

Southern Living®

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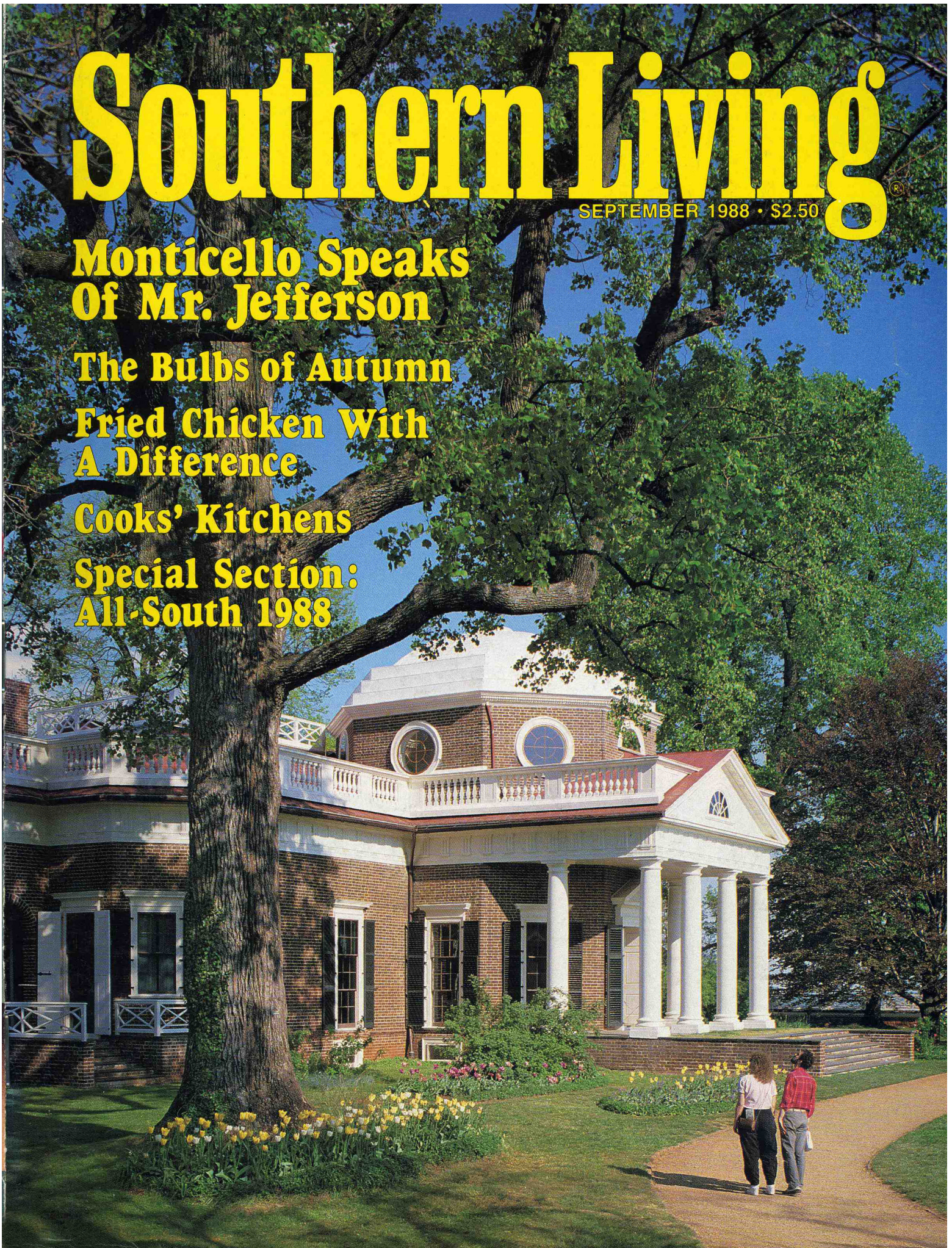
**Monticello Speaks
Of Mr. Jefferson**

The Bulbs of Autumn

**Fried Chicken With
A Difference**

Cooks' Kitchens

**Special Section:
All-South 1988**



Symmetrical Challenge

Within the walls of a townhouse garden, space is limited, but not so opportunity. With a good design, you can have the garden you want, keep it groomed, and have time left over to enjoy it. The key is simplicity.

The owners of this Atlanta townhouse grew up in Savannah, a mecca for courtyard gardens. When they moved into the townhouse, the existing asymmetrical garden design did not live up to their expectations, so they asked Landscape Architect William T. Smith, ASLA, of Atlanta to help rework the plan.

The challenge was to design a symmetrical garden in the asymmetrical spaces. Because the garden level is between the basement and first floor of the townhouse, brick stairs leading up from a sunken terrace were already in place. Smith installed a small pool on axis with the stairs, focusing the view from the first-floor windows and establishing a strong central element in the garden.

Clipped dwarf yaupon hedges frame the Emerald Zoysia lawn. On one side of the garden, a walk leads from the back-door steps to the garden gate. On the other side, yaupons are being trained up the high brick wall to soften the expanse of masonry. Because this is the west wall, the leafy covering is also needed to help cool the garden.

The lawn, too, acts as a natural air conditioner, helping cool the garden as moisture evaporates. Ivy trained up most of the walls has the same effect.

Beds of annuals provide pockets of color that can be changed with the season. A mixture of Pink Expectations geraniums and white Madagascar periwinkle fills the beds in summer and fall, while pansies and tulips bloom there in spring. White wax begonias flourish in raised planters and on either side of the pool. Whites and pastels were chosen to blend with the color of the brick and enhance the feeling of coolness on hot summer days.

As in many of the urban gardens of Savannah, the pool has a fountain. Its refreshing gurgle gives the garden a restful feeling and makes the city sounds seem far away. Evergreens planted behind the pool's 5-foot brick wall will grow to screen adjacent buildings from view.



Behind an Atlanta townhouse lies this quaint little garden designed with the past in mind.