame her, at a home with beautiful views in every direction?

"It's so ideal to have an infinity pool with the lake in the background," says David. "You have to have the right lot. Not many people can pull this off."

