

splashing out

IN THE CHICAGO SUBURBS, VACATION IS JUST THROUGH THE BACK DOOR. WITH PINK BEACH TOWELS AND MEALS SERVED ALFRESCO, SHELLEY JOHNSTONE PASCHKE CREATES A RESORT-WORTHY POOL SCENE FOR HER FAMILY OF SEVEN.

In Lake Forest, Illinois, designer Shelley Johnstone Paschke added a pool and poolhouse to her backyard with the help of architect Austin DePree of Northworks. Custom sconces. Pendant, Todd Alexander Romano.

Outdoor Living



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A poolhouse in Illinois? Does it even get used?

SHELLEY JOHNSTONE PASCHKE: Yes! I often wonder if friends who live in warmer climates swim in their pools as much as we do here in the Chicago suburbs. My husband, Brett, and I have a blended family with five kids, and we have an acre of land in Lake Forest on a cul-de-sac right in town. That makes for a lot of serendipity—people often end up at our house. So we decided to build a poolhouse as an outdoor living room and make our home a place that we didn't want to leave in the summer. We put it right out the back door, so it's integrated with the house. We open the pool in late April, keep it heated to 89 degrees, and close it in November. During that time, we enjoy the poolhouse every single day.

HEIDI MITCHELL: There is a distinct whiff of Hollywood Regency to the architecture.

The style of the main house is Dutch Colonial Revival, with cedar-shake shingles. It's very symmetrical. I didn't want the poolhouse to look like a shed. It needed some flair, and my solution was to pitch the roof. Plus, I have always loved the Hollywood and Palm Beach looks. I drew a sketch of what I wanted on a napkin, and architect Austin DePree made it all work with the engineering.

How did you pack so much punch into such a small space?

My husband asked, "Do we need all that?" And I said yes! Because the poolhouse is right off the main house, we really spend time there. It has a cute bathroom and a changing room. The



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floor is concrete, which is easy to hose down. The mechanics and pool toys are hidden around the back. And there are about 40 pink towels, a touch inspired by my stays at La Fontelina hotel in Capri, Italy. There is also a legit outdoor rain shower, which gets used all the time. I have a big storage space for my china nearby in the main house.

Wait, you dine out there on real china?

We had 60 people over for a sit-down dinner on the grass last spring, and I put out all my own china. Breakfast is eaten outside most days, with linens and glasses. If I like something, I employ it, and I don't worry about anything breaking—I have tons. My young clients want a look that is pretty but livable, and I'm good at delivering that understated elegance because that's how I live my life.

The main house isn't huge, but it's got so much character. Tell me about it.

It was built by a man who had lived in a co-op designed by the iconic Chicago architect David Adler. As a matter of fact, a lot of people often think this is one of Adler's coach houses. It's not, but the moldings inside have that kind of old-world detailing. I wanted to extend that feeling outside while keeping it to scale. I added an awning to the patio area where we can read and watch the sun set. It's warm and inviting, and we often sit out there.

So basically, you treat your suburban house almost like a holiday home.

You know when you go to a hotel and the sheets and linens are beautiful? Why not create that same experience at home? Everyone is trying to escape the everyday, but I believe that hanging out at home should feel like being on vacation. Many of my clients lead similar lives to mine, where their families are the priority. I try to design environments that are lived-in and enjoyed. I prefer a more mismatched and layered style to a cookie-cutter one. My credo is this: Use everything. Make memories. Nothing's fragile. There are no rules.

LEFT: Vintage Woodard chaises have cushions in a Sunbrella fabric. Johnstone Paschke's five children, along with their pet dog, Adler (named after the famous architect), enjoy lingering by the pool. "I like to see the kids all wrapped in pink towels," the designer says.

On temperate days, every meal is taken poolside. "There are always fresh flowers on the table and music playing, even if we're just having cheeseburgers," Johnstone Paschke says. The Brown Jordan dining chairs have cushions in a Sunbrella fabric. Plates and tumblers, Penny Morrison. On the loungers, the lumbar pillows are in a Manuel Canovas fabric, and the throw pillows are from Roller Rabbit.



ABOVE LEFT: Inside the poolhouse, the sofa is topped with pillows in Madeline Weinrib and Manuel Canovas fabrics. Coffee table, CB2.

ABOVE RIGHT: Johnstone Paschke added a custom striped awning to the main house.

BELOW LEFT: The front of the 1950s house.

BELOW RIGHT: Johnstone Paschke, an *HB* Next Wave 2005 alum, in Oscar de la Renta. **FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES**

