



Rain rolls right off the steep pitch of this permeable thatched roof.

A Poolhouse Built for the Breeze

An unusual structure provides all the entertainment—and natural AC—one family could need. *By Hadley Keller*

HERE IN NORTH CAROLINA, WHERE SUMMERS are muggy and brutally hot, most residents strictly pass the time in air-conditioned interiors. Not the Bing family. “We love the peace of being outside,” says mother of two Candy Bing. After architect Ruard Veltman built the family’s dream home, complete with a pool, she and her husband, Darren, felt the surrounding area was missing something. “After the pool, it just *ended*,” she explains. Plus, “the kids were tromping through the house with wet feet. So we started

brainstorming, ‘What else do we want out there?’” **The answers: an outdoor shower, a pizza oven, a daybed, and two TVs to entertain** (the family and their friends are all big Carolina Panthers fans). To appeal to Bing’s love of English country style, Veltman conceived an open-air structure that comprised all of the above, topped with a dramatic thatched roof by master thatcher Colin McGhee, who spent six weeks creating it with reeds imported from Turkey. “It’s eye candy; something to be proud of,” Veltman says. “You want to spend time there.” And so the family does: “We’re out here year-round,” Bing says. “We use it for everything.”



Keeping It Cool

Though the open-air structure isn’t air-conditioned, slatted walls promote good air flow. “Ruard calls it natural AC,” says Bing. The thatched roof (a golden hue on the inside) helps regulate heat year-round.



The pizza oven is constantly in use; in the winter, the family lights it up just for the warmth of the fire.



Art Made for the Elements

Bing and her husband had long eyed the work of artist Anke Schofield, so with plans in place for the poolhouse, Bing commissioned this lacquered piece. “I told her it had to be able to withstand heat, cold, sun, and rain,” she says—and the artist delivered.