





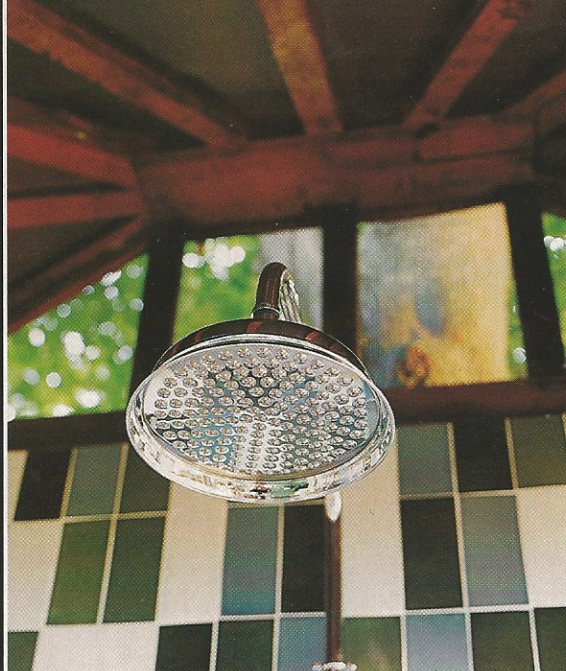
# MOVING OUT

Spending more time in the garden is easy—just take the indoors with you

**W**e could try to tell ourselves that an outdoor shower is a practical installation; that after a sweat-soaked day double-digging or churning the compost, it's almost invaluable. We could *try* to say that, but it would be rather disingenuous. The fact of the matter is that an outdoor shower is a luxury, plain and simple. But so what? It makes any sunny day memorable, and imagine the evenings!

Once you start thinking about how indoor rooms can come alive outside, the possibilities are endless—why not give a shower a little room of its own? Why not hang a mirror, a chandelier, hooks for towels and robes, and lush draperies as shower curtains, as well as have chairs roomy enough to sling a leg over, and a pair of sentinel hydrangeas in their own white painted wooden planters—you get the idea.

Apply that same thinking to the kitchen, and suddenly a rickety barbecue grill and a makeshift table are no longer enough. We opted for the top of the line: an outdoor gas cooker that can handle just about anything. Set on its own grassy floor, with the kitchen garden and its ripe tomatoes within picking distance, and plenty of space to accommodate plenty of guests, cooking is no longer a spectator sport.



## Outdoor Rooms

**O**ur outdoor shower started life as an antique potting shed. But designer Sheila Bridges, roaming the grounds of Mecox Gardens in frigid February, spied the little structure leaning against an outbuilding. “How about...,” she mused to our bionic builder Karl Avallone, “moving this to become our shower house?” “No problem,” he replied (though it wasn’t easy); then they found the old barn door that Mac Hoak donated to make the back wall. Working with Waterworks, the designer chose tile patterns of muted garden colors, gleaming chrome fixtures, and a showerhead as big as a sunflower; added her version of Adirondack chairs; and tucked it all behind a row of arborvitae. Just a step away is the outdoor kitchen. The gutsy stainless steel Viking range has a rotisserie, a full-size grill, two burners, and a commodious hood that makes an instant oven. The teak table and folding chairs get more silvery with every shower; surrounding pots define the space.



**WITHOUT WALLS** Above left: Showerhead from Waterworks. Above right: Arborvitae hedge. Below left: Summit Furniture’s chairs and table, through DelGreco Company; tableware from ABC Carpet & Home, and a Santa Barbara umbrella. Below right: A Summit folding chair.

**Shower Room**  
by Sheila Bridges

