

INK

KANSAS CITY

AUGUST 2019 | INKANSASCITY.COM

**4 COOL POOLS + 1
LOVELY LAKE HOME**

**Exclusive Q&A
with SNL's
HEIDI GARDNER**

**FOLLOW
THESE
FOODIE
INSTAS**

**What To Wear Now
—And This Fall**

**Fall Arts
Preview**





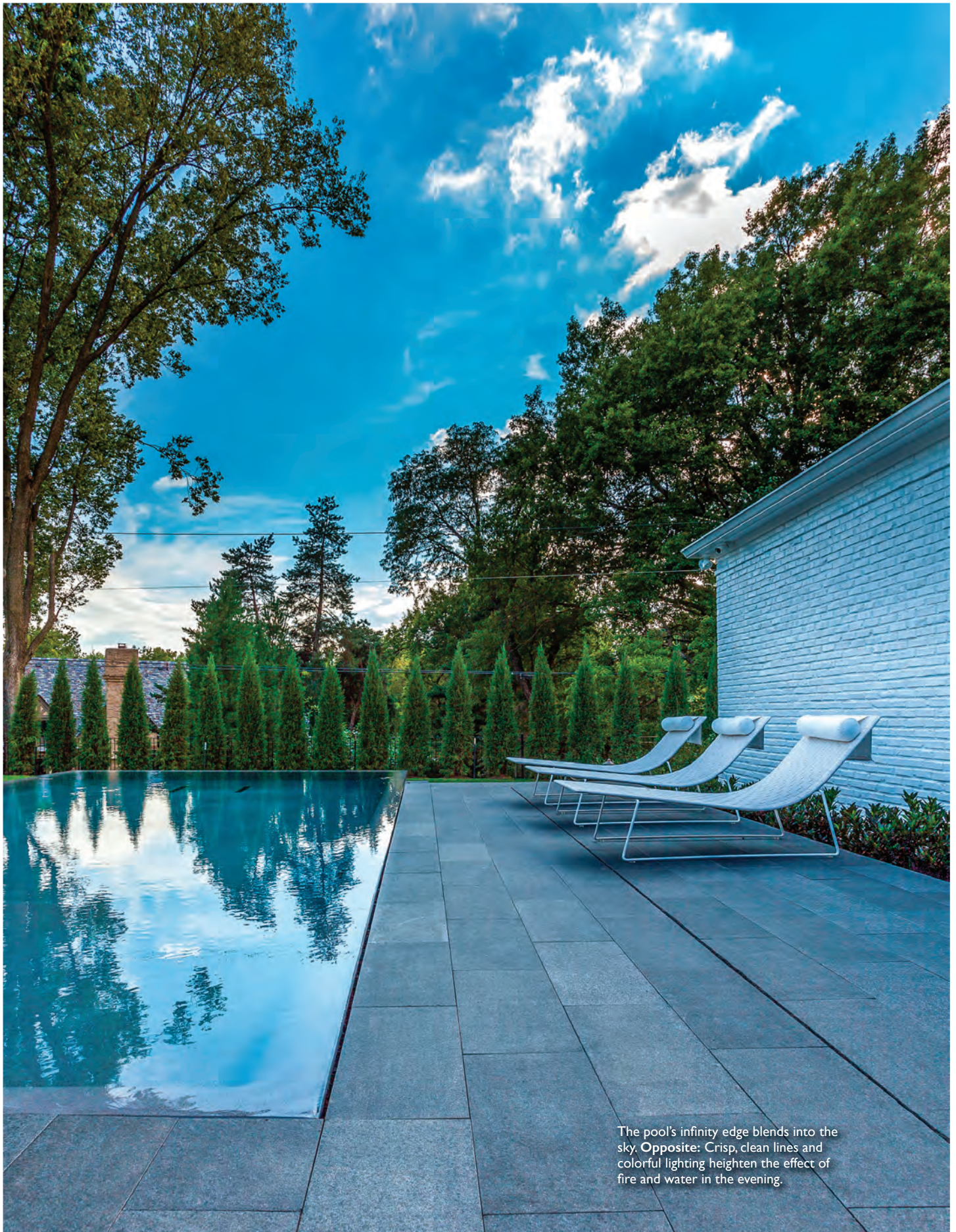
A row of arborvitae screens Mary and Doug Schulte's backyard and pool from neighbors.



Splish Splash

STAYING COOL IN THE POOL

WORDS BY Judith Fertig



The pool's infinity edge blends into the sky. **Opposite:** Crisp, clean lines and colorful lighting heighten the effect of fire and water in the evening.





CALIFORNIA CONTEMPORARY IN MISSION HILLS

PHOTOS BY Travis Bechtel



Mary and Doug Schulte, with a blended family of five grown children, settled on a low-slung 1967 ranch with a three-sided courtyard by Kansas City architect Morton Payne. When it came time to renovate the outdoor area, “We did a lot of research on him and wanted to stay true to his vision,” says Mary Schulte. The couple enlisted Lorax Design Group to design and execute that vision. The first task was to create a focal point. “The design of the house dictated the plan. As soon as you walk in the front door, you look out the back wall of windows. It made sense to put the firepit directly in the line of vision,” she says. With crystal rocks to create a glow, the firepit is the focus of attention from almost any room in the house.

For the pool, the couple chose gunitite in French gray so the water would appear azure blue, with night lighting adding additional colors—“blue for the Royals, red for the Chiefs,” Schulte says. River rock around the waterfall edge hides the drains and pump that recycles the water. The pool ranges in depth from a wide shallow end that can accommodate a lounge chair to about six feet. Black basalt forms the hardscape, a vivid contrast to the white-painted brick of the exterior walls of the house. A blue duck nicknamed Salvador Perez adds a note of whimsy. Lane outdoor furniture combines sleek with comfortable, versatile, and practical.

“I use the pool area every day,” Schulte says. “It’s the best part of our house. It’s small, but it’s perfect.”

Lorax Design Group loraxdesigngroup.com