

# Absolute

Indianapolis

Living

JUNE 2023

## POOL PARTY

CECILIA ALVAREZ-HEARD

SAVOR THE SUMMER

SUMMER FUN,  
NEAR & FAR

DEBRAND FINE  
CHOCOLATES  
OF INDIANAPOLIS



# POOL PARTY

CECILIA ALVAREZ-HEARD AND ANDREW HEARD OF  
TRESSS AQUATECTURAL DESIGNS

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*Innovation meets excellence at TRESSS  
Aquatectural Designs, where Cecilia  
Alvarez-Heard and Andrew Heard are  
refining their sleek, multi-functional, all-  
season swimming pools.*

(promotional content)

When you think of a swimming pool cover, you might envision a flimsy tarp or picture a piece of plastic that rolls over the water to keep leaves and debris out. But what if a pool cover was more than that? What if it could transform your patio into a multi-use space with the touch of a button? It might sound fantastical or futuristic, but Cecilia Alvarez-Heard and Andrew Heard of Zionsville are perfecting moving pool floors with the TRESSS architectural pool cover and an all-in-one plunge pool right here in Central Indiana.

The couple knows what it takes to be adaptable and flexible. Cecilia, an entrepreneur from Monterrey, Mexico, and Andrew, an engineer from Leicestershire, United Kingdom, have been bending and twisting through life as internationals in Indiana for over twenty years, raising three young Hoosiers (all tweens this summer) along the way. When they were designing their home, known as Casa Heard, with a local architect almost a decade ago, they knew two things: they wanted a pool, and they wanted it to be as adaptable and flexible as they were, fitting their family, their lifestyle and the space.

As we chat about how the family and the pool came to be, the children and their friends splash in the water on the other side of floor-to-ceiling windows, almost as if they were in the room with us. “We always wanted this style—where the pool was close to the house,” says Cecilia. But other covers weren’t attractive and left the area unusable when the pool was closed. So they waited to finish this part of their

dream home until the time and the design was just right. After much exploration and analysis, they decided on a moving pool floor. But how?

The idea came during a 2012 toddler swimming lesson in the Backer Therapy Pool—a “magic pool” at the Jewish Community Center with an adjustable floor. Andrew had seen these in his research, but using one in person allowed him to envision the technology in the Casa Heard pool, which was still just a hole in the ground with a temporary wooden deck spanning the top. They looked at what was available, but Andrew knew he could design his own using the engineering he knew—racecars.

By day, Andrew is the vice president of Xtrac, where he engineers transmissions for the elite motorsport and high-performance automotive sector. He explains that racecars today are built out of composites, and he saw the potential to adapt that same technology to create a pool cover that could move, adjust and transform to meet different needs. Using composites in the TRESSS designs makes them more straightforward and less expensive to produce. In addition, the material is inherently buoyant, so the mechanics can be hidden safely underneath. It is also incredibly insulating, allowing TRESSS products to be used throughout the year, even during cold Indiana winters.

This sunny spring evening is perfect pool weather, but Cecilia scrolls through photos to show me snowball fights in the steamy



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Relaxing by a pool is the ultimate summer luxury, but what if you could enjoy your outdoor pool year-round? TRESSS Aquatectural Designs, headquartered in Zionsville, combines state-of-the-art technology with beauty, safety and fun. When closed, the surface is a hardscape, doubling as a patio area. Ideal for intimate spaces, the moving floor cover is built to withstand weight and pressure like a deck while insulating the water underneath for use any time of year.

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pool last winter and other events they've hosted, from dance parties in a few inches of water, to diving contests at eight-feet deep, to elegant dinners atop a pool you'd never even know was underneath.

Their Casa Heard pool is Andrew's first TRESSS architectural pool cover, and he is constantly making improvements as he sees they are needed. Since the beginning, the couple has been diligently working toward a commercially viable product. Cecilia, a lifelong entrepreneur, handles the operational side of the business, which has grown to a nearby manufacturing facility and several employees. She is passionate about their work, continuously marketing, seeking new opportunities and patiently waiting for the products to meet perfection. "We are doing this for our kids," she says, noting that the name TRESSS is for their three children. "It is three in Spanish, tres, spelled with three Ss for Sophia, Sebastian and Stefani."

Andrew and Cecilia's sleek, multi-functional designs have already garnered attention from homeowners and pool builders. They currently work with local pool builders, as the architectural pool covers can be fitted to any new pool build, and they recently launched a new all-in-one plunge pool, also with their signature moving pool floor. This model is featured at Ripplebnb, Casa Heard's

neighboring Airbnb and the first TRESSS plunge pool pioneer.

TRESSS is poised to be a stand-out in the pool industry. The designs are certainly luxurious, but Cecilia points out that they offer many additional benefits. They are **safe** and they **save space**. You can **select the depth** and swim during **all seasons**. They offer **sustainability** and **special needs accessibility**, and yes, they are **super stylish**.

Currently, the team at TRESSS is scaling production and working through durability testing to prove the covers and pools are fit for purpose and will meet long-term expectations. "This is the endurance test, as they call it in auto racing," says Andrew of the end-user phase they are in, noting they are actively engaging a few new pioneers to work with at the foundational level. "Jump in," he encourages, "and take advantage of being the first with a TRESSS moving pool floor."

To learn more about TRESSS Aquatectural Designs and see the products, contact Cecilia Alvarez-Heard at (317) 652-1366. Visit [TRESSS.com](https://www.tressss.com) online and follow [@tressss.designs](https://www.instagram.com/tressss.designs) on Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn.

