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The Perfect Lazy Lunch
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PETITE RETREATS

Clean lines and bold uses of space turn **THREE SMALL OASES** into living areas with huge benefits

BY **KAYLEE HAMMONDS** ■ PHOTOGRAPHS BY **HECTOR SANCHEZ**

Inventive hardscaping is key to making the most of a small space.

Separate seating areas provide variety and keep the space fresh.

Green plants contrast prettily with traditional blue and white.

SAVANNAH

GEORGIA

[15' x 17']

With an awkwardly placed air-conditioning unit and little more than bricks and dirt on the ground, this courtyard once felt tiny. Architect Michael Franck tucked away the AC unit; painted the old, untreated wooden porch; and replaced the bricks and dirt with stone pavers. This small garden room became just what the homeowner wanted: "a bit of an oasis for relaxing in the evening," with a mix of Southern and tropical plants to ensure the garden stays green year-round.

THE BIG IDEA: A space this petite requires finesse. Connecting the porch to the garden visually tacked on an additional 5 feet to the depth of the space. Extending the blue-and-white color scheme of the downstairs interior outside unifies the indoor and outdoor spaces, making both feel larger. The handsome dark blue used throughout the garden allows the vibrant greens to pop, giving the small space a lush atmosphere.

THE DETAILS: Organic materials, like oystershell pavers from Savannah Hardscapes, are a nod to the coastal location. A pretty espalier of Confederate jasmine cozies up to the blue fence, providing a heady hit of fragrance. The ikat pattern of the pillows mimics the espalier, continuing the eye-pleasing order established by the clean lines of the hardscape and the plants themselves. Two kinds of palms—tall queen palms and smaller Chinese fan palms—complement each other and add height and drama. Simple accents, such as the griffin (from Mecox Gardens) posed at the back of the garden and the mansard-style mirror (for a similar look, try Restoration Hardware), acknowledge the color palette and act as pleasing focal points. Hanging curtains in a blue, green, and white stripe (these are from Sunbrella) softens the lines of the porch. This makes the entire space feel more intimate, so it's ideal for sipping cocktails or enjoying an alfresco dinner.

STYLING: ELIZABETH DEMOS

Palms help provide a lush, tropical feel.

GARDEN ADVICE

+ Unify the decorating scheme of indoor and outdoor areas to give cohesive flow and make them both feel larger.
+ Bold accent pieces, like the mansard-style mirror, are a simple way to add character to a small space.