

# A Splash of Glamour

**DESIGN INSPIRED BY ICONIC  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
HOTELS BRINGS A LUXURY  
RESORT TO AN EDINA BACKYARD.**

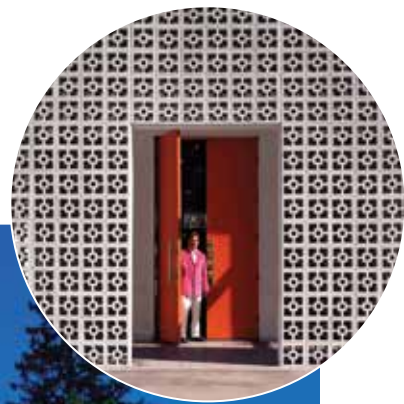
BY SHAWN GILLIAM  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY COREY GAFFER

The cabana—made up of a powder/ changing room on the left, seating area in the middle, and pool storage on the right—perfectly aligns with the symmetry of the surrounding landscape. An outdoor shower, not visible from the pool or seating area, sits just to the back of the powder/changing room.



“When things are highly edited, everything has to be right on; otherwise, it’ll stand out as a mistake.”

—SCOTT RITTER, LANDSCAPE DESIGNER



Exactly 384 pieces of crystal make up the chandelier that hangs at the center of this new poolside cabana in Edina. “It’s sort of unexpected for outdoor lighting,” interior designer Ammar Steven Alshash says of the statement piece, an indoor fixture that just happens to be UL-approved for wet conditions. But it works swimmingly for the cabana, which was inspired by the main home just a few steps away, as well as by the homeowners’ love of two iconic Southern California hotels, the Beverly Hills Hotel and the Parker Palm Springs. “The home itself has a pretty cool Hollywood Regency glamour design mixed with modern and contemporary elements,” says Alshash, who did those interiors five years ago. “And we wanted to bring that look over here.”

But the connection between the two goes beyond interior design. The main home—with its Mediterranean-style exterior of white stucco,

black columns and trim, and black glazed-tile roof—influenced the cabana’s architecture, as well. “It made perfect sense not to compete with the house but to work within the architectural boundaries of what was already established,” says Charlie Simmons, who designed the cabana’s architecture.

Working with builder John Kraemer, Simmons carried the black-and-white palette of materials to the cabana’s structure, right down to smooth white stucco and dramatic black columns. Some architectural elements, such as the windows, however, take on a distinctive style not seen in the home. “Those windows are actually recessed into the wall, so that required us to have extra-thick walls,” Simmons says. “It creates a little bit of shadow play in depth and dimension.”

But it’s the elegant elements inspired by those California hotels that steal the show. White curtains with a charcoal border, custom-made with Sunbrella outdoor fabric, introduce an instant touch of glam. “To

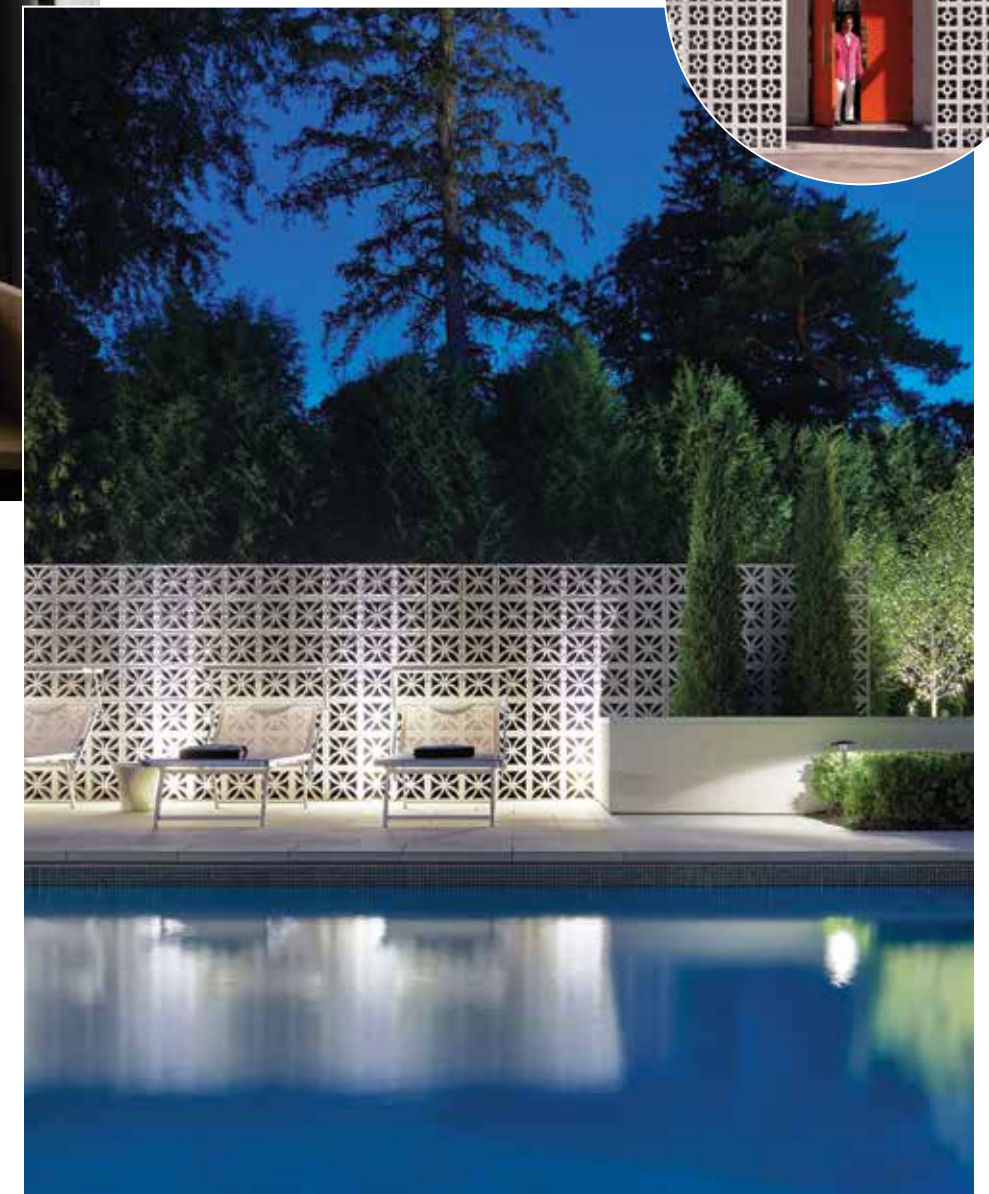
#### INTO THE BLUE

Weathered teak furniture with charcoal-colored Perennials performance textured linen cushions—all from Restoration Hardware—centers on a floating wall with a mirror and TV and sits atop a Turkish Jaipur Living Polaris indoor/outdoor rug. “It was kind of challenging to find an outdoor charcoal rug with just a little hint of blue,” interior designer Ammar Steven Alshash says. “We didn’t want too much of a blue vibe, because we knew we were going to have enough of that coming from the pool itself.”

#### MID-MOD COOL

A breeze-block wall (right) inspired by the Parker Palm Springs (inset) brings midcentury modern California to the backyard. It also creates a backdrop for columnar Taylor juniper trees and lounge chairs with built-in sunshades, which the homeowners saw at a resort in Italy and that Alshash then sourced.

PHOTO COURTESY PARK PALM SPRINGS (PARKER ENTRANCE)



“This is a symmetrical structure, so we divided that ceiling into four quadrants with millwork and beams,” says Charlie Simmons, who designed the cabana’s architecture. “In the middle, we created a circle, changed the pattern to herringbone, and rotated it 45 degrees.”



me, that’s just a very luxurious statement, to have outdoor curtains, so I was pretty excited [the homeowners] were open to having that done,” Alshash says.

The powder room is another showstopper, with a green-tile wall that picks up on the green found in the Banana Leaf wallpaper at the Beverly Hills Hotel and reflects a similar application in baths Alshash saw at the Viceroy Hotel in Santa Monica. “We needed to make a bold statement on that wall,” he says. The tile, installed in a chevron pattern, creates a beautiful backdrop befitting a chic brass mirror and Aquitaine Torch sconces from Restoration Hardware.

But perhaps the most intriguing feature, which isn’t even in the cabana, is the breeze-block wall alongside the pool just a few steps away, a nod to the Parker Palm Springs, where the homeowners were married nine years ago. “At the Parker, it’s done in a fairly dramatic way, and it’s iconic,” says landscape designer Scott Ritter, who was responsible for the overall site plan design and construction. “But it worked out well here, too, and there isn’t anything that’s overly complicated about it.”

That same idea applies to the landscape materials, which remain relatively simple, with limestone paving, columnar evergreens, crab apple trees, and hydrangeas, the latter two of which produce striking white blooms in spring and summer, respectively. “It was a play off the color palette of the house,” Ritter says. “It’s a very dialed-down palette.”

The crab apples and hydrangeas, in fact, may be as Minnesota as the design goes, which is exactly what the homeowners were after. “We wanted it to feel like you’re stepping out into a vacation—to a resort in the backyard,” one of the owners says. “Scott and the team really took that and made it feel very vacation-y, right here in Minnesota.” ■



#### STYLE POINTS

The powder room is a study in resort style, with walls in handmade high-gloss green tile from Red Rock Tileworks, a Calacatta marble countertop, and brass fixtures. The fine art photo of Faye Dunaway poolside at the Beverly Hills Hotel in 1977 is by the late photographer Terry O’Neill.



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PHOTO BY NIK WHEELER/GETTY IMAGES (BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL)