

# Southern Accents

BEAUTIFUL HOMES, GRACIOUS LIVING, A SENSE OF PLACE

## summer CHIC

Sunny Retreats  
*Elegant Outdoor Rooms*  
Cheerful Table Settings

Landscape designer **Cedar Baldrige** and designer **Lisa Rowe** of Houston envision a feminine, family-friendly space that brings a little bit of glam and a lot of style to the outdoor living area

**THE ALL-FEMALE TEAM** went for feminine touches that up the glamour quotient for this traditional house. Flamboyant, chinoiserie-inspired design and strong punches of color make the space destined for fun and entertaining as much as for escape. Baldrige and Rowe launched their design with a striped awning and outdoor curtains that shelter the space and allow for all-weather entertaining. “We envisioned a little 1940s Hollywood in Houston,” says Rowe.

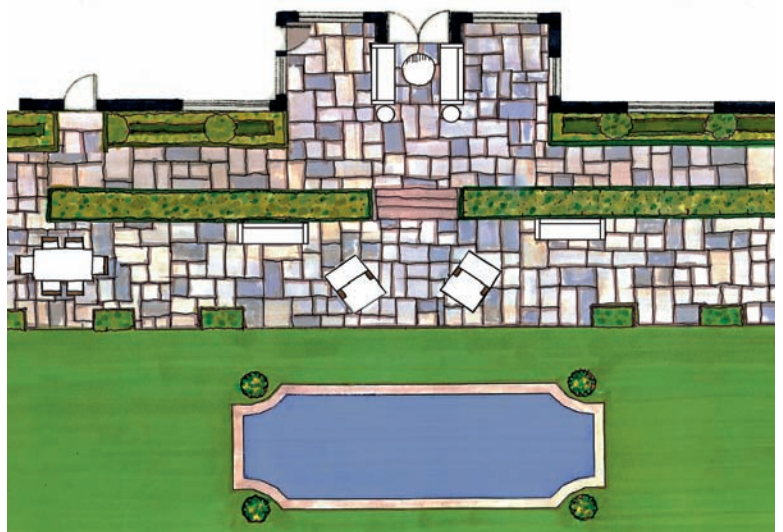
The designers removed the house’s peaked pediment to make room for the awning, changed the design of the rear windows on the second floor to reflect the shape of the Regency-style pool, and replaced picture windows with steel-framed French doors on the ground floor “to give them weight and to frame the area of interest,” says Rowe. They furnished the covered terrace with a pair of benches, ceramic garden stools, and an ottoman covered in white vinyl. “It’s fun, and you can sit on it wet,” says Baldrige. “We love the idea of throwing open the French doors during a party, having drinks on the terrace, and taking in the vista over the pool and down to the bayou.” A pagoda-shaped chandelier lends drama and complements the design of the interiors.

To focus on the view and further designate the outdoor spaces, the team terraced the garden, creating two seating areas—the first directly outside the house, the second just beyond, with a dining table and chaises overlooking a grass-bordered pool. A third tier, not visible here, descends a path to the bayou behind the house.

The dining area is removed from the covered terrace to make it “a separate experience from the house,” says Rowe. “Patio dining is so common—why not utilize the vast green space?” Baldrige explains that it’s perfect for entertaining and compares it to having drinks in the living room before proceeding to the dining room for dinner. “In Houston, we have such mild weather in the winter, you can dine outdoors



Designer Lisa Rowe (left) and landscape designer Cedar Baldrige



PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHED BY MEGAN THOMPSON

# OUTDOOR LIVING

## ONE GARDEN, THREE TEAMS



1



2

4



5



6

### ELEMENTS OF A 1940S HOLLYWOOD GARDEN

1. The sculptural, whimsical Montgomery bench by Munder-Skiles adds an element of fantasy.

2. A pop of pink, in the seat cushions covered in Schumacher's Caribe fabric in azalea, connects to the flowers in the landscape.

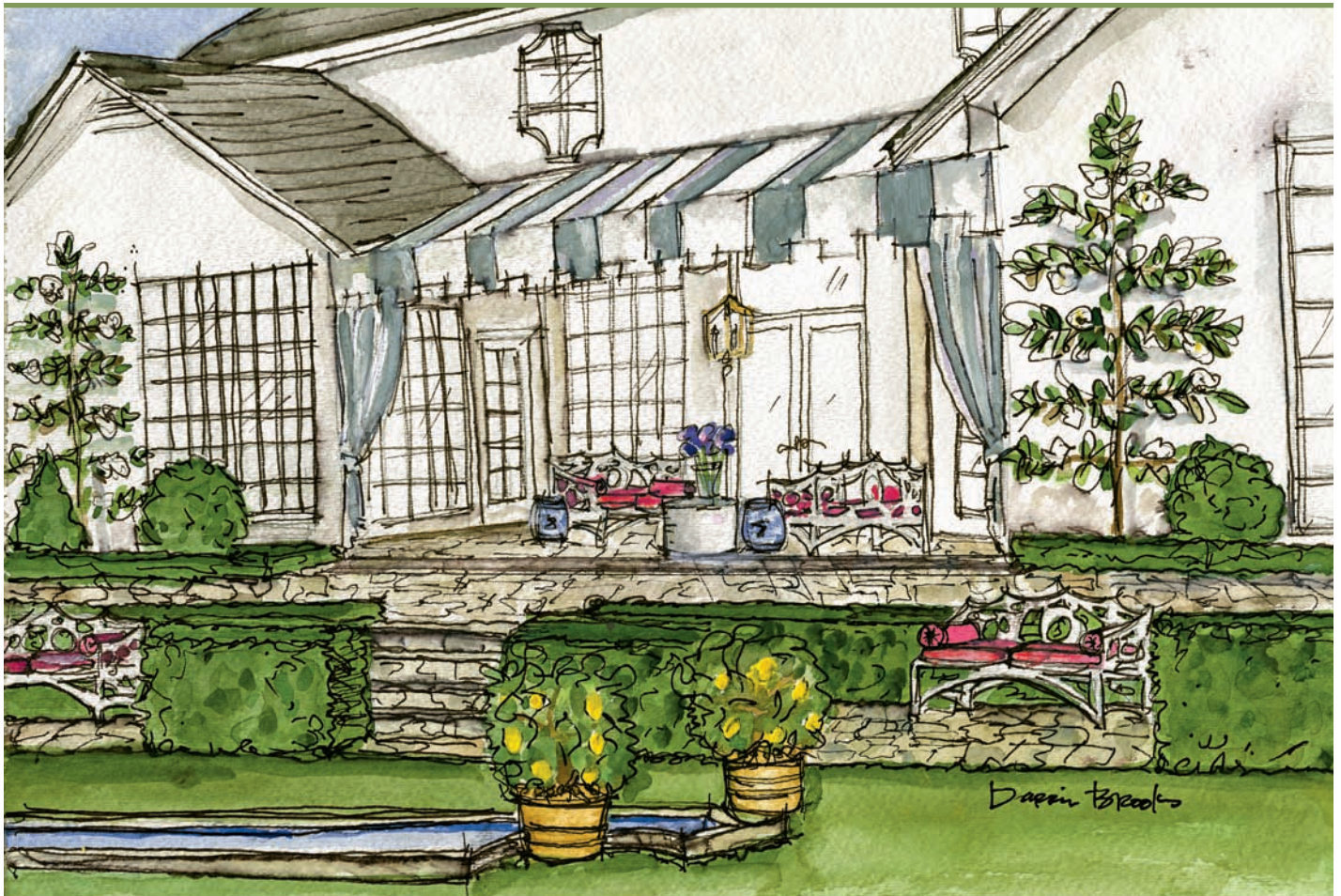
3. The striped awning fabric by Dickson is preppy and traditional yet still looks fresh.

4. Meyer lemons thrive in tropical climates and grow well in pots. Here, they provide color and

punctuate the pool's four corners.

5. The Pagoda chandelier by Festoni sets the tone for the garden.

6. White vinyl upholstery protects this ottoman, by la-Fête, from wet bathing suits.



FABRICS PHOTOGRAPHED BY ERICA GEORGE DINES

“Dining  
poolside is great  
not only for the  
sound of the water  
but also for the  
cooling breeze.”

—Cedar Baldrige

year-round,” she says. “Dining poolside is great not only for the sound of the water but also for the cooling breeze.”

The pool is surrounded by St. Augustine grass and punctuated by Meyer lemon trees. “The citrus scent while you’re swimming is wonderful,” says Baldrige. The expanse of green creates a crisp contrast to the ashlar cut stone of the seating areas. ♦

*For details, see Sourcebook, page 134.*

### A Green Perspective

Though gardens are inherently good for the environment, creating and maintaining a well-manicured, pest-free landscape often requires more than just sunshine and a little water (which itself is hard to come by at times). As clients become interested in green design, designers are relying more on chemical-free, sustainable ways to beautify outdoor spaces.

Landscape designer Cedar Baldrige uses organic fertilizers and soil amendments as much as possible. To combat mosquitoes, she avoids toxic chemicals and instead looks to rosemary, chrysanthemums, and oranges, which are natural repellents.

“Prudent use of water is now a huge focus,” says Atlanta landscape architect John Howard. “We utilize rainwater collection systems and efficient drip irrigation systems, and we specify wise choices of plant material, all of which help conserve water. We try to use native species of plants and select hardy trees and shrubs.”