

GREAT GARDENING
RESOURCES

SPOTLIGHT ON
ELMHURST

MIDWEST
WINE TOURS

WEST SUBURBAN LIVING

A GUIDE TO

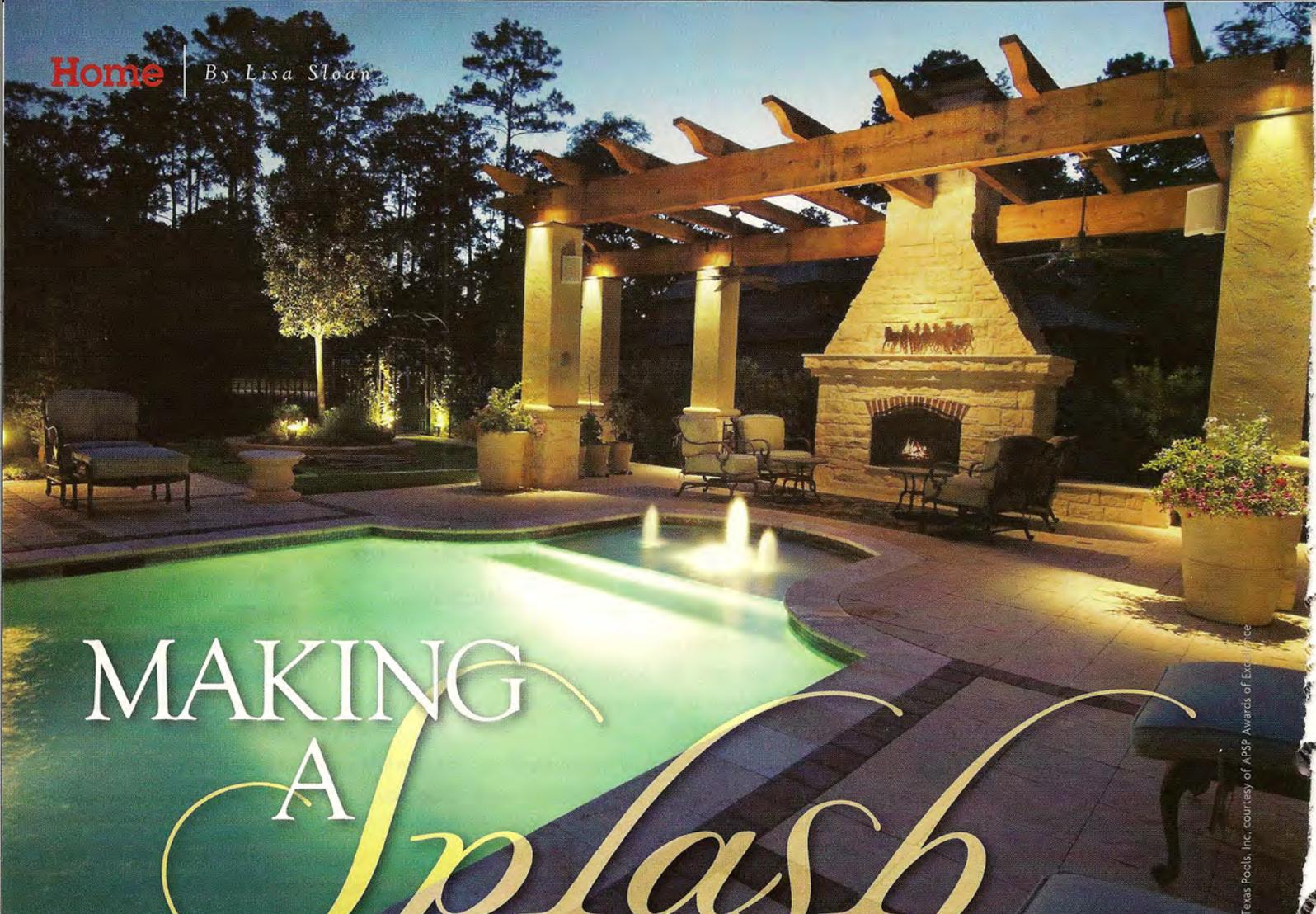
SUMMER FUN

AS THE
TEMPERATURES
HEAT UP,
WE SUGGEST
COOL THINGS TO DO

BACKYARD
POOLS & SPAS

MAY/JUNE 2010
\$2.95





MAKING A Splash

Turn your backyard into an oasis with a pool or spa

WITH SIZZLING SUMMER DAYS on the horizon, homeowners begin to shift their focus to the backyard, seeking a place to unwind after a long day at work, a weekend entertainment zone or the ideal kid hangout. For many, a swimming pool or spa is the centerpiece of their personal paradise.

And, with more choices than ever before, there's something to accommodate nearly every need, interest, style and budget. "You have the option to go as far as your imagination takes you," says Jamie Ori, owner of Rosebrook Pools, which specializes in building custom concrete pools and spas. "There is something out there for everyone – you don't have to have an estate property to enjoy your outdoor space."

THE IN-CROWD

Backyard pools are now designed in all different shapes and configurations and can include some of the amenities you enjoy in a resort or club pool, including zero-depth or beach entry, which is a graduated depth that allows for wading at the shallow end of the pool, or an integrated spa.

Many people prefer the look of an in-ground pool because it can more easily be integrated into the landscape. Tastes are split about 50/50 between free-form and geometric shapes, with the 20-x 40-foot size being the most popular.

There are three types of in-ground pools: vinyl-lined, fiberglass and concrete/gunite. Vinyl-lined pools are the simplest to build,

can accommodate many shapes and are most affordable. Fiberglass pools consist of a shell lowered into the ground; they are low-maintenance, but offer limited design options.

Concrete is the most expensive type of pool, but it's also the most durable. Concrete pools can be created in any shape or size and can include features, like zero-depth entry and custom tilework, that vinyl and fiberglass cannot.

In the Chicagoland area, a basic 20 x 40 concrete pool with an automatic cover might run between \$70,000 and \$80,000. In contrast, a basic vinyl-lined pool of similar size might start around \$25,000. As you add options and amenities, the price goes up from there. Several contractors who