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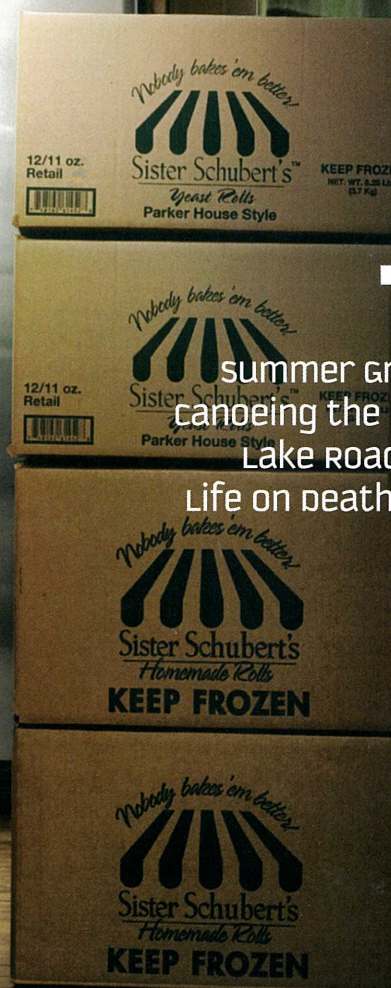
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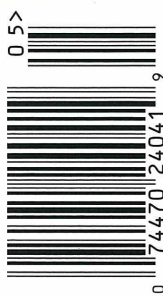## Jack warner
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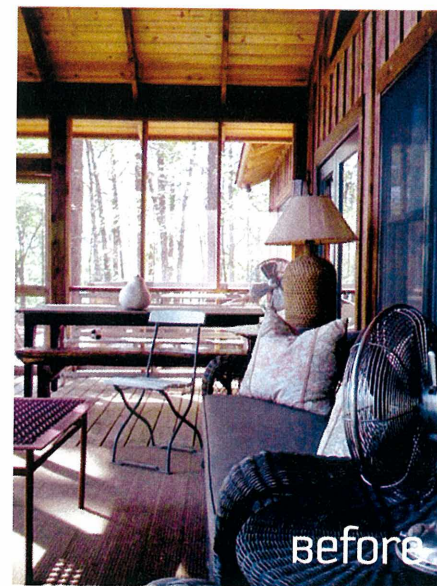june/july 08 $4.95

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Lake season

BY HADEN HOLMES BROWN
PHOTOS BY ALAN BARTON

WENDY BARZE REMEMBERS THE THRILL OF DRIVING TO THE LAKE WITH FRIENDS WHEN SHE WAS IN THE THIRD GRADE. *"Getting out of the car, I can remember this pure, relaxed joy that was so liberating," she says. Barze and her mother Marjorie Johnston, now interior decorating partners, believe it's important to keep that laid back and light-hearted sense when freshening up your lake cabin for a new season. And, it doesn't have to involve bags of new purchases either. "Use what you bought last year, build on what you already have," says Barze. "The idea is repetition. Get good basics—tableware, hurricane lamps, trays—and then use them each year in a fresh way."*

Freshen up your home or cabin with a few simple purchases.

Transform a tired porch with brightly colored accessories, fresh flowers, and food and drink that can withstand the summer heat. Hand-stamped Lake photo album, A'mano, $40 • Floral pillow, Crate and Barrel, $40 • Butterfly pillow and small blue pitcher, owners • Blue Vase, Leaf and Petal at the Gardens, $160 • Lanterns, Target • Hurricane (used to chill wine), Beach Dwelling, ($68) • Pear, owners; find similar at A'mano.

before

Johnston, a transplant from New Jersey some 30 years ago, worked in other design firms in the Mountain Brook area before Barze convinced her to go out on her own. "At first I thought… 'the overhead, the staff, the library—I can't do this!" she remembers. But it was Barze who encouraged her to make the leap. Today they operate as partners in a small, bright shop in Mountain Brook Village.

Barze and Johnston's aesthetic styles complement each other. "Wendy brings to the table an approach that is different than mine because of her youth; but she undertakes it with great certainty and style," muses Johnston. "What I bring to the table is the experience to know what will work and how to sell the project to the client," she adds.

Hired to put the finishing touches on a Lake Martin cabin for the opening of the season, the two are super-charged with ideas. But their concept would work for anyone.

First, build a good base of accessories that will last from year to year, Johnson and Barze suggest starting with a simple color palette and sticking with it. For the Lake Martin cabin, Barze ordered a floral-pattern pillow from Crate & Barrel in bright colors that serves as the inspiration for the relaxed but upbeat tone and "feel" for the project.

The "gathering" begins at A'mano in Mountain Brook, where Barze and