

Western Interiors

AND DESIGN

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NEW OUTDOOR
KITCHEN IDEAS

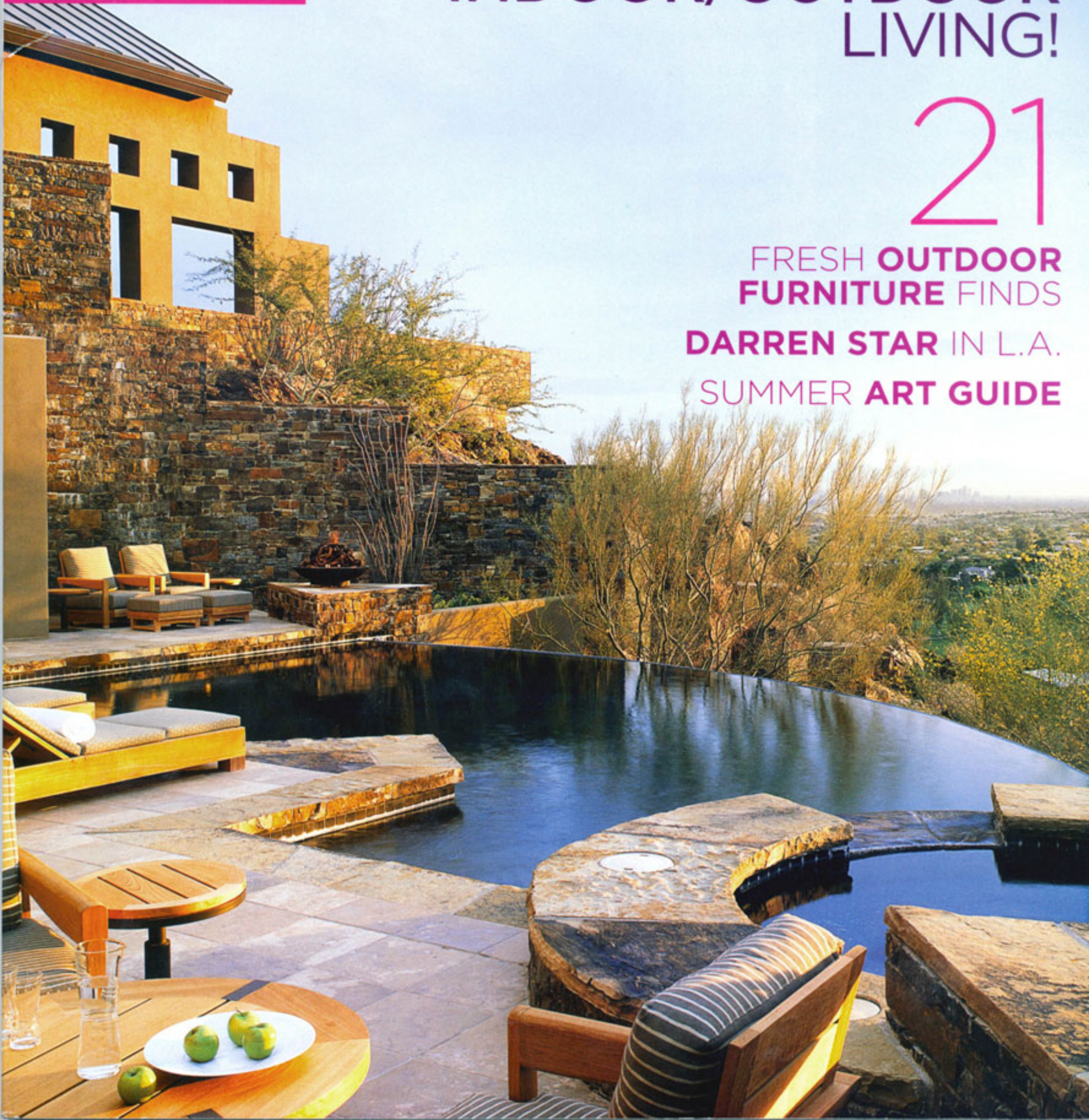
SPECIAL ISSUE
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LIVING!

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FRESH OUTDOOR
FURNITURE FINDS

DARREN STAR IN L.A.

SUMMER ART GUIDE





Miller found inspiration in the tones of the building materials.

he says. "Sutherland's pieces are visually weighty and hold their own against really strong building proportions." Teak was not only an aesthetic choice but an extremely practical solution for the Arizona climate, because unlike metal, wood does not absorb heat and is low maintenance.

Miller, who is adamant about avoiding trends, found inspiration for the textiles, all of which are from Perennials Outdoor Fabrics, in the tones of the building materials. "If you're conservative, how you colorize a house can help it stay timeless," he explains. On the pool and spa terrace, which is oriented to receive direct sunlight, he opted for lighter shades; he used darker patterns in rusts and browns for a covered upper terrace located off of the main living area. A breakfast terrace near the kitchen incorporates the same fabric used in the pool area. "We tried to create subtle differences from one space to the next, but I like continuity," Miller says. "We wanted one story line."

—text by Jami Supsic/photography by Dominique Vorillon +



“Outside spaces should feel like an extension of the main living areas,” says designer David Michael Miller.

WHEN DAVID MICHAEL MILLER WAS COMMISSIONED to design the outdoor living spaces of a contemporary residence in Phoenix, Arizona, he knew right away that the scheme should relate to both the Sonoran desert landscape and the warm, rustic tones of the Arizona sandstone house. “It was instinctual,” he says. “I wanted to create harmony between the architecture, furnishings and finishes.”

Completed ten years ago by architect Dale Gardon, who at the time was with Vernon Swaback Associates, the hillside residence embraces a two-hundred-degree panoramic view that spans the Valley of the Sun, encompassing Camelback Mountain and Squaw Peak. “The building site was so spectacular that we wanted it to look like the house had gently landed there,” says Miller, who worked closely with landscape architect Jeff Berghoff of Berghoff Design Group on the project.

Several terraces define the outside spaces, and Miller employed furnishings from Sutherland’s teak line in each area. “I wanted to use something big with generous dimensions,”

DETAILS: ARIZONA

Vignettes of Sutherland furniture make the layout intimate and create places for people to congregate on the various terraces.

Miller used anchor chain from freight ships in the fire bowls. Flames flicker through the links, which glow like embers.

A tranquil stone fountain disguises a retaining wall by the kitchen terrace. Citrus trees, which were added to the landscape, contribute to the feel of a cool oasis retreat.

The pool terrace has an outdoor cooking area complete with a barbecue, a bar with beer on tap, and a dining space.

Specimen cactus potted in brown Malaysian glazed earthenware and hollowed-out coconut palm trunks bring greenery onto the terraces. “Furnished spaces without living things are often static or uninteresting,” says Miller.