

# THE *GOOD LIFE*

Written by Jill Waldbieser  
Photography by Lissa Gotwals



When you live in the South for seven months out of the year, a pool can become the focus of activity in a home. One Winston-Salem family decided to make their pool quite literally the *center* of the home—with stunning results.

Acanthus Architecture was called on to design the house, which was created in a C-shape that hugs a bluestone patio. Shimmering like a sapphire in the center is the 450-foot rectangular pool. Thanks to banks of double-height windows and French doors in the interior spaces, the pool is visible from inside. “It’s quite literally the first thing you see when you enter,”

**TOP:** Although the clean, minimalist aesthetic carries through to the design, the porch is really all about one thing: relaxing. Beneath the vaulted, tongue-in-groove ceiling, sconce-style light fixtures by Barnlight Electric emit gentle light, ideal for playing board games or putting together puzzles at the oversized coffee table. Also perfect for curling up with a good book after a day in the sun while catching a breeze from the overhead fan by Big Ass Fans.

**BOTTOM:** Local craftsman Brett Sipe of QFC Inc. fashioned this custom hanging bed, which is suspended by cables from the vaulted porch ceiling so it swings. The pillows are from various sources, all available through Alys Design.



## style

says Alys Stephens Protzman, the interior designer on the project and principal of Alys Design in Pittsboro. “The pool is the showpiece of the home.”

There are several white chaises and a table with chairs, but for the most part, the patio and pool maintain the same cool, comfortable, and uncluttered aesthetic as the rest of the home. “The architecture is so clean and strong, it sort of speaks for itself,” Protzman says. “We didn’t want to distract from that with a lot of umbrellas and tchotchkes.”

And they’re not needed; as a magnificent screened porch has all the amenities for year-round après- or post-pool lounging, from a wood-burning fireplace to a custom swing bed covered in plush pillows. For this family, virtually everything is done poolside, and they wouldn’t have it any other way. ♦

**TOP:** Everything that surrounds the pool, from the architecture to the Kingsley Bate outdoor dining set and row of chaise lounges, has clean lines and a neutral palette so that colorful accents like the blue ceramic garden stools serving as end tables and the cerulean water really pop.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Strong, clean lines and plenty of white paint give the house a tailored look, inside and out. The homeowner is “something of a minimalist at heart,” Protzman says, but durability was also a priority since this is the family-friendly space she and her kids could call their forever home.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** The property’s landscaping was executed by Stimmel. The wooded lot affords some added privacy and visually pleasing tree lines.

