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THE BEST OF
Summer

HOT DESIGN IDEAS
COOL BATHS
FRESH NEW LOOKS

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Summer CHIC

Whether you're out on the porch, or inside with the A/C blasting, celebrate summer with style. Marcia Sherrill has the lowdown.

With Atlanta's hot summers being what they are—a threat to my very sanity, as my Mary Kay foundation pools in my lap—we must retreat ... indoors! It's time to bring the outdoors inside with cool, lush plants, and head outdoors only as the evening cools. This is the perfect excuse for some new tiki torches, hurricane lanterns, unbreakable dinnerware and glassware. Liven up some thrift store rattan or wrought iron furniture with brightly colored paint; it'll be the perfect foil for your elegant teak chaises and cocktail tables. Think citron green or lemon yellow, even classic blue-and-white. Indoors, unleash giant palms and flowering annuals from the nearest hothouse. Don't skimp on lighting, either—masses of candles or filament bulbs strung up overhead, Italian style. Outdoors or in, lay on the table skirts with funky, tropical fabrics. Tack up a hammock. Keep your guests cool with fans and refreshing beverages; a decanter of lemon or cucumber water goes a long way. (Sweet tea always works, too.) Except for my cousin's kudzu-laden yard, almost any outdoor spot can be transformed into a comfortable living space with pillows and sofas and a café table with a cheery umbrella. For entertaining al fresco after dusk, think about digging a fire pit—or buying one. Just don't light up near the old lean-to, as DeKalb's fire department will not be amused. Just ask them. I would, but they've blocked my number.



clockwise, from top SUMMIT FURNITURE COLLECTION AVAILABLE THROUGH KOLO COLLECTION, 1189 HOWELL MILL RD., ATLANTA 30318. (404) 355-1717; KOLOCOLLECTION.COM PALOMA DECANTER BY JAN BARBOGLIO, \$170. THE MERCANTILE, 1430 DRESDEN DR., SUITE B100, ATLANTA 30319. (404) 816-0060; MERCANTILEATLANTA.COM ENCORE AZALEA ENCOREAZALEA.COM FOR LOCAL DISTRIBUTORS ECO-SMART FIRE DISH AVAILABLE THROUGH KOLO COLLECTION DEL MAR DINNERWARE, \$27.80 FOR SET OF FOUR DINNER PLATES. Z GALLERIE; ZGALLERIE.COM FOR LOCAL SHOWROOMS SIP & SAVOR BY JAMES FARMER, \$19.99; AMAZON.COM SUZANI-INSPIRED PILLOW, \$151. AUTHENTTEAK OUTDOOR LIVING, 1094 HUFF RD., ATLANTA 30318. (404) 525-1995; AUTHENTTEAK.COM GLOSTER ROUND TEAK UMBRELLA AVAILABLE THROUGH AUTHENTTEAK OUTDOOR LIVING

