

DESIGNERS TODAY

style. substance. soul.



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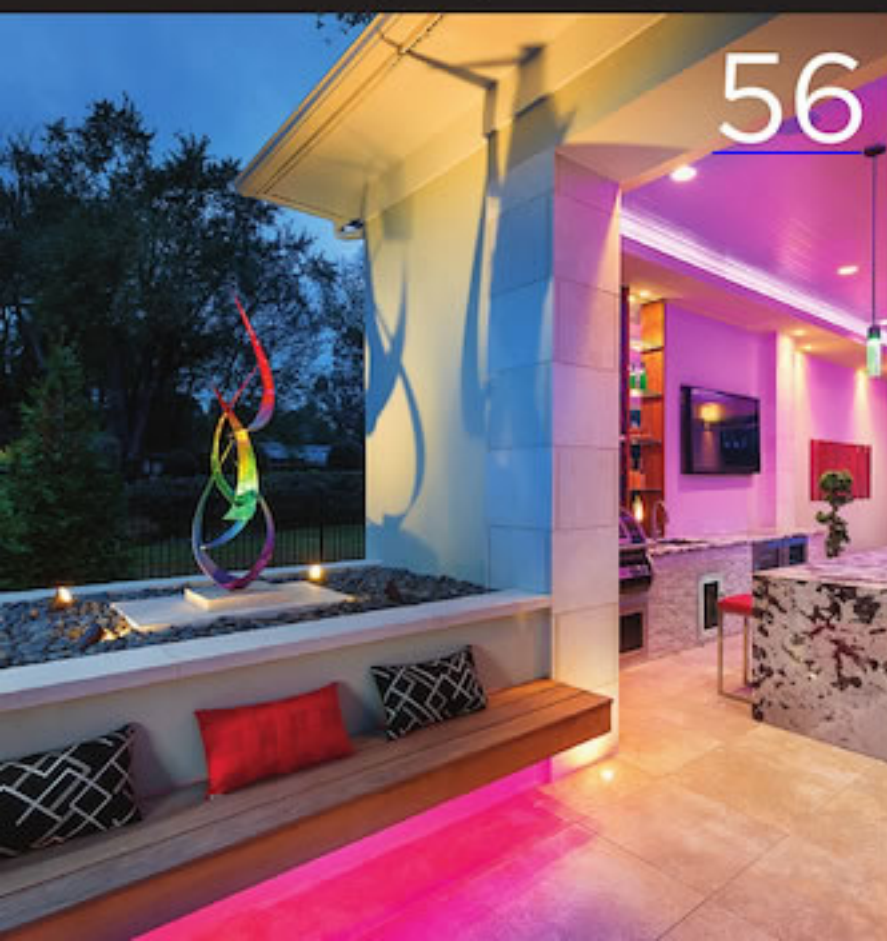
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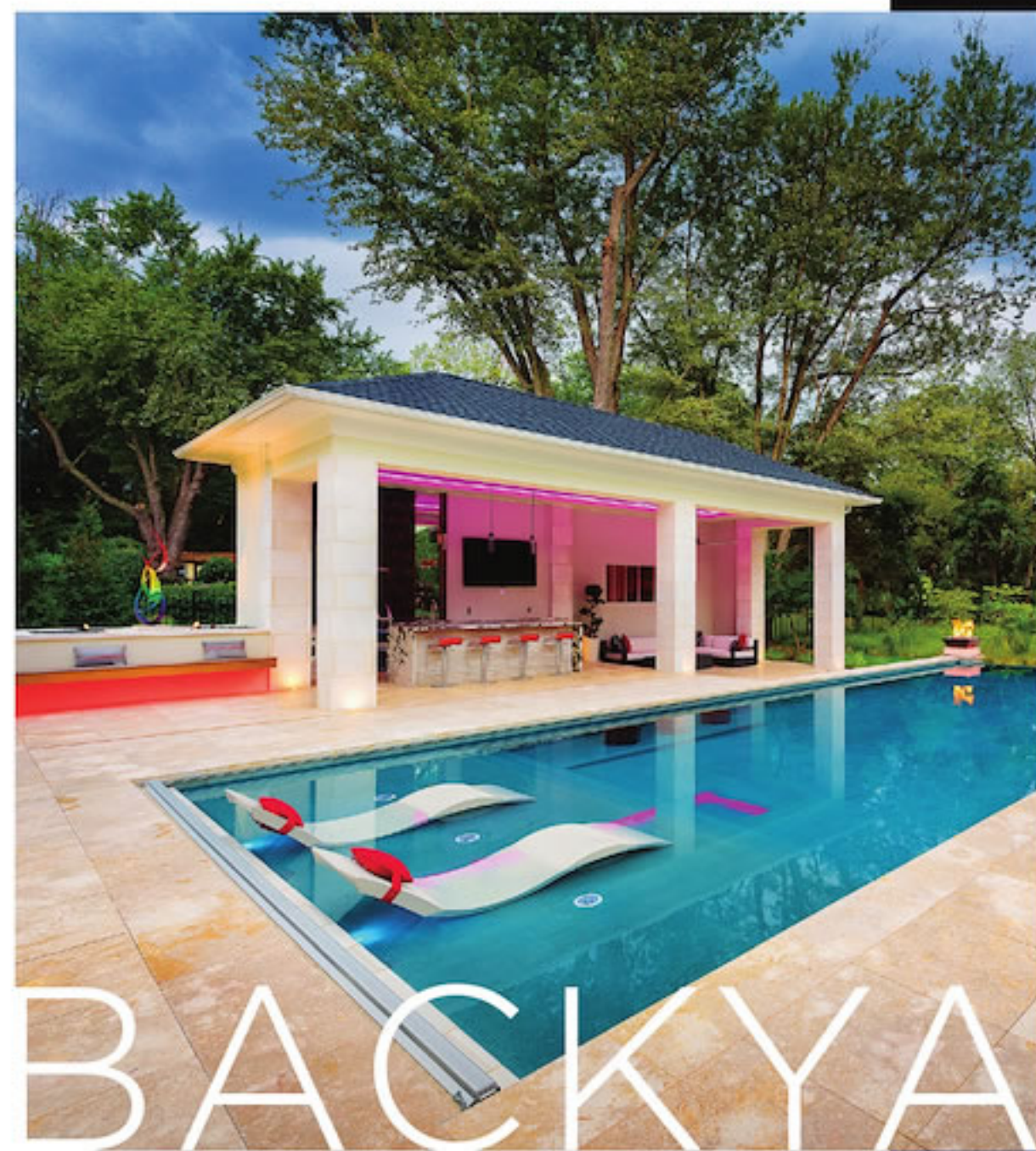
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BACKYARD OASIS

RYAN HUGHES DESIGN BUILD CREATES
A RESORT-INSPIRED ESCAPE

WRITTEN BY JENNIFER BRINGLE
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JIMI SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY



(Left) Outdoor-safe art adds bold pops of color, illuminated at night by equally vibrant LED lighting.

(Below) The outdoor kitchen features a Fire Magic Black Diamond grill, which boasts state-of-the-art controls and a sleek black porcelain finish.



(Opposing page) Ryan built in a pebble-finished sun shelf to accommodate water loungers.

The backyard often serves as a refuge — a place to get away without leaving home. That was the idea behind the pool design created by [Ryan Hughes Design Build](#) in McLean, Virginia. Hughes — who was recently named one of the winners of HGTV's Ultimate Outdoor Awards competition — specializes in pool and spa design.

For this project, the clients wanted to replicate a resort experience that would be kid-friendly while still offering a sophisticated setting for entertaining. Hughes imbued the space with that vibe through pops of bold color in furnishings, tile and even lighting.

"The homeowners wanted an outdoor space with a tranquil design meant for family enjoyment by day," he says. "But when night falls, an infusion of color through outdoor lighting illuminates the space."

In addition to the colorful lighting, multiple fire features add to the after-dark ambience, and an assortment of seating configurations create space for conversation.

The homeowners wanted the area to serve as a hub for gathering with family and friends, so a fully appointed outdoor kitchen and bar became must-haves.

“But when night falls, an infusion of color through outdoor lighting illuminates the space.”

—Ryan Hughes

"The outdoor kitchen pavilion was built to perfectly match the materials and construction style of the home," Ryan says. "Stainless steel outdoor appliances were grouped along the tiled counter that sits opposite an island offering relaxed bar dining."

For the homeowners, the finished project perfectly captured the vacation vibe they wanted, making a weekend at home feel like an island getaway. ▶