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Summer 2011

THE
OUTSIDE
ISSUE

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HOW TO GET THE **ULTIMATE BACKYARD** RIGHT NOW



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A photograph of a modern backyard featuring a swimming pool, lounge chairs with colorful pillows, and a pergola structure. The scene is set in a bright, sunny environment with a clear blue sky. The pool water is a vibrant turquoise color. The pergola has a dark metal frame and a concrete pillar. The lounge chairs are arranged on a concrete deck. The overall aesthetic is clean and contemporary.

BACKYARD REVIVAL

With a little help from a Cuernavaca oasis,
here's how to spiff up your outdoor space right now

BY MITCHELL ALAN PARKER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHAD WADSWORTH
STYLING ASSISTANT ANGELICA BREM



Kim and Greig Coates have created the ultimate backyard. The husband and wife's sprawling, 10,000-square-foot compound, designed by local architect Mell Lawrence, incorporates all the must-have elements of eating, playing, living and decorating in supreme outdoor splendor. The couple (he's an attorney; she's a urogynecologist) and their three middle-school-age children use the space endlessly during the summer months. They've thrown parties for everything from the kids' baseball, football and dance teams to a 70th birthday bash. The backyard can easily accommodate more than 100 people. "We love the way it flows, and how people move around in the different areas," says Kim. "And there's something about the light that makes you feel like you're somewhere else."

Here we break down the Coates' envy-inducing playground and offer tips on how to create your own ultimate backyard living space. From outdoor sports courts to posh poolside furniture, it's time to make the outdoors great again.

EAT

The Coates clan dine outside on a weekly basis, so they wanted the area to be tough and washable. The mostly-concrete space makes for quick and easy clean up, and allows them to rearrange and relocate the dining area in conjunction with weather and light. "It fits the criteria for the homeowners' modern and contemporary design that's durable and requires little maintenance," says Lawrence. "You just hose it down."

GET THIS LOOK:

Teak dining table and chairs by Gløster, from Greenhouse Mall, price on request; Missoni towel, \$62.50, from Threshold; pillows were custom made; 16-piece Montville dinnerware set, \$55, bamboo place mats, \$11, all at Parmida; Yellow "gurgle pot," \$40, and outdoor rug, \$129, at Collectic Home.

CREATE YOUR OWN:

Austin Outdoor Kitchens

This local company, whose motto is "Keep Austin Cooking," builds custom outdoor kitchens and "bbq centers." They've got a large selection of grills, fire pits, outdoor refrigerators, cabinets, granite counter tops, custom rock work and heaters. 331-5544, austinoutdoorkitchens.net

BBQ Outfitters

No backyard in Texas is complete without a kick-butt grill, and this store has the best. They've got the popular Big Green Egg smoker-griller,

top-of-the line natural gas and charcoal versions, and even pizza ovens. 6715 Ranch Road 620 N., 347-1988, bbqoutfitters.com

Breed & Company

Breed has more than four decades in the biz, and it shows. They've got a well-curated China selection, lots of outdoor grilling tools and tons of colorful summer plates and cups. 718 W. 29th St., 474-6679; 3663 Bee Caves Road, 328-3960; breedandco.com

Parmida

This Hill Country Gallery store has everything for

living and dining outdoors: colorful dinnerware sets, wooden cheese trays, tons of napkins and arty napkin holders, candles and picnic baskets. And their selection of furniture, fountains and everything else home-related is second to none. 12912 Hill Country Blvd., Ste. F140, 263-2335, parmidahome.com

Finch

Every sunny dining spread needs plenty of glassware, and Finch pulls through, with various glass and handmade ceramic pitchers, beautiful cutlery sets and weatherproof pewter

ice buckets. 417 W. Second St., 236-1414, shopfinch.com

Feather Your Nest

We love Michael Aram's Fig Leaf collection, with nature-inspired pieces perfect for outdoor dining. The acacia wood, marble and nickelplated mesh-domed cheese board and serving bowls look great in the sun and keep flies off food. 3500 Jefferson St., Ste. 120, 206-3555, featheryournesthome.com

Zinger

Got an outdoor table in need of sprucing up? Check out the colorful flower-

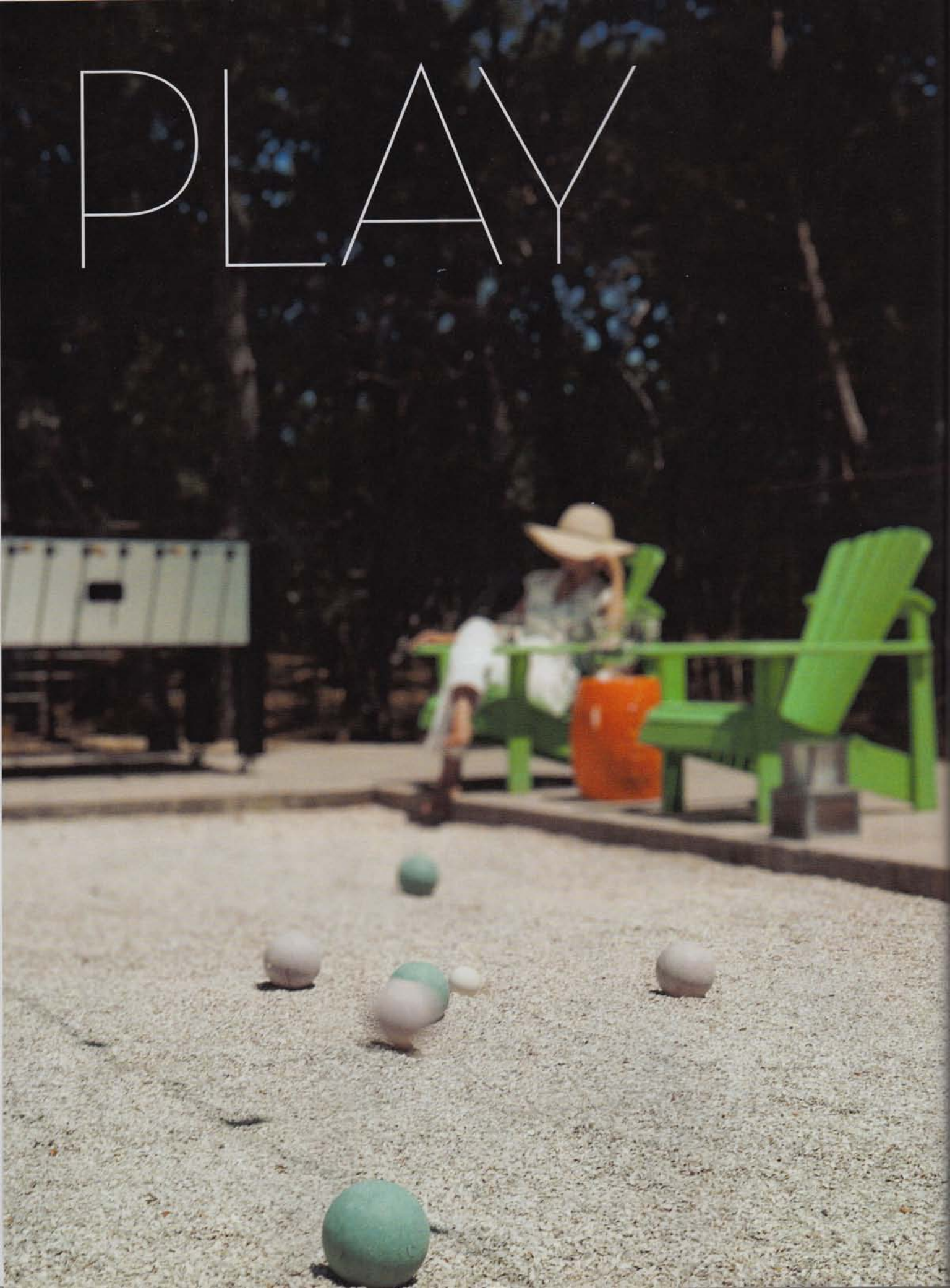
pattern vinyl covers here. And the stylish large tubs make perfect ice buckets for cold drinks. 2438 W. Anderson Ln., 533-9001, zingerhardware.com

Aviary

The green-tinted Topo Chico glasses made by husband-and-wife owners Marco Fiorilo and Shanna Eldridge are our favorite. There are also great little side tables and chairs. The best part: In here, you can hang out, have a glass of wine, and then buy the glass, or even the table it's sitting on. 2110 S. Lamar Blvd., 916-4445, aviarylounge.com



PLAY



It was always Greig's dream to have a regulation-size Bocce ball court, so Lawrence researched the dimensions on the web and built one that was separated from the pool area by a two-step-down level change. The surface is made in the traditional style of powdery crushed oyster shell for ideal game play. The homeowners also wanted to add extra electricity to accommodate a live band nearby, so they added a hair-raising control panel. "They've got enough power that the Rolling Stones could stop by and play," jokes Lawrence. "They could open their own welding shop." The Coates are all about play. The enormous swimming pool is almost a quarter length of a football field and has a deep-diving section. Meanwhile, an indoor-outdoor gaming spot has vintage pinball machines, a dartboard and a foosball table that can be wheeled outside.

GET THIS LOOK:

Bocce ball court custom designed by Mell Lawrence Architects; orange stool, \$199, at Collectic Home; green chairs, price on request, at Anthony's Patio.

CREATE YOUR OWN:

Sport Court of Austin

Want a killer backyard? Add action. Sport Court installs putting greens, courts for basketball, volleyball, tennis and more. 10208 N. Hwy. 620; 8907 Bee Caves Road, 335-9779, austincourtbuilders.com

Anthony & Sylvan Pools

Experts with small spaces, the firm creates raised water systems and tiered decking. 13343 N. Hwy. 183, (877) 729-7946, anthonyandsylvan.com

Austintatious Pools

Owner Michael

Hurosky can make Hugh Hefner's grotto look like a kiddie pool. He offers a variety of expertly designed free-form pools, towering stone walls and waterfalls. 12014 N. Lamar, 443-1110, longhornpoolservice.com

Azul Pools

Custom lighting is a specialty, but the waterslides make a big splash. 1500 E. Cesar Chavez St., 477-6657; azulpools.com

Cody Pools

It's hot. You want to swim now. With the largest Texas-based pool builder by volume, you can be submerged

in a new pool in 30 days. 2300 W. Parmer Ln., 835-4966, codypools.com

Mowry Pools

This family-run company has been building pools for more than 50 years. They specialize in vanishing edge, geometric and natural designs. 1206 Canyon Maple Road, Pflugerville, 633-0149, mowrypools.com

Elite Pool Services

The elites get caves, grottos, negative edges and beach entries, spas, swim-up bars and outdoor kitchens. 9812 Circle Drive, 892-5140, elitepools.com

Gary Pools

Company founder Leif Zars developed patented methods exclusive to his one-of-a-kind pools. 438 Sandau Road, San Antonio, 210-494-1313, garypools.com

Lakeside Custom Pools & Spas

Popular features include waterfalls, tanning ledges and swim-up bars. 2800 E. Whitestone Blvd., 873-0671, lakesidecustompools.com

Naco Pools

This family-run business builds pools with custom designs like mood-changing lights. 1402 Vargas Road, 385-4994, nacopools.com

Starwood Pools

This company's eco-friendly water filtration pump uses 60 percent less energy than the single speed pump more commonly used. 1310 Ranch Road 620 S. 263-9300, starwoodpools.com

H&H Tile and Plaster

Lakeway resident Billy Johns and team are skilled at pool renovations, natural stone waterfalls and more. They also specialize in pool finishes, like glass bead and polished marble. 31840 Ranch Road 12, Dripping Springs, 264-1979, handhtileandplaster.com

LIVE

Lawrence wanted a smooth transition from the indoor poolhouse space to the outdoor living area. So he created a gradual change with a slatted wood-and-metal eave over the indoor structure, and a separate cover made using horizontal galvanized steel trellis beams laid over large concrete columns. This creates architectural movement as the sun cuts across the sky and casts rigid-line shadows that stretch as the day goes on. "In my architecture, I like to take advantage of the sun and shadow and movement," Lawrence says. The Mustang Grape leaves also add a nifty play on light. Greig had fond memories of growing up with the native vine that produces green fruit, so he planted some to grow over the beams. The broad leaves create additional shade and add a cool aural element on breezy days.

GET THIS LOOK:

Space designed by Mell Lawrence Architects; concrete from Boothe Concrete; small green moss ball, \$19, wooden bird, \$10, both at Bella Dimora Co; lounge chairs and table, price on request, at Anthony's Patio; pillows custom designed by homeowner; indoor furniture from Bella Home, Design Within Reach and the now-defunct Ligne Roset.

CREATE YOUR OWN:

Anthony's Fireplace & Patio

This Westlake Village store has an expansive area for viewing furniture by JANUS et Cie, Dedon and Ego Paris. 5604 Bee Caves Road, 263-5115, anthonyspatio.com

Greenhouse Mall

One of the hottest outdoor furniture stores in town, they also sell greenhouses and art. 9900 Ranch Road 620 N., 250-0000; 12501 W. Hwy. 71, 617-8888; greenhousemall.com

Kanga Room Systems

Choose a stand-

alone outdoor room for a mod pool house, a rustic cottage or a cool bungalow. 6701 Burnet Road, 777-1383, kangaroomsystems.com

Kreiss Austin

Think teak furniture, large umbrellas and outdoor paintings all with a high-end aesthetic. 1214 W. Sixth St., 476-2121, kreissaustin.com

Provencal Home

The chateau-chic weatherproof line of sofas, sectionals and coffee tables are made from 100 percent recyclable

materials. 701 S. Capital of Texas Hwy., 306-9449 countryfrench.com

Scott+Cooner

This modern furniture powerhouse recently became the exclusive local carrier of high-end studio Minotti, and this summer will become the exclusive B&B Italia carrier. 115 W. Eighth St., 480-0436, scottcooner.com

Seasonal Living

Their all-white with aluminum frame lounges and chairs with splashy blue glass tables make for a posh set-up

straight out of Greece. 211 E. Alpine Road, 554-5738, seasonalliving.com

Texas Sun & Shade

Shade makes Texas summers possible. Light filters, awnings, retractable roofs and more are all here. 11813 Bee Caves Road, 402-0990, txsunandshade.com

NEST Modern

We love the new outdoor line from Della Robia, but the oversize, bright-orange baroque chair from Linvin is our fave. 1009 W. Sixth St., 637-0600, nestmodern.com

Hacienda Style

Owners Joe and Karen Carr have penned eight award-winning books on Mexican design. Their Wimberley store, open by appointment, offers custom-designed Mexican benches and chairs, antique colonial trunks and more. 327-8284, haciendastyle.com

Austex Fence and Deck

This local company installs innovative fences, decks, patio covers and more. 7213 McNeil Dr., 258-5000, austexfenceanddeck.com



STYLE

The couple chose simple, design-friendly pieces with various pops of color to enhance the stark, concrete-heavy space. Custom-designed pillows and small, vibrant-green square stools play off Lawrence's smart architectural lines and brighten things up a bit. During parties, the uncomplicated teak furniture from Greenhouse Mall and Anthony's Patio allow for endless decorating options.

GET THIS LOOK: →

Bird cage, \$98, large moss ball, \$79, bird nests, \$13 each, wooden bird, \$10, and cast iron dragonfly, \$16, all at Bella Dimora; water pitchers, \$37.50 each, and Missoni throw, \$355, both at Threshold; Mirage barbecue set by Picnic and Beyond, \$63, at Parmida; S-shape chair, \$149, Brava wood and stainless steel bench, \$699, graffiti swirl blue pillow, \$59, orange windsor pillow, \$49, and zebra sage pillow, \$49, all at Collectic Home.

CREATE YOUR OWN:

Collectic Home

Perfect for contemporary-tilting backyards, this modern home boutique has arty stools, weatherproof rugs and pillows, and, our favorite, various colored "gurgle pots," a fish-shaped pitcher that gurgles as you pour. Trust us, your guests will smile every time. 2785 Bee Caves Road, Ste. 325, 347-1616, collectichome.com

Portella Custom Iron Doors

Add a Wow factor

to backyard entryways with expertly crafted metal, steel and hand-forged iron doors and gates. 11701 Bee Cave Road, Ste. 218, 263-8851, portellairondoors.com

Bella Dimora Co

Although mostly an interiors-focused home store, this Hill Country galleria hotspot has neat outdoor finds, such as metal bird cages, fire torches and more. 12912 Hill Country Blvd., Ste.

F160, 306-8113, belladimoraco.com

Mercury Design Studio

This downtown store is full of unique pieces from all over the world. Check out the tie-dye napkins, glasses, large wooden salad tossers, fluffy casual pillows and the pancho-recalling towels. 209 W. Second St., 236-0100, mercurydesignstudio.com

Sanctuary Home.

This boutique offers

gifts and clothing from more than 50 local artists. We're fans of the retro-cool planters. 3663 Bee Caves Road, 329-0507; sanctuaryhomebathgarden.com

Sol'stice

Big carved stone pieces, outdoor sculptures, furniture and tables round out Sol'stice's backyard inventory. 900 Hwy. 290 W., Dripping Springs, 569-0175, solsticegardens.com

Legend Lighting

The pros know that

lighting is the secret to a well-designed backyard space. Legend offers the best brands and even helps with installation. 15342 N. IH 35, (866) 857.4194, legendaustin.com

The Great Outdoors

Just off hip South Congress Avenue, this funky-cool nursery has endless amounts of planters, pottery, water features and wind chimes. 2730 S. Congress Ave., 448-2992, gonursery.com

