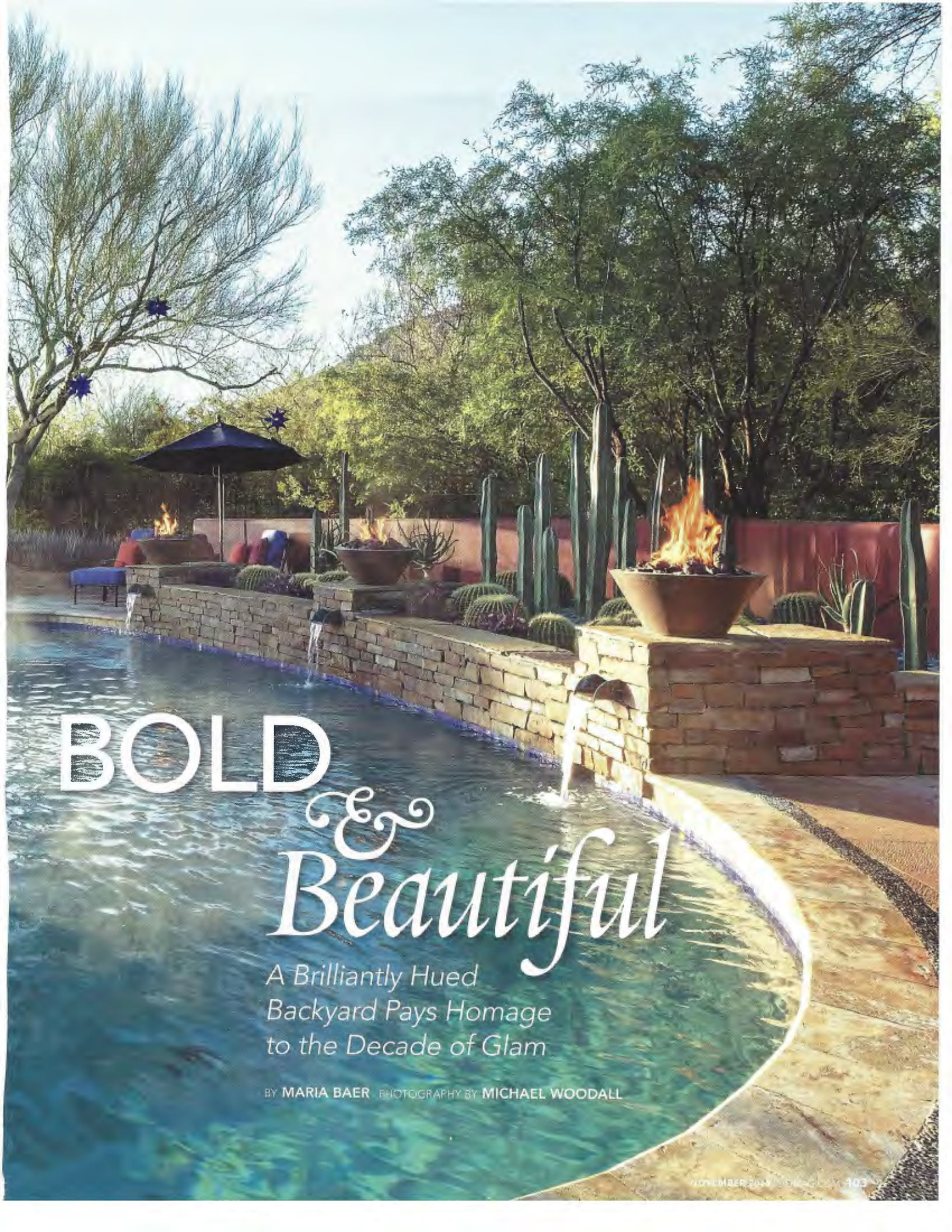




The homeowner's bold use of color resulted in a cheery, inviting backyard. Her favorite element is the pool. A trio of fountains that flow into the pool keep the water cool during the hot summer days.

A photograph of a backyard pool area. The pool is surrounded by a multi-tiered stone wall. On the wall, there are several fire pits, some of which are lit with a fire. There are also various cacti and succulents planted along the wall. In the background, there are trees and a large patio umbrella. The overall scene is a well-maintained and stylish outdoor space.

BOLD & Beautiful

*A Brilliantly Hued
Backyard Pays Homage
to the Decade of Glam*

BY MARIA BAER PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL WOODALL



NOSTALGIA CAN BE A POWERFUL MUSE.

Just look at the recent trend for all things mid-century. For one Scottsdale resident, however, her fondest memories aren't of the "Mad Men" era but instead of her years spent growing up in the Valley in the 1980s, when bright neons and splashy tie-dyes permeated design all the way from carpet colors to workout gear. So, when she and her husband purchased a second house in her sunny hometown—they spend most of the summer months in Washington, D.C.—they set out to create her dream backyard with a nod to the colors of her youth.

The couple didn't plan to revamp the yard first, but when they moved in, they couldn't help but think that the area was a little disinviting. "There was nowhere to sit," the wife remembers. "We wanted it to be cozy and usable." She wanted an outdoor space that felt like an extension of the living room—not cavernous and empty like a painting everyone simply examines but instead a well-loved and well-lived-in hangout.

While researching Southwestern garden design, she was put off by the popular color schemes—mostly muted tones blending into each other, with play-it-safe creams and beiges dominating most



LEFT: The orange and cobalt blue tile that surrounds a raised fountain was already in place when the homeowners moved in. Landscape architect Chad Robert used the colors as inspiration for much of the backyard design. Spindly lady's-slippers, which spill out of a nearby plant bed, add texture and whimsy to the intimate seating area.

OPPOSITE: The small, vintage bench was left on the property by the former homeowners. The current owners painted it a friendly light blue and paired it with a turquoise planter filled with pink roses to create a cheerful vignette.



ABOVE: Star-shaped blue glass lanterns that hang from trees in the backyard were the starting point for the landscape design. The homeowner loved their bold color, opening the door for other bright shades throughout the design.

RIGHT: The iridescent glass tile that frames a raised plant bed changes hue depending on the time of day or the viewer's vantage point. From different angles it can appear pink, bright blue or even purple, which is why Robert chose to incorporate the dramatic purple heart in the bed.

