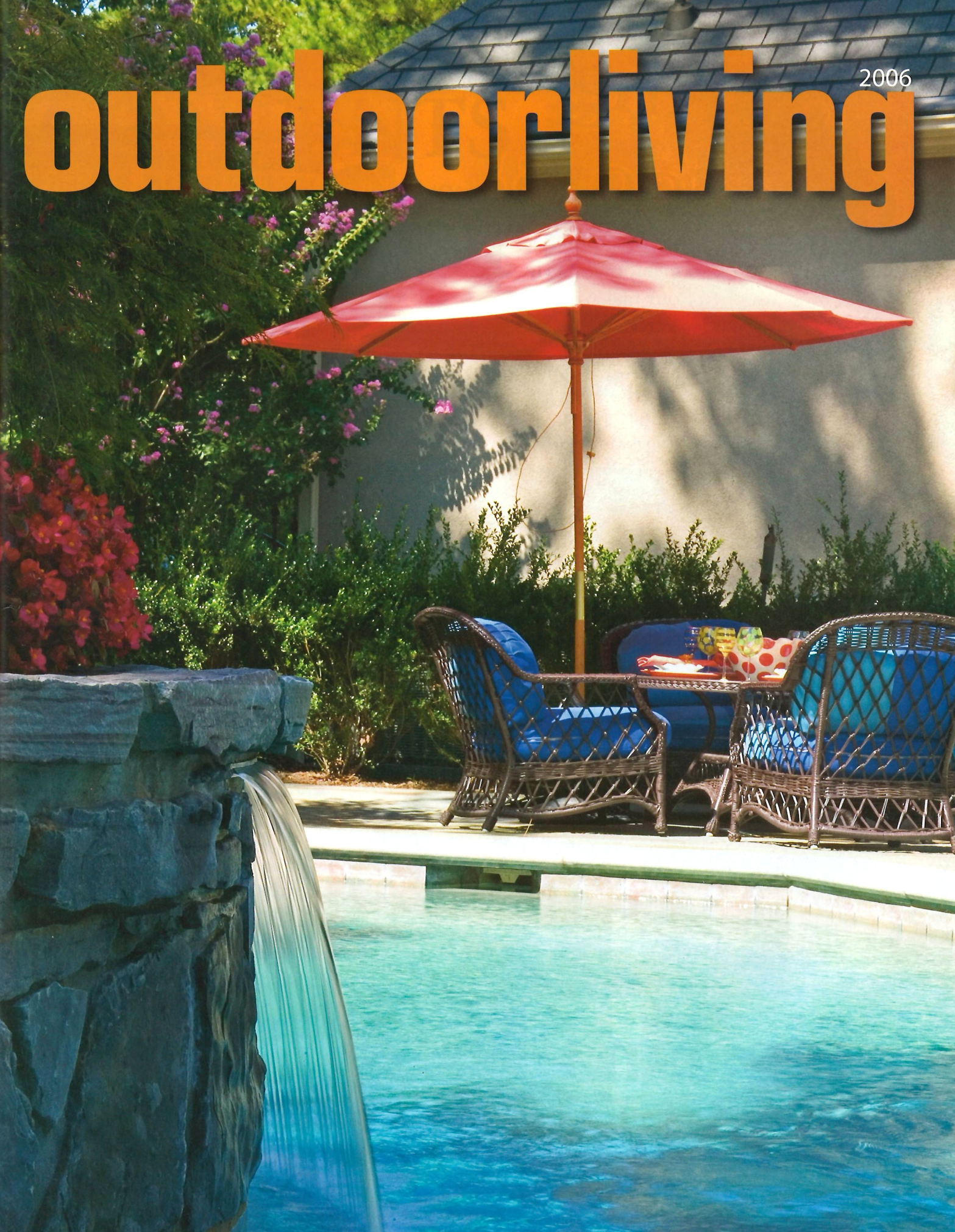


outdoor living

2006



POOL PARTY



Double Duty

A Mediterranean-style pool area becomes a multi-purpose family-oriented space

TEXT: LAUREN LAX

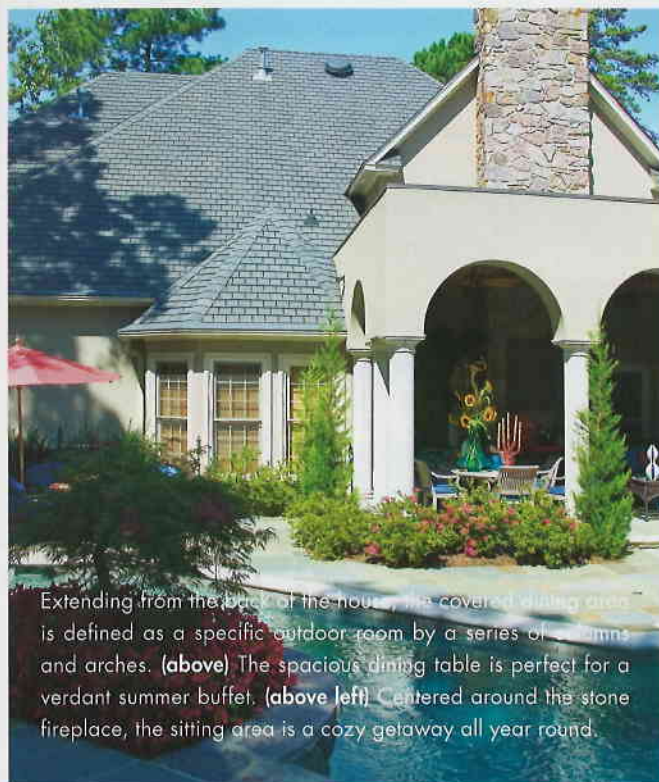
PHOTOGRAPHY: JANET WARLICK

With two kids at home, Susan and David Matthews knew they wanted a pool and pool house to complement their residence in Little Rock's Hickory Creek area, and also to provide yard space for outdoor playtime. They turned to architect Scott Evins of Scott Evins Design, and he maximized the limited space by designing a multi-purpose Shangri-La, which was made a reality by Brooks Pools.

The well-designed space incorporates a seven-foot pool, a pool house and a covered patio area. "The project turned out even better than we imagined. From the running water feature to the elevated pool house and plenty of yard to play with, Scott was creative," Susan says. The covered veranda was extended from the house, and blue stone detailing was added to match the existing patio, while the Roman columns, a candelabra chandelier and an outdoor fireplace give a Mediterranean feel. A dining area outfitted with Lane Venture furnishings from Congo Stove & Patio in Benton helps complete the transformation into an outdoor room.

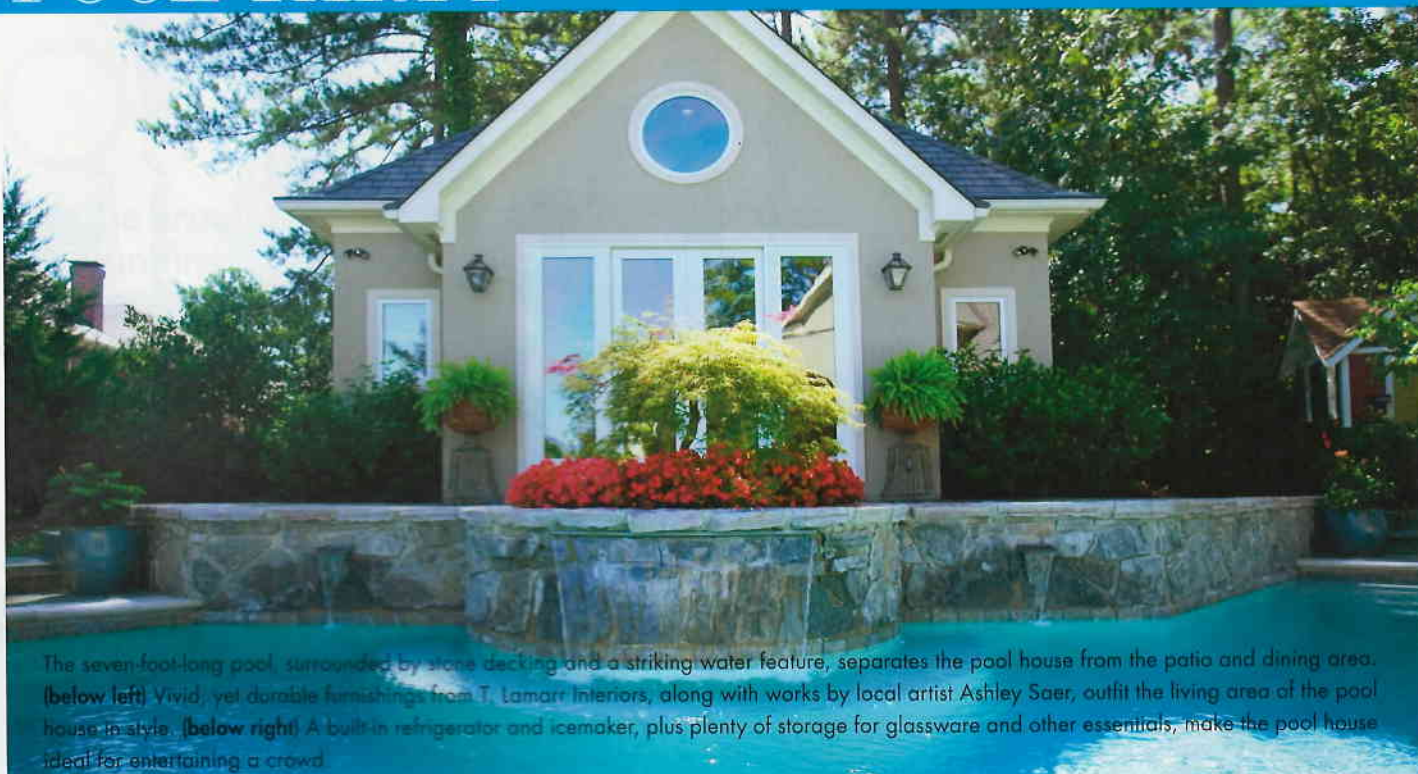
Originally designed as an open-air entertaining area, the pool house gradually expanded to include a full kitchen, living area and bath. Designer Tobi Fairley, owner of T. Lamarr Interiors in Little Rock, helped Susan develop the pool house's color scheme and overall design. Mint greens and antique yellows accented by bold fuchsia, sunny oranges and bright blues give the interior a cozy seaside atmosphere. Vibrant, durable furnishings by Maine Cottage, from mertinsdykehome in Little Rock, offer plenty of spots to relax after a swim.

Currently, the pool area also doubles as the perfect playground. "We entertain a lot now that we have a pool. It's great for summer parties with friends, and the kids' birthday parties," Susan says. "As they grow older I think it will become a great place for them to invite their friends over." ▶ SEE SHOPPING GUIDE FOR DETAILS.



Extending from the back of the house, the covered dining area is defined as a specific outdoor room by a series of columns and arches. (above) The spacious dining table is perfect for a verdant summer buffet. (above left) Centered around the stone fireplace, the sitting area is a cozy getaway all year round.

POOL PARTY



The seven-foot-long pool, surrounded by stone decking and a striking water feature, separates the pool house from the patio and dining area. (below left) Vivid, yet durable furnishings from T. Lamarr Interiors, along with works by local artist Ashley Saer, outfit the living area of the pool house in style. (below right) A built-in refrigerator and icemaker, plus plenty of storage for glassware and other essentials, make the pool house ideal for entertaining a crowd.

