

Solution  
239

by Benjamin Bloch, Ph.D.

1. An equiangular quadrilateral has equal opposite sides having all right angles.  
[A rectangle of which a square is a special case.]

Draw coordinates  $(r, \theta)$  as shown in the diagram. Each horizontal length of the pool equals  $2r \cos \theta$ , and each vertical side equals  $2r \sin \theta$ . Thus, the area of the pool is  $A = 4r^2 \cos \theta \sin \theta$ .

The variable angle  $\theta$  sets the shape of the circle-inscribed pool. We are seeking the value of  $\theta$ , which will make the pool area a maximum.

One can intuit that when  $\cos \theta = \sin \theta$  that maximum will be reached.  
Thus,  $\theta = 45$  degrees.

Or one can use calculus to get the analytic solution.  
We want  $dA/d\theta = 0$ . Now  $d(4r^2 \cos \theta \sin \theta)/d\theta = 4r^2(-\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta) = 0$   
Solving for  $\theta$  yields  $\sin \theta = \cos \theta$ , so that  $\theta = 45$  degrees.

The area of the pool is thus  $A = 4r^2 \cos 45 \sin 45 = 2r^2$

2. The shape of the pool is a square.
3. The outside pool area within the circle is  $\pi r^2 - 2r^2 = r^2(\pi - 2)$ .

