

YOUR MID-SOUTH HOME AND GARDEN MAGAZINE



July • August 2016

BACKYARD RENOVATION
martini pool lounging

COMMUNITY FIX
collaborative design

SUMMER FIX
perfect picnics



July • August 2016

Outdoor Living

ISSUE

Soak up the summer sun in your backyard, on a picnic or with a "glamping" getaway.

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Darby and Patrick Toy turned their East Memphis backyard into an entertainer's dream.

Backyard Bliss

Story by **Holli Weatherington** • Photos by **Mike Boatman**

Cooking dinner, entertaining guests, watching the big game, swimming and hot tubbing, warming up by the fire on a chilly evening — all of this can be done in the backyard of Patrick and Darby Toy.

“The plan was always to renovate the back,” Darby said. “When we bought it, it was bare in the backyard. Initially, we knew we wanted to do an outdoor entertaining space and then after we got some plans on paper, we wanted to do the pool as well.”

They bought the East Memphis home in May 2013. Their space was tight but Tim Disalvo Co., (who did the entire renovation and was the original builder of the home in 2006) worked out the ideal configuration. The Toys were able to break ground in June 2014 and the project was completed three months later.



The hot tub comes with a waterfall, a cool effect that adds serenity while relaxing on the patio.



Before, the backyard was just the grass all the way to the end of the house, with a small pea-gravel square at the back door where the grill now sits. All space under the roof is new.

The backyard measures about 20 by 36 feet. Initially, drainage and routing work was necessary to accommodate the pool and hot tub, as well as divert rainwater coming off the house during downpours. Long before a foundation could be poured, Disalvo said, the construction team needed to install 6-inch rigid pipe to control water runoff from the deck. The channel drain was installed along the edge of the inner patio.

“There is about 500 feet of pipe to manage all that water and downspouts and surface panel drains,” Disalvo said.

Underneath the roof is a spacious dining area, living room and extended seating space. They have custom lighting, a big-screen TV, and most importantly, a massive gas fireplace in the center. The flooring is scored concrete and the wooden roof and accents are a combination of new and reclaimed wood.

“The beams are all new feeder wood, but before we installed it, we hand-honed it and sanded it and beat it with chains to distress it and had our faux finish guy stain it and add holes,” Disalvo said.

As for the dining room table, it was made out of 16-foot reclaimed, 100-year-old oak beams. The table is 3 inches thick.

“It’s a monster,” Disalvo said. “We had it stained and patina put on it. I wanted to build that table as a thank you for giving me the opportunity to work for them. They gave me some styles and we came to an agreement on the look.”

The floors are scored concrete and the square by the grill has a compass design. Stone expansion joints in the foundation allowed for a seamless transition in matching all the concrete flooring in the living area. Neutral brick with the Arkansas fieldstone fireplace and columns combine styles the couple love.

“We wanted to keep it very English manor and in style with the home so it didn’t look like an addition,” Darby said. “My husband is more English manor and I am a bit more beach traditional. It’s a mix of the two. We wanted an English manor with natural and earth tones and a serene feel — like a little retreat. I love that color scheme. That goes along with the inside décor.”



A nice bonus is the fully-retractable automatic screens, which allow them to enclose themselves in an indoor/outdoor space. It keeps out the bugs and keeps in the cool air or heat, depending on the time of year.

The Toys don’t close their pool (which can be heated), so a yearlong opportunity to swim and get in the hot tub presents ample opportunities for cozying up by the fire on the big, fluffy couch.

The infrastructure contains several electrical and gas lines for the pool, heat, grill and appliances.

“We put gas lines in if they thought they wanted gas heaters,” Disalvo said. “Underneath all that wood there are outlets for gas and electrical for an added layer, but the fireplace proves to be a tremendous heat source.”

“When it gets cold, we have a really big fire and love it in the winter,” said Darby, indicating fall is her favorite time of year to be out there. “We cuddle up with blankets and things. In the fall, when it starts to get chilly, it’s just so nice. We are big football fans, so we spend a lot of time out there watching football and cooking out. We live out there.”

Overall, the Toy family is beyond thrilled with their outdoor space. Darby said it feels like another room of the house, especially when they open the two sets of French doors, close off the patio screens and let the energy flow from inside to outside.

“Tim did an amazing job,” Darby said. “He took everything we said and came out with this beautiful plan. He put all our ideas into the plans and made our dreams reality.”