

Style Notes



Shell Hunt

One of the prettiest ways to bring the beach to your patio year-round is by using large shells as centerpieces on dining and coffee tables. The best selections we found locally are at Lush Life and Nest. Both stores have glass containers stocked with everything from coral and starfish to nautilus. Prices generally range from \$2 to \$40 each, coral being the most expensive. If you're shopping through a designer, Smith Grubbs & Associates at the Atlanta Decorative Arts Center (ADAC) has an abundance of shells and coral, as well as glamorous urns and mirrors encrusted with them. *Lush Life, 146 East Andrews Drive, 404-841-9661, lushlifehomegarden.com. Nest, 1212 Collier Road, 404-351-6100. Smith Grubbs & Associates, ADAC, 351 Peachtree Hills Avenue, 404-239-9206, smithgrubbs.com.*



Cool Relief

There's nothing like the sound of running water on a hot summer day. For classical stone and Asian-style fountains, our favorite source is Atlanta Water Gardens. (The store also carries one of the largest koi fish collections around.) If you're looking to convert a glazed pot into a fountain, like the one shown here, head to Bodega Garden, the sister store to No Mas! Productions. The helpful staff can transform just about any of their glazed ceramic containers from Mexico by adding a pump, which they stock in different sizes. They will also custom-fit a plastic liner in the top basin and connect it to a PVC

pipe running through the center. That way the pot never has to fill up with water—a plus for preventing cracking during colder months. To hide the plastic, just fill the basin with river rocks. Pumps cost around \$40 and labor runs about \$40 for a single pot like the one shown here and \$65 for a double pot. *Atlanta Water Gardens, 2165 Cheshire Bridge Road, 404-235-0739, atlantawatergardens.com. Bodega Garden, 790 Huff Road, 404-350-0116, nomasproductions.com.*



First Impressions

Be it in a courtyard, patio or secret garden, the style and design of a gate immediately sets the tone for what's to come. (The one above is by well-known Atlanta garden designer Ryan Gaaney.) For an antique, try Architectural Accents, which normally carries wooden and iron gates in stock. Prices range from \$350 for a small iron gate to \$30,000 for a large pair of driveway gates. Another approach is sprucing up an existing gate with interesting hardware. "In terms of antique gate hardware, virtually nothing exists because it falls apart over time," says Maria Williamson, general manager of Architectural Accents. Instead, ask to see one of their reproduction hardware lines from the United States, England or Canada. They include both decorative and functional hinges, latches and pull handles, such as iron false straps that can be attached to an existing gate. If you don't find what you're looking for, the store can arrange to have a blacksmith custom make something for you. *Architectural Accents, 2711 Piedmont Road, 404-266-8700, architecturalaccents.com.*