

Southern Living®

JUNE 2011

Welcome Summer!

**INVITING
BACKYARD
RETREATS**

**GORGEOUS
HYDRANGEAS**

**EASY
ENTERTAINING
IDEAS**

45 NEW RECIPES

**QUICK SUPPERS, FRIED GREEN TOMATOES,
HOMEMADE ICE CREAM, AND MORE!**

Backyard Escapes

Save your frequent-flier points! These three outdoor retreats show that the most stylish destination for a little R & R can be just outside the back door

No shoes? No problem! Designer Muffie Faith adopts a barefoot lifestyle in her Charleston pool house. Turn the page for her style secrets.

THE RETREATS

TROPICAL POOL HOUSE: p. 32

ROMANTIC CONSERVATORY: p. 36

ENGLISH GARDEN FOLLY: p. 41



Windmill palms that stand like architectural columns delineate the pool house entrance.

QUICK TOUR

WHO HANGS OUT HERE:

Muffie Faith, style maven and owner of Elizabeth Stuart Design, plus son Bobby, 16, and daughters Stuart, 15, and Beau, 13—along with friends lucky enough to get an invitation

WHERE IT IS: Charleston, SC

SIZE: 288 sq. ft.

STYLE

INSPIRATION: Thailand (Muffie went backpacking there in the nineties) and nearby Pawleys Island, SC

FAVORITE POOL HOUSE ACTIVITIES:

Afternoon naps, pool parties, and nighttime swims with the kids

THE LOOK:

Tropical Pool House

"I know this may sound like a crazy combination, but my pool house is a very loose interpretation of Pawleys Island dock houses mixed with open-air cottages I've seen in Thailand," says interior designer Muffie Faith of Charleston, South Carolina. Any time the weather is nice (or even on rainy days), this mother of three teenagers heads to her getaway house behind the swimming pool. "It's the perfect place to curl up on the sofa and take a nap," Muffie says, but the family also enjoys sophisticated pool parties and casual teen get-togethers in the structure.

Inside, a vaulted ceiling with exposed cedar rafters provides a natural look. Muffie encourages a laid-back vibe with her design choices: a slate floor that can be hosed off, sturdy metal tables, a sectional sofa that can be rearranged as needed, and even a retractable clothesline for hanging wet bathing suits. Some evenings, Muffie pushes the regular furniture to the side and hauls in a large farmhouse table for dinner parties. "I like to create atmosphere with candles to make it a really magical place," says Muffie. "Everyone enjoys feeling special for the evening." →



Interior designer and homeowner Muffie Faith



Notice the Details

From funky accessories and art to well-edited pops of color, the key to a stylish space is bringing the indoors out.

- 1 A custom mahogany bar with a slate countertop encourages entertaining, particularly because it's stocked with a mini-fridge and sink. Colorful lights and art add interest. "I bring paintings out from the main house," says Muffie. "I love adding an unexpected element."
- 2 The teak pool chairs are Muffie's favorites, even though they're 12 years old. "I always recommend buying quality teak furniture, because you want something that will weather well and not split,"

she advises. A vintage bar cart can be wheeled out for poolside entertaining.

- 3 Muffie chose salvaged concrete lamps that won't blow over when it's windy. Splashes of pink and lavender add punch to the all-white outdoor upholstery.
- 4 Louvered cypress doors surrounding the structure are just one feature that encourages "convertible living"—and they can even swing upward by way of a pulley system to allow in a breeze. ➔

Get the Look

Bring home the chic style of Muffie's dreamy pool house.



Outdoor Throw Pillow A in Delray Azure, 16" by 16", \$29; ballarddesigns.com

Seneca Cbaise, \$920 (cushion sold separately); countrycasual.com



Curly Pitcher and Fleur Tumblers, \$195 for the pitcher and \$35 each for the tumblers; orbixhotglass.com



Alfresco Bar Cart in Natural (580816), \$399; crateandbarrel.com