

# PISCINE GLOBAL

PRESS RELEASE  
JUNE 2024

## RENOVATION AT THE HEART OF THE PISCINE GLOBAL TRADE SHOW

### **IN FRANCE, BOTH PRIVATE AND COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL RENOVATION PRESENT A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR THE INDUSTRY.**

The rehabilitation of swimming pools that are sometimes over thirty years old is a major economic and environmental issue, which means that professionals in the sector as well as architects and local authorities must adapt their approach and integrate certain constraints. An overview of the challenges and practices at the Piscine Global trade show, **FROM 19 TO 22 NOVEMBER 2024.**

## PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS **An economic and environmental opportunity**

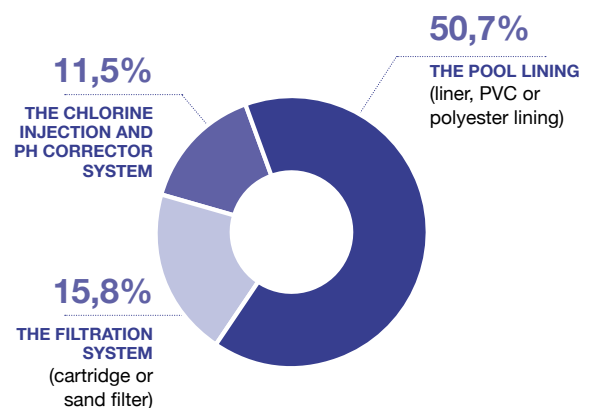
According to a study conducted by Decryptis for the FPP in 2021, nearly 3 in 10 in-ground and semi-in-ground pools have already been renovated. This figure increases with the age of swimming pools. In fact, while only 12% of the pools acquired since 2014 have undergone renovation, the rate rises to over 66% for those built prior to 2000.

In 2022, renovation was estimated at 9% of the turnover in the swimming pool market, which highlights the economic importance of this sector. It is also interesting to note that 35% of the renovations were carried out by the same professional who originally built the pool, which emphasises how much of an economic opportunity this is for companies in the pool construction sector.

Pool owners are also taking advantage of their renovation project to modernise their pool from an environmental standpoint: LED lighting, more efficient and less energy-consuming heating, water treatment, or cleaning systems.

Renovations are also an opportunity to adapt to another fast-growing trend: connected swimming pools. In fact, integrating home automation and digitisation into your pool renovation project not only simplifies use, but also enables you to control and optimise energy consumption and water treatment.

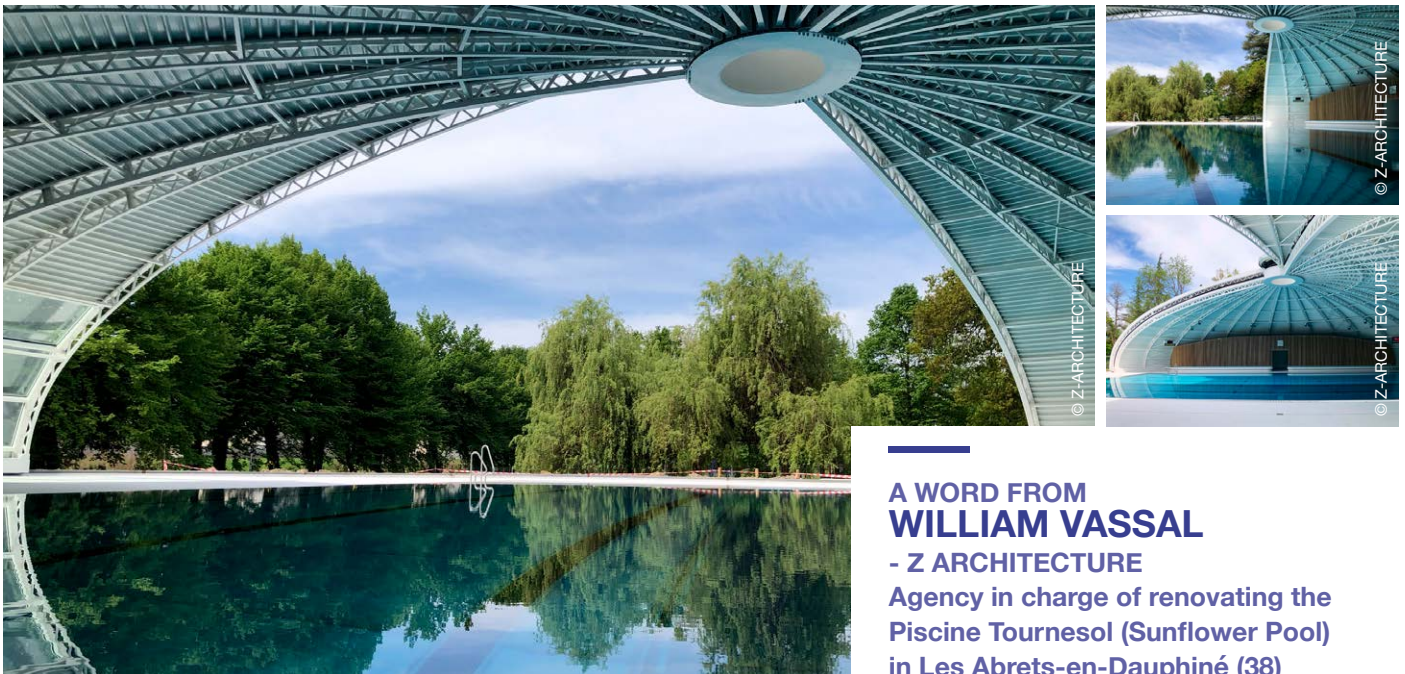
### **THE MOST COMMON TYPES OF RENOVATIONS ARE:**



# SOLVING THE PROBLEM of ageing public swimming pools

In France, public swimming pools are ageing. In fact, half of the water centres in France were built before 1977 as part of the national “1000 piscines” (1,000 swimming pools) plan launched in the late 1960s. Sixty percent (60%) of the public swimming pools in France are over 30 years old<sup>1</sup>. Work is currently under way on several of them to develop a range of services adapted to the public’s new expectations in terms of swimming, as well as relaxation and well-being (hammams, saunas, etc.), leisure (activities, slides, and gyms) and comfort.

Renovating these public swimming pools is not only an opportunity for professionals in the pool industry but is also of key interest for local authorities which must bear the cost in a budgetary context that is often tight.



## A WORD FROM WILLIAM VASSAL

- Z ARCHITECTURE

Agency in charge of renovating the  
Piscine Tournesol (Sunflower Pool)  
in Les Abrets-en-Dauphiné (38)

Winner of the competition launched by the Communauté de Communes Les Vals du Dauphiné for the renovation of the Les Abrets-en-Dauphiné swimming pool (opened in September 2022), Z Architecture explains the specific features of this project and of public swimming pool renovations in general. A meeting with William Vassal, the chairman, who has a special fondness for the sunflower pools:

“These structures have a powerful architectural goal, which must be preserved in renovation projects.”

### “ What were the challenges for this renovation and what did the client want? ”

In 2020, the Communauté de Communes Les Vals du Dauphiné launched a competition to restore their sunflower swimming pool located on the edge of a park with a large clearing.

They wanted to keep the sunflower swimming pool, an authentic piece of twentieth-century architectural history, and add a new section that corresponds with current expectations. They also demanded exemplary solutions to architectural, energy and environmental challenges, such as the installation of solar panels for electricity and pool water pre-heating, insulation of the centre, water and chlorine treatment, etc.

<sup>1</sup>\_ Source: February 2018 Cour des Comptes report, “Public swimming pools and water centres: an obsolete model”.



**What was your approach?**

We suggested a new building that blends into the surroundings and stands back from the ‘flying saucer’ of the sunflower pool: a box with rounded corners. The extension we suggested is adjacent and clad in mirror-polished stainless steel that reflects the neighbouring forest. This enables seamless integration and almost gives the impression that the building is not there.

As far as the sunflower pool is concerned, we didn’t want to lose the purity of the half-sphere. To keep it and at the same time add 2 water lines and a movable floor, we took the gamble of emptying the inside of the sunflower pool and turning the pool 90° to be in line with the changing rooms and the open half-shell. This allowed us to expose the large volume of the sphere.

Where possible, we also re-used materials from the deconstruction and used local companies for the project (bricklayer, electrician, plasterer).

**What advice would you give to local authorities (public or private) that want to renovate their swimming pool?**

My first piece of advice is to visit three or four facilities that are like the project they envision so that they can get real feedback. The mayor, the deputy sports director, and the pool manager should find the means and take the time to meet other elected representatives and managers so that they can develop an understanding of refurbishment: how much it costs, what are the constraints, what are the uses, how profitable it is, etc. In this way, they can develop their expertise before launching their call for tenders, and with full knowledge of the facts, be able to discuss with the project management support services.

Another important point is that environmental requirements must be weighed up against the financial implications and the impact on building morphology. The design of swimming pools should change, particularly in terms of the excessive amount of glazed surface area. All too often, clients mistakenly believe that rehabilitation and re-use are cheaper than new construction.

This is not always the case. Asbestos removal and deconstruction take time and money. There are more hazards because you don’t always know what you’re going to find when you deconstruct. Often, the price is quite close to that of a new swimming pool, but the project is more virtuous, with a much better carbon footprint because of reuse and the limited consumption of raw materials.

Today, swimming pools are one of the last places where people can live together in true diversity. We see more and more projects being called into question because of the issues of water supply, the cost of energy and salaries, etc. On the contrary, we think that as part of “living (well) together”, it is very important to continue to renovate and build public, cultural and sports facilities (such as swimming pools), while ensuring that they consume less.

As the French artist Ben once wrote, “if you think culture is expensive, try ignorance!”  
Something to think about.



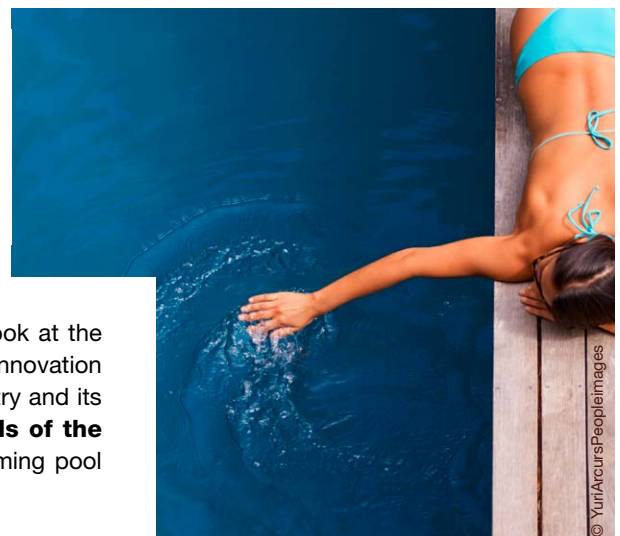
FIND **William Vassal**  
Z Architecture  
ON CONFERENCES  
OF PISCINE GLOBAL!

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**PROGRAM**  
soon available

RENOVATION:  
**a central issue addressed  
at Piscine Global 2024**

As the sector’s key trade event, Piscine Global takes a fresh look at the industry and the challenges it faces in 2024. The show sees innovation as the driving force behind the transformation of the pool industry and its stakeholders. Therefore, it will be highlighting **the major trends of the future** for the swimming pool sector. Public and private swimming pool renovation will be one of the main themes for 2024.



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With its offer of **the widest range of products on the market**, the show will be able to meet the needs of stakeholders in the sector by showcasing a host of innovative, environmentally friendly solutions proposed by professionals: digitisation, energy and environmental performance, equipment, and activities complementary to swimming, etc.

During the 4 days of conferences and workshops, professionals will also have a chance to reflect, understand and discuss the major issues facing the sector. Renovation will be one of the major themes for 2024 and will provide an opportunity to benefit from feedback and project presentations to re-evaluate and plan better for future projects.

A true **innovation laboratory**, Piscine Global is the place to be to detect, decipher, and adopt trends in the sector.



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A realization of Crea Piscines 35  
- Dealer Mondial Piscine.



© Nicolas Rodet

## THE POOL INNOVATION AWARDS celebrate innovative and sustainable solutions in the sector.

The best innovations will be showcased at the Pool Innovation Awards competition. A jury of international professionals and opinion leaders will select the most outstanding products or services on the market. The winners will be honoured at the Piscine Global 2024 show in a dedicated area in the heart of the Trends Hub.

**Exhibitors can submit their applications from 26 June to 30 September 2024.**

More information is available at  
<https://www.piscine-global.com/en/2024-program>

### ABOUT Piscine Global

Organised by the GreenTech+ division of the GL events group and the Fédération des professionnels de la piscine et du Spa (FPP, federation of swimming pool and spa professionals), Piscine Global is the landmark international trade show in the field of swimming pools and well-being. It attracts key industry stakeholders, experts and innovators from around the world to explore the latest trends and products and the most advanced technologies. Piscine Global is determined to promote sustainable development and support initiatives to improve the swimming pool and well-being industry.

For example, Piscine Global takes concrete steps to limit its environmental impact with dedicated action plans. This includes reducing its carbon footprint, limiting the use of disposable products to maximise the circular economy and developing diversity and the region where the show takes place.

**DON'T MISS THIS EVENT AT EUREXPO  
- LYON  
FROM 19 TO 22 NOVEMBER 2024**



[WWW.PISCINE-GLOBAL.COM](http://WWW.PISCINE-GLOBAL.COM)

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PRESS CONTACTS Agence Comme ils disent

**Nataly Joubert**  
n.joubert@agence-cid.fr  
+33 (0)6 09 42 25 94

**Marie Tissier**  
m.tissier@agence-cid.fr  
+33 (0)6 15 39 59 65