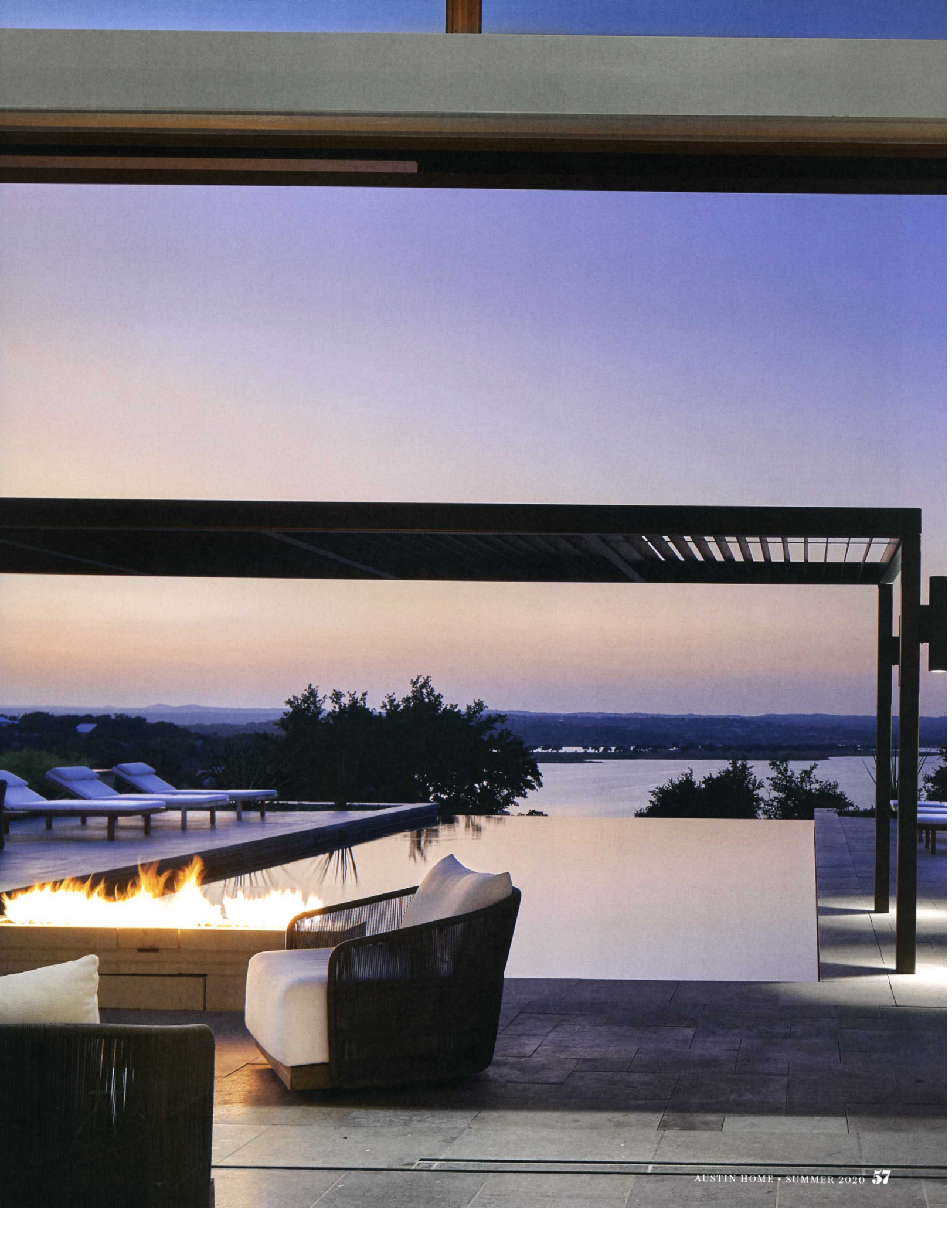




Before Sunset

**A HILL COUNTRY LAKE HOUSE GETS AN
UPGRADE WITH A WHIMSICAL CABANA AND
SLEEK POOL**



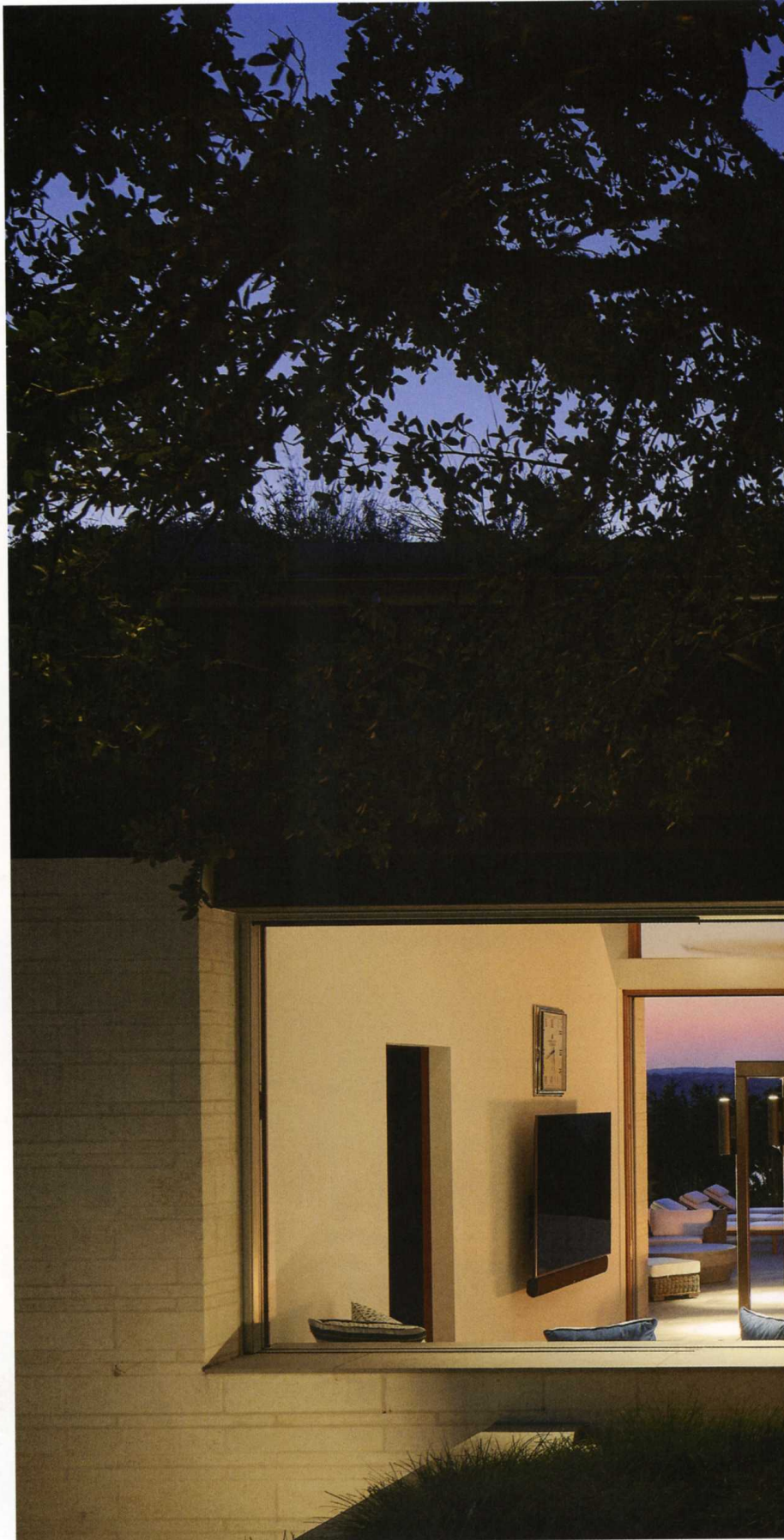
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Every year from January through April, Nebraska-based philanthropists Kim and Tom Dinsdale escape the cold by heading south to their house on Canyon Lake, about an hour outside of Austin. Since purchasing the traditional Hill Country-style home in 2009, the couple has spent most of their time boating on the lake. But after 10 years of talking about it and admittedly “dragging their feet,” the couple pulled the trigger on adding a pool and cabana to the property. The result is pure magic.

To create the ideal oasis, the couple turned to Heather McKinney of McKinney York Architects, who has worked with them on several properties in Nebraska and Texas. The modern cabana and sleek 28-foot by 48-foot pool are the perfect place to relax, swim, and entertain. “I call it my happy place,” says Kim, who is originally from the Lone Star State. “I can’t imagine not having it now.”

The cabana and pool were built just downhill from the main house in an area that is surrounded by oak trees and features a stunning view of the lake. Twenty-foot-long glass walls on two sides of the cabana open completely, providing uninterrupted views of the water and blurring the line between indoors and out. “We were really pleased with the alignment of the views,” McKinney says. “You can look through the cabana, and the view of the lake is framed past the pool. Something about the composition is very soothing. Everything is meant to take your blood pressure down.”

Inside the cabana, a 22-foot-long shuffleboard table is the star of the main room. (The game was a request



With large windows and doors retracted into side walls, the alfresco pavilion captures breezes and views.



The clean decor focuses on blues and whites that mimic the water on the lake.

from Tom, who owns car dealerships in Nebraska.) Alongside the shuffleboard sits an extra-deep, blue-and-white banquette that's large enough for guests to sleep on when they visit. There's also a full bathroom, a stocked kitchenette and bar, a teak dining table and chair, and an outdoor fireplace. Large fans create breezes on the hottest Texas days. "They're doing a lot of outdoor entertaining," says McKinney of the Dinsdales. "They find that they are living in that pavilion on a daily basis."

The clean and simple decor focuses on blues and whites, since the owners wanted to mimic the water and being on the lake. Every detail was considered, including a subtle nod to the lake's waves with abstract waves on the bathroom tile. "Kim has lovely taste, and she has a little bit of whimsy to what she likes," McKinney says. "They wanted it to really feel like a pool house. All the fabrics are outdoor fabrics, so they can sit around in their swimsuits."

Because the property slopes, McKinney had the idea to add a garden on the roof of the cabana, so the Dinsdales could look down on wildflowers from their house. The rooftop garden provides a habitat for birds and butterflies while preventing deer from eating the plants and flowers. The garden is dotted with native plants and grasses that change from blues and purples in the spring to yellows and reds in the summer. "I'm originally a Texas girl, so bluebonnets are near and dear to me," Kim says.

The Dinsdales had a blast working with McKinney and her team on this latest project. "Heather is amazing to work with—the way her brain works and her demeanor and ability to manage all situations," Kim says. "Whenever there are challenges, she always says, 'Let's find a way.'"

Now that they've been using the cabana and pool for almost a year, Kim says the couple only has one small regret: "The pool has been the greatest thing we ever did," she says. "We spend so much time down there—in hindsight, we would have made the cabana even bigger and added more cooking equipment." ■

Dotted with native plants and grasses, the rooftop garden provides a habitat for birds and butterflies.



The random-patterned tile of the pavilion bathroom mimics shapes in nature.

The interior of the cabana features a 22-foot-long shuffleboard table and an extra-deep, blue-and-white banquette.

