

OPEN & SHUT CASES

Case studies, news updates and home-pool safety problem-solvers from Swish Automation.
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Achieving home pool safety compliance with open-wall architecture

How an unusual pool-zone challenge met safety compliance – and preserved the best aspects of indoor-outdoor lifestyle design

Integrated indoor-outdoor lifestyles have become a very desirable aspect of urban living, and open-wall architecture is becoming the popular way to achieve it. The home is today's entertainment centre, a home pool often central to family leisure time.

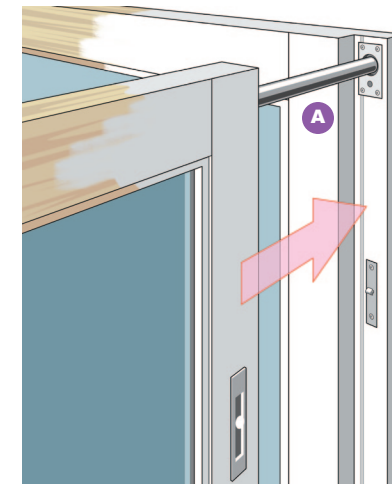
Compliance with pool safety law is part of this package – there are good reasons for ensuring that small children cannot gain unsupervised access to pool areas. But balancing poolside safety needs and poolside lifestyle wants does present challenges ...

Our case study presents an L-shaped interior living area closely integrated with the pool zone, with large sliding doors meeting at a pillarless corner.

Pool fencing has its place, but not here. It would be quickly dismissed for this environment as not only unsightly, but impractical to the degree that it could actually present an impediment to pool safety. A superior solution was to equip

the pool access doors with approved SelfLatch™ and SelfClose™ systems. These timber-framed panels are fairly large, and heavier than aluminium-framed equivalents – a problem if not properly installed. These doorsets were well-prepared however. Equipped with robust, fit-for-purpose substructure, track and wheelsets, they offered excellent slide performance with minimal effort. A perfect match.

The key to achieving safety compliance and preserving lifestyle aesthetics was to treat the inline multiple doorsets as a window wall. With main indoor/outdoor trafficways prioritised, SelfLatch™ and SelfClose™ were fitted to the pillarless corner.



Left: Cutaway detail of the pillarless corner and the rebated meeting point for the sliding panels. SelfClose (A) is hidden inside the door-frame on closing.

The presence of pool safety devices is hard to find here – SelfLatch™ and SelfClose™ are concealed within the timber door frame, preserving clear views to the poolside recreation area, and allowing the open-wall architecture to be enjoyed as originally intended. ■

Left: Safety-compliant and easy on the eye, poolside aesthetics are unobstructed, evidence of SelfClose and SelfLatch barely discernable. The full benefits of the open-wall architecture can still be enjoyed when the pool is in use and small children properly supervised.