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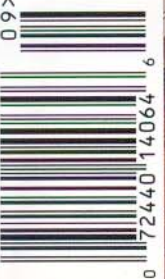
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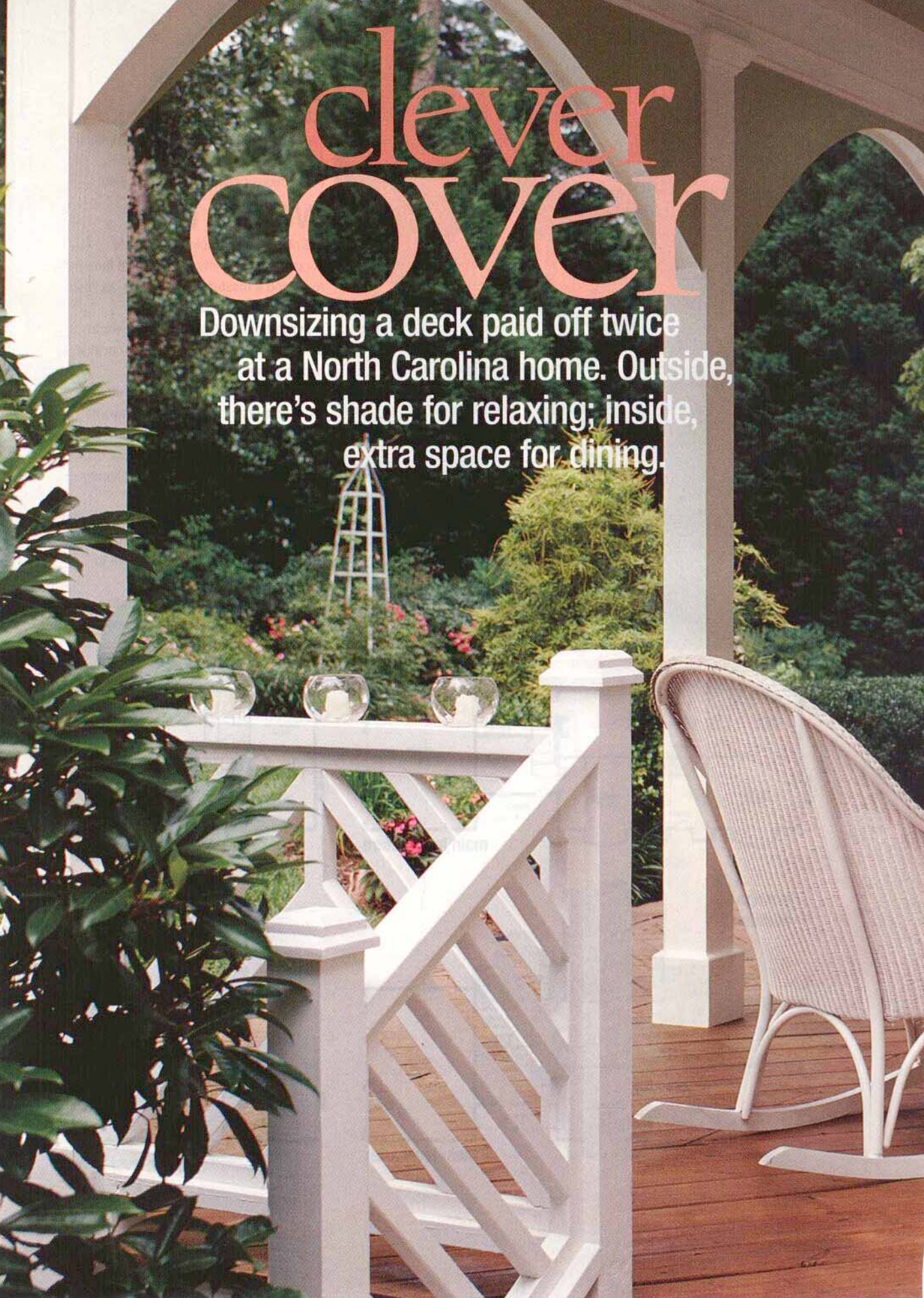
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clever COVER

Downsizing a deck paid off twice
at a North Carolina home. Outside,
there's shade for relaxing; inside,
extra space for dining.



With reliable shelter from rain and harsh sun, the smaller rebuilt deck now features a comfortable sitting area with furnishings that can stay put throughout the year. A storage area, dressed up with a plate display, houses garden tools.



Homeowners whose local amenities include a mild

climate often want an outdoor space to use and enjoy throughout the year. By some accounts, Jim and Linda Blount had that. Their 400-square-foot backyard deck had plenty of room for a grill, patio furniture, and other outdoor accessories, but in reality all that space was too much of a good thing. With no sheltering structure except a small makeshift pergola, the deck was “too outdoors.” And the sprawling platform was just too big. By contrast, an adjacent indoor dining area cried out for some breathing room.

In fact, Jim and Linda set their gaze on the shortchanged interior space before they even considered changes to the deck. But builder Dave Mackowski believed the project could accomplish as much outside as it could in. With help from his staff designer, Amy Le Westray, he developed a game plan that called for a remodeled kitchen and eating area and a charming covered deck.

Old decking was stripped away so the home's foundation could be expanded by 225 square feet. The beneficiary of the extra space was the kitchen and eating area, just inside a pair of new French doors.

Outside, guests are greeted by a deck half the size of—but twice as welcoming as—the original. A rickety pergola that once loomed over the deck gave way to the framed and shingled roof, which is punctuated by three skylights. The reconfigured deck is bordered by a series of graceful arched bays, a midproject improvisation added after Linda spotted the look in a magazine photo.

“We now have a bigger kitchen and a smaller deck, but it's a lot more usable,” Linda says, adding that the couple has since hosted as many as 60 people for spring and summer gatherings. “It's like we have one great big room,” she says. “With that many people, it gets a little close, but it's fun!” **RI**

FOR RESOURCES, SEE PAGE 122.

WRITER: Bill LaHay PHOTOGRAPHER: Cheryl Dalton DESIGNER: Amy Le Westray,
Quality Design & Construction, Inc. BUILDER: Dave Mackowski, Quality Design & Construction, Inc.
PHOTO STYLIST: Linda DeRose



Read more about indoor/outdoor connections at www.bhg.com/sipoutdoor.



above: More than a backyard accessory, this covered deck expands the reach of a modest North Carolina home, establishing a versatile transition space between indoors and out. Beyond the French doors sit a newly expanded eating area and kitchen.

far left: New planking covers what's left of the deck's original framework. It abuts a brick walkway that separates the deck from the lawn.

left: Light paint colors and three large skylights help prevent the closed-in feeling that might have resulted from a solid roof. Stereo speakers dot the ceiling.





the change

An uninspiring backyard deck gave up some turf to an interior addition, got a roof, and took on a whole new personality for summer fun.

what it took

- Allocating half of the deck area to an interior addition, which provided for a welcome expansion of the kitchen's eating area.
- Adding a shingled roof for protection from seasonal rainstorms, while including skylights that allow plenty of daylight to make it to ground level.
- Supporting the roof with graceful painted posts and arched openings.



the livin' is easy

For those enduring major remodeling during these steamy dog-days months, that old song line—"summertime, and the livin' is easy"—doesn't quite match the reality. Obviously, George Gershwin didn't live in a house under daily assault by contractors, noisy power tools, and drywall dust. But take hope. In the pages of *Remodeling Ideas*®, you'll tour homes where all is easy in **any season**. The job is done and life couldn't be better. Revealed through **detailed photography**, this issue's home collection will sustain remodelers as they wrap up their own renovations and will inspire those who are still considering what changes they want to undertake.

Peek inside the home of Atlanta businesswoman Jan Kuttner to discover how a great renovation can set the stage for entertaining large gatherings, while also allowing for private escapes. You'll meet Jan and marvel at the work she has done in "Options Are Open" on page 37.

If a renewed kitchen tops your wish list, let your eyes wander through several kitchens. In "Writing a New Chapter" on page 46, there's the tale of an 1860 California cottage. Or enjoy the simple sophistication that one family achieved in "Worth the Wait" on page 54.

Then there's the Blount family porch, pictured *above*. Their wonderful sunny-day shelter is featured in "Clever Cover" on page 114. Just imagine that it's sunset and you're in one of those wicker chairs as Ella Fitzgerald's mellow voice floats out through the home's sound system: "Fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high." Ah, the rewards of a successful remodeling.

what's new at bhg.com

For even more great remodeling tips, check out these helpful and insightful features at www.bhg.com.

- **Made in the shade.** There are a lot of details to consider before adding on a porch. Tour our complete guide at www.bhg.com/sipporch.
- **Need help in the kitchen?** If you're serious about making smart buys, visit www.bhg.com/sipseriouscook.
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In the "Get the Look" story of the June/July 2004 issue, an incorrect price was listed for the Best by Broan K15 metal canopy range hood. Suggested retail price is \$1,971. Visit www.bestbybroan.com.