

From Our Readers: Food Gifts as a Gesture of Caring

Southern Living®

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Signs of Fall

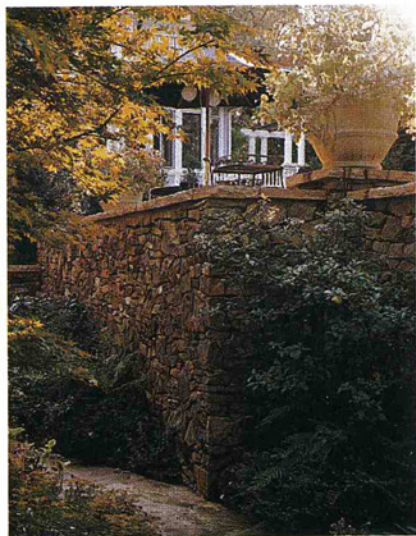
Come See Our New
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Taste of the South:
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How To Grow a
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Game Plan for
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Water Meets Stone



ABOVE: The delightful mixture of natural stone and abundant foliage creates a welcome respite around this pool and spa.

LEFT: Water flows from an opening in the spa, creating a rushing waterfall with underwater seating below.

PHOTOGRAPHS: VAN CHAPLIN

When Doug Candler decided to add a pool to his garden, he knew exactly what he wanted. As Doug often entertains, he needed the flexibility to host 2 or 200 guests. He also wanted functional features that would allow for casual relaxation.

His lot in the Ansley Park neighborhood of Atlanta proved a challenge for landscape architect Bill Smith. The garden was divided into upper and lower areas by a large slope. The slope was a major factor in determining the pool's placement.

The upper area had six river birches that overhung a small lawn. To create a place for the pool, Bill removed the trees and graded the slope. He rebuilt an existing retaining wall with a mixture of Tennessee fieldstone and flagstone. To integrate the elements, Bill used the same stone throughout the garden.

The retaining wall also became a solution to Doug's seating problem. The stone coping at the top of the wall is wide enough to comfortably seat many guests. Tables and chairs linger around

the pool deck for additional seating.

The pool, 18 x 44 feet, is long enough for Doug to swim laps. A stone spa anchors the pool at one end and provides a focal point. "I love water features," professes Doug. "I have several in other places of the garden. The waterfall is my favorite part of the pool."

Water from the spa flows down a stone slab and spills over into the pool below. The water volume can be varied to set a certain mood. On full power, it is reminiscent of a rushing mountain stream. "While providing aesthetic beauty," Bill explains, "the waterfall also dampens in-town noise."

Black concrete on the pool bottom creates a "lake" feeling, while cobalt blue tiles with dark grout add a finished edge to the pool. The thick, substantial coping brings a sense of balance and proportion to the area.

Wide stone steps at one end of the pool gracefully curve into the lower garden level. A stone path meets the stairs before curving around the property. A row of Foster's hollies provides

privacy as well as contributes to the lushness of the setting.

"I wanted to present completely different experiences in one space," says Bill. "Upon entering the pool, there is a sense of casual atmosphere. Descending the stone steps to the right of the pool is a meandering stone path that wanders within a beautiful flower garden." Natural stone and luxuriant foliage meld with modern amenities.

"It's absolutely wonderful," says Doug. "I wouldn't change a thing."

Linda Smith

