How a Swimming Pool Can Cool a Power Plant

Inspired by the enormous swimming pools he builds as part of his real estate business, Chilean biochemist Fernando Fischmann and his company, Crystal Lagoons Corp., have devised a new design for a power plant cooling system. It recycles and cleans the water rather than dumping it out to sea and endangering wildlife.

By Steve Rousseau

San Alfonso del Mar resort in Algarrobo, Chile.

Crystal Lagoons

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Fernando Fischmann is a Chilean biochemist turned real estate mogul. And, if his new idea works out, he could make another career turn—inventor of a way to make power plants more ocean-friendly. Inspired by the giant pools he's built for resorts, Fischmann came up with the idea of using closed pools to provide the water to cool large power plants, reducing their environmental impact.

It all started with Fischmann's filtration system. Any pool owner knows the pain of keeping one clean, but Fischmann was working on a different scale. The largest pool made by his company, Crystal Lagoons, was built for the San Alfonso del Mar resort in Chile: It contains enough water to fill 6000 ordinary swimming pools, Fischmann says. Cleaning it the way you would your