

homes

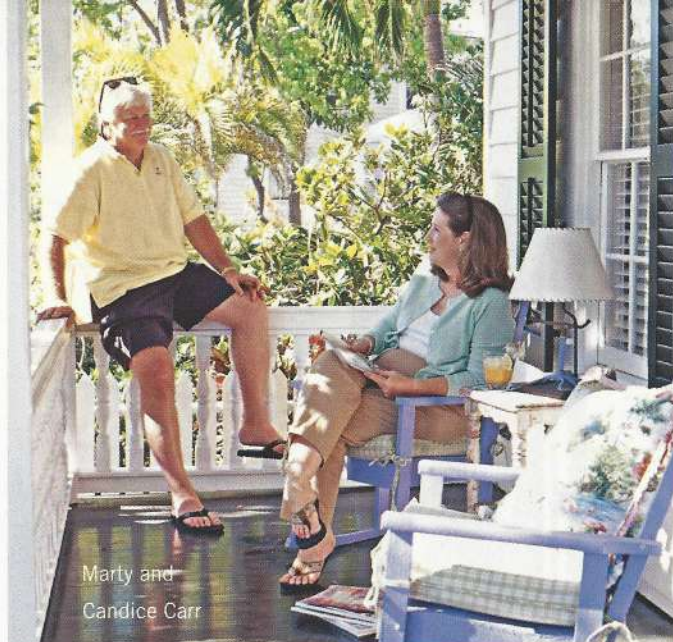
The best part of this Key West
cottage is right outside the door.
Just be sure to watch your step.

making
a splash!



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exit through the wrong door at Candice and Marty Carr's home and you could find yourself up to your neck in water. When the couple bought their clapboard getaway cottage, set on a tree-lined street in Key West's Old Town, one thing was certain: They wanted a pool. But with two statuesque Spanish lime trees (a protected species) in the backyard, fitting one in seemed impossible. Undeterred, the Carrs called on residential designer Doug Spencer to find a solution. His suggestion? Incorporate the pool wall into the foundation of the house—an unusual idea even by Key West standards.



Marty and
Candice Carr





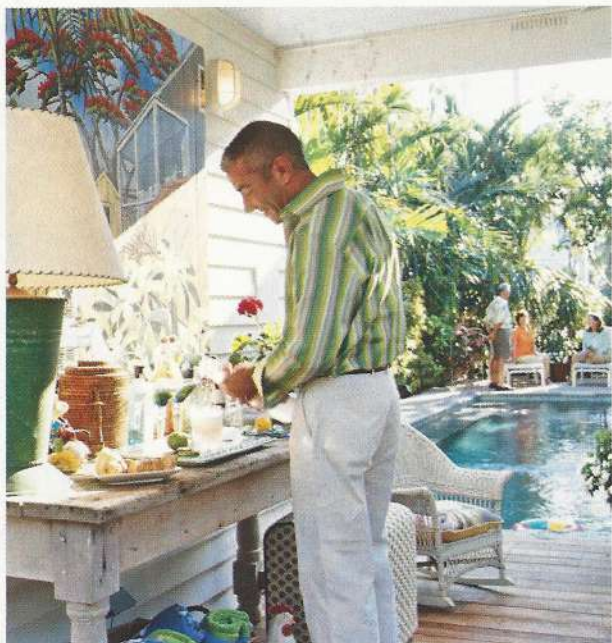
In the kitchen, a farm table and cherry cabinetry underscore the home's casual feel. The space flows into the family room (opposite). There, bifold doors slide back to reveal the edge of the pool. "We have those doors open all the time," Candice says. "Our black Lab, Scout, loves to plunge out of them right into the water." Joining the pool to the home's foundation makes an unexpected statement. "We wanted the living space to extend seamlessly into the water," says architect Doug Spencer.

"The pool's location was bred out of necessity," Doug admits. "But the result is both practical and dramatic." With only folding doors separating it from the family room, the pool becomes an extension of the living space. "It's an integrated part of the home's daily existence," he says, "and it blurs the distinction between inside and out."

With the doors thrown open and Scout, the family's black Lab, diving from the wood floors into the sun-warmed water, it's clear that laid-back is the attitude of choice in this home. Marty, an emergency room doctor, revels in the house's light, calming qualities. "We come

down here to relax," he says. "I have enough excitement in my life!" After he's had his Cuban coffee at 5 Brothers Grocery and a fishing excursion with his favorite guide, it doesn't take long for this avid angler to unwind. "One of the things I like about the Keys is that 'end of the road' feeling," Marty says. "You don't get that anywhere else."

That distinctive quality carries over to the cottage's interiors. When selecting furnishings, Candice searched for antiques at her favorite shops back home in Tennessee, and combed Memphis designer Shelley Miller's studio for fabrics. Then she worked with Florida designer



Victoria Lesser to find colorful island artwork. “We always laugh and say that the style of this house is ‘Tennessee comes to Key West,’” Candice says. The Tennessee touches, such as skirted tables, pleated lamp shades, and floral patterns, seem at home with the Key West signatures of horizontal-slat walls, brightly colored accents, and nautical touches.

Still, despite all of Candice’s attention to detail, most of her guests end up half inside and half outside—with their feet in the pool. 🐚

More info: page 154

The Carrs’ house, built at the end of the 19th century, originally had only two rooms. A 1980s addition gave it the sawtooth roofline, with parallel gables that create a zigzag appearance. Left: A painting by Key West artist Rick Worth hangs above the poolside bar. Created with automobile paint, the artwork can stand up to the elements.



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