

KURT CANDLER

Expert Witness — Swimming Pool Design, Construction & Industry Standards

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NC General Contractor License #L.44371

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Kurt Candler is a North Carolina licensed general contractor and swimming pool industry veteran with more than 30 years of hands-on experience in the design, construction, renovation, and inspection of commercial and residential swimming pools. He holds the International Watershape Institute (IWI) Professional credential — the highest level of educational achievement offered through Watershape University — along with certifications spanning watershape construction, design, electrical, finishes, and inspection. Mr. Candler has completed more than 600 career watershape projects and has held elected and appointed leadership positions with the North Carolina Pool and Hot Tub Alliance, the Carolinas Chapter PHTA, and North Carolina regulatory review committees. His combined field, design, and code-compliance background positions him to provide expert analysis and testimony on matters involving swimming pool construction defects, design standards, code compliance, and industry standards of care.

EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Arts, Business Management — North Carolina State University, 1991
- International Watershape Institute (IWI) Professional — highest level of educational achievement, Watershape University, IWI #20038, awarded April 30, 2022

Continuing Education — Watershape University Coursework:

Course Code	Course Title	Date Completed
WSU-ENG 1281	Movable Pool Floors	6/10/2020
WSU-CST 2691	Automatic Pool Cover Installations and Details	7/15/2020
WSU-CST 2342	Equipment Installations	7/29/2020
WSU-ENG 4311	Essential Advanced Fluid Engineering	2/28/2021
WSU-DSN 1111	Essential Perspective Drawing	10/15/2021
WSU-CST 4111	Essential Advanced Watershapes	11/15/2021
WSU-DSN 2131	Essential SketchUp Modeling	4/29/2022
WSU-DSN 2211	Essential Principles of Design	4/30/2022
WSU-CST 2711	Essential Major Renovations	11/21/2022
WSU-DSN 4271	Vanishing and Slot Edge Design	11/21/2022
WSU-ENG 1391	Sanitation: UV / O3 / AOP	3/6/2023
WSU-DSN 2211	Essential Principles of Design	4/16/2023
WSU-CST 4112	Essential Advanced Watershapes and Commercial Pools	7/23/2023
WSU-CST 3341	Essential Plumbing Workshop	11/12/2023
WSU-CST 3611	Essential Plaster	11/13/2024
WSU-BUS 3461	Managing Business Finance	11/13/2024
WSU-BUS 2121	Essential Pool Inspection	12/5/2025

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & LICENSES

- North Carolina Licensed General Contractor, License #L.44371, since 1997 — Commercial Building & Swimming Pool categories
- Certified Pool Operator (CPO)
- WSU Certified Watershape Builder
- WSU Certified Watershape Electrical Specialist
- WSU Certified Watershape Professional
- WSU Certified Watershape Finish Specialist (Pool Plaster & Tile)
- WSU Certified Watershape Foreman
- WSU Certified Watershape Designer
- WSU Certified Watershape CWRI Pool Inspector (Commercial & Residential)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Owner | *Aquagroom Inc. & Raleigh Pools LLC* • 1993 – 2025

Licensed swimming pool contractor specializing in commercial concrete pools, high-end residential custom concrete pools, homeowner association amenity sites, vertical construction of clubhouses, and swimming pool renovations.

- Completed 600+ career water vessel projects, including residential vanishing-edge pools, perimeter-overflow pool/spa combinations, pools with automatic covers, fountains, fiberglass pools and spas, and vinyl pools.
- Constructed commercial natatoriums, podium (rooftop) pools, zero-entry recreational pools with water features, splash pads, and competitive pools for swim teams.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Commercial and residential concrete pool construction and design
- Major pool renovations and reconstruction
- Vanishing-edge, perimeter-overflow, and specialty watershape design
- Pool equipment, plumbing, and electrical systems
- Pool sanitation systems (UV / O3 / AOP)
- Plaster and tile finishes
- Regulatory and code compliance, including Virginia Graeme Baker Act enforcement and SOFA regulations
- Business and financial risk management for pool contractors

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

- Participated in North Carolina Department of Environmental Health review committee for rules review and Virginia Graeme Baker Act enforcement protocol (2007–2008)
- Participated in North Carolina Legal Review Committee, working with lobbyists on swimming pool bonding code enforcement protocol (2007)
- President, North Carolina Pool and Hot Tub Alliance (2004)
- Led the 2025 merger of the North Carolina and South Carolina Pool and Hot Tub Alliance chapters to form the Carolinas Chapter PHTA representing over 300 pool professional members; The chapter hosted the inaugural Carolina Pool Awards banquet, raising over \$10K for the Step into Swim Foundation charity
- President, Carolinas Chapter Pool and Hot Tub Alliance (2025)
- Instructor, Watershape University at the NESPA Atlantic City Show (January 2026)
- National Awards Judge, PHTA Pool Awards, Aqua Magazine (2026)
- Author and Instructor, WU B3422 "Business Defense: How to Protect Profits and Reduce Risk"

HONORS & AWARDS

- Pool and Hot Tub Alliance Carolinas Outstanding Leadership Award (2024–2025)

COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- Colonial Athletic Association Conference Champion, 3-Meter Diving (1986)
- Atlantic Coast Conference Champion, 3-Meter Diving (1989)
- Atlantic Coast Conference MVP, Diving (1989)
- NC State University Diving MVP (1989 & 1990)
- NCAA Diving Finalist, 3-Meter and 10-Meter — ranked 18th nationally (1989 & 1990)