

CREATE A LUSH LAWN: SOLUTIONS TO 10 COMMON PROBLEMS

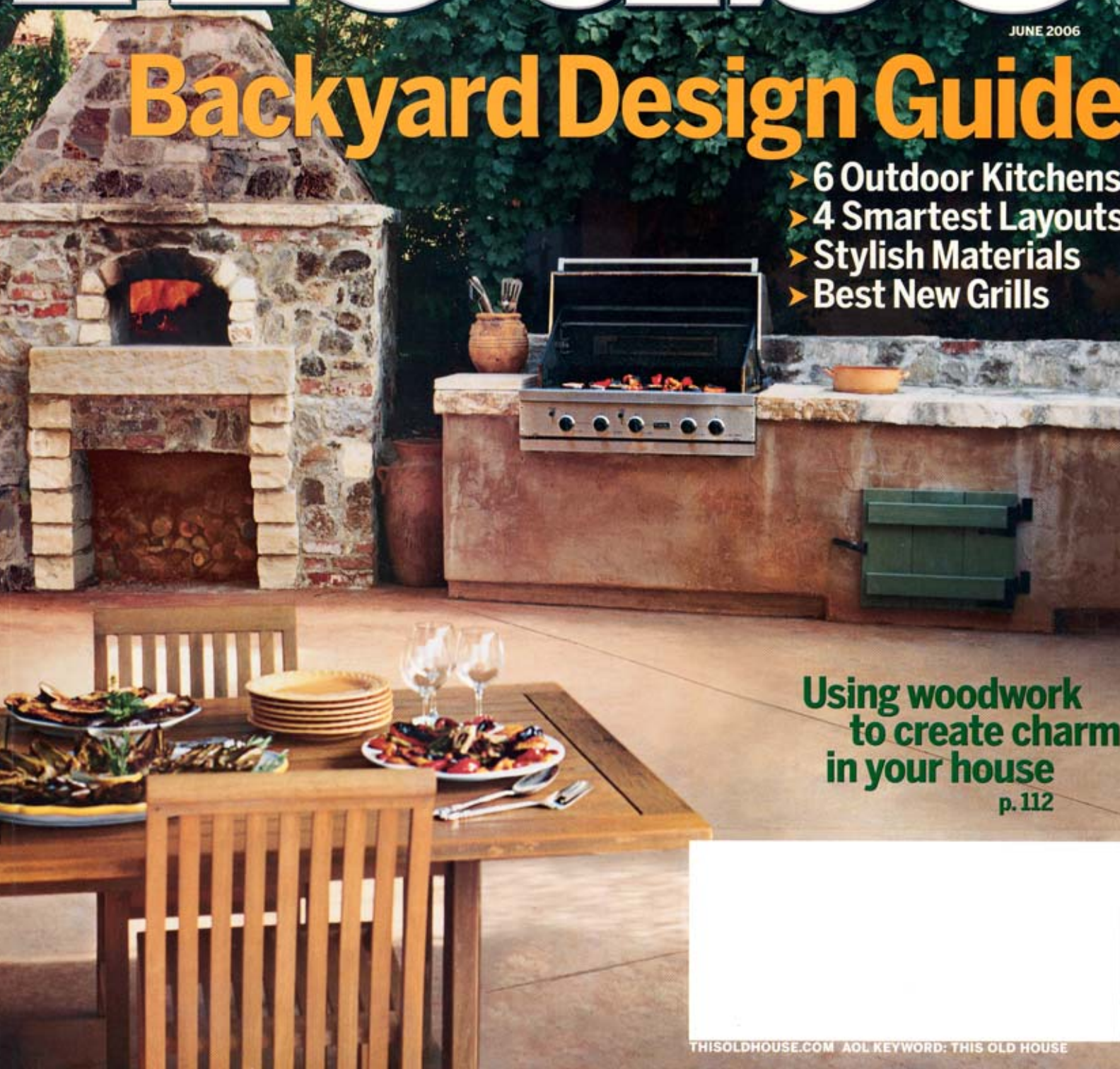
ADD A
BATH
WITHOUT
ADDING
ON

This Old House

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Backyard Design Guide

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Using woodwork
to create charm
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THISOLDHOUSE.COM AOL KEYWORD: THIS OLD HOUSE



Planters With Punch

» Stylish containers for indoor and outdoor gardens

BY ASHLEY WOMBLE PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID PRINCE

1 > GLAZED CERAMIC

Hand-glazed, oversize ceramic vases like this pair make excellent containers for dramatic displays of bamboo stalks, or add a jolt of color all on their own. 20 in. tall, 30 lb.; \$325; wilshiregardenmarket.com

2 > RUSTIC LIMESTONE

Fill this rough-hewn, porous stone trough with low-growing plants. Just don't plan on moving it once you've set it in place. 10 by 24 in.; about 100 lb., \$150; stoneforest.com

GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN TERRA-COTTA ruled the garden. Those ubiquitous red clay pots, long beloved by gardeners, make great showcases for plants of all kinds, but they have some limitations. The same porous quality that carries air to roots also causes the pots to crack in winter and dry out in the heat of summer. If you're looking for alternatives, you'll find plenty of containers, in materials from rugged stone to lightweight fiberglass, that look good, age gracefully, and can hold up year-round in any clime.

Whether you're planning to use them as the basis for a backyard container garden, to hold a pair of shrubs on either side of a front entry, or simply to add visual interest and color in your landscape—or even in your living room—here are three pages of options for your imagination to grow on.



3> WOVEN

This weather-resistant, copper-lined take on the traditional wicker basket is made with the dried, braided leaves of the water hyacinth plant. Best used in sheltered areas like covered patios. 14-in. diameter, 14 in. tall; \$50; jacksonandperkins.com

4> METAL-FINISHED FIBERGLASS

A mod design for the urban rooftop or terrace garden, this fiberglass-lined square has a bronze shell that will develop a greenish-black patina over time. 24-in. cube, 22 lb.; \$500; dwr.com

5> FAUX LIMESTONE

Traditionally used as a focal point in the garden, urns also add a touch of classical elegance flanking an entrance or on a patio. Limestone-look fiberglass is lighter than the real thing, so avoid placing such top-heavy planters where they might be easily tipped. 14 in. tall, 7 lb.; \$58; wilshiregardenmarket.com

6> TEAK

This durable wood stands up to weather and is an excellent material for insulating plant roots. Though naturally rot-resistant, it will last even longer if you line the inside with landscape fabric before planting. 13-in. cube, 13 lb.; \$160; countrycasual.com

7> BRIGHT COPPER

Metal planters won't chip or crack, and weathering adds character. This one, made from solid heavy-gauge copper, will turn a green with age. Because metal is nonporous, drainage holes are a must. Set of two (11 in. square by 12½ in. high, 5 lb., and 13 in. sq. by 13¼ in. high, 7 lb.); \$184; gidesigns.net

