

Cookies With Homemade Goodness

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**Garden
Gazebo**
Build This
Backyard
Classic

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*Stately columns and a pitched roof
give this gazebo grand proportions.*

THIS GAZEBO IS A CLASSIC

Here's a handsome structure that adds a touch of elegance to any garden. Our complete plans show you how to build one yourself.

BY MARK G. STITH / PHOTOGRAPHY VAN CHAPLIN

A gazebo can bring a certain spirit to almost any garden setting. Whether plain or fancy, it can transform a simple garden into something special. This attractive example serves a number of functions—practical as well as decorative.

"We use our gazebo as a gateway to the rest of the garden rather than a destination," says Linda Weathers. In the Weathers's backyard, the structure separates a patterned vegetable, flower, and herb garden from the rest of the yard. It's also a wonderful vantage point, as well as a convenient retreat for taking a quick break from gardening chores or dodging a sudden rain shower.

Built with stock lumber, the gazebo sits on a 7- x 9-foot poured-concrete pad. It's just large enough for an intimate seating area, yet is in proportion to the rest of the garden. Although constructing this gazebo from our plans is within the skill level of the advanced do-it-yourselfer, the Weatherses hired a contractor, the Kerf Company of Birmingham.

Three columns at each corner add architectural emphasis and are in scale with the impressive, steeply pitched (12 in 12) roof. The four large columns are 6 x 6, pressure-treated wood posts enclosed with 1 x 8s; the eight smaller columns are built up from 1 x 6s boxed together.

The notched molding at the base of the columns allows air to circulate inside them. Angled metal braces bolted into the concrete pad anchor each column. Laid in a herringbone pattern on the concrete, brick pavers add a finished appearance, and coping brick hides the edge of the slab.

The roof, 12 feet high at its apex, is

substantial enough to hold a ceiling fan or light fixture underneath; it would be easy to run wiring through one of the smaller, hollow columns to provide electricity. The gazebo's asphalt shingles match those on the house. Latex enamel paint, a shade lighter than the house's exterior, gives the wood a matte finish.

To order working drawings for this gazebo (please indicate plan number 207SLP when ordering), send \$50 to *Southern Living*, P.O. Box 830349, Birmingham, Alabama 35283-0349. Credit card orders call toll free 1-800-755-1122. ◇



Brick coping dresses up the edge of the flooring and helps hide the concrete slab underneath.