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World's best swimming pools like you've never seen them

We've never seen Raging Waters Sydney — formerly known as Wet'n'Wild — look quite so placid. How does Brad Walls do it?

By ROSS BILTON



The main pool at Raging Waters Sydney. Picture: Brad Walls

From **The Weekend Australian Magazine** 2 hours ago

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Pools From Above

Perhaps your eyes alighted first on the figures in the top left of this photo, then traced that sensuous curved line downwards before drifting off into the expanse of beautiful blue water and lingering there awhile, taking in all that calming colour. If that's what your eyes did, Brad Walls will consider it a job well done. He has a background in visual design, and uses all the tricks of that trade – “leading lines” to subtly direct a viewer's gaze, colour harmonies and negative space – in his new career creating fine art photographs with a drone.

This image from Walls' new book, *Pools From Above* (Thames & Hudson, \$59.99), was shot at Raging Waters Sydney, the 25ha water park formerly named Wet'n'Wild. It's known for its thrilling water slides, but here we're looking at the edge of the vast main pool, an area designed for littlies to play in: they can wade straight into the shallow water from that sand-coloured, rubberized “beach”. Walls titles the image

Breathe – a nod to the calming effect of the colours and the pared-back composition.

He flew his DJI Mavic 3 drone over pools in Australia, Bali, the US and Mexico to capture the 89 images in his book. They're high-end residential pools designed by architects, mostly. "Every one has its own 'personality,'" he says. "I found the pools by reaching out to architects whose work I like – usually they were happy to arrange a visit. In America I also used Google Maps to pinpoint areas with lots of fantastic pools, then just put the drone up."



The main pool at Raging Waters Sydney. Photo: Brad Walls

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KATRINA GRACE KELLY

It's almost a year since Walls, a Sydneysider, quit his job and went all-in as an artist. So how's it going? "There's ups and downs," the 30-year-old says. He misses the regular pay cheques, but is now represented by galleries in New York and LA, and living a life where he can give full-rein to his fertile, creative mind. "I'm enjoying the ride," he says. "It hasn't eaten me up yet!"

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