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# GARDEN & GUN

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017

SOUL of the SO



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*The GOOD-TIME GARDEN*

**MACON, GEORGIA**

**P**ARTIES ARE ABOUT THE PEOPLE—THE STORY-telling, enjoying each other’s company,” says Carey Pickard, a native of Macon, Georgia, who works as a fund-raising consultant. “Our signature is packing people in.”

Or out. For Pickard and his husband, Chris Howard, home is a 1,600-square-foot converted waterworks station. Given its limited interior space, parties often spill out into the garden, a series of outdoor rooms divided by podocarpus hedges and other plantings. Pickard estimates there are fifty chairs arranged throughout the garden. A few of the wood-slatted bistro variety await guests in the garden’s centerpiece, the sunken foundation of a former brick cistern that once supplied water to the neighborhood. Instead of standard pea gravel, the thirty-foot-wide circle is surfaced in crushed remnants from Cherokee Brick, a Macon

company that’s been turning Georgia’s red clay into brick and terra-cotta tile for 140 years. “For good entertaining, a garden needs hardscape,” Pickard says. “Beautiful as Southern lawns are, you need a place to set a drink down without spilling.”

Those drinks often come in engraved julep cups. The couple began collecting them a dozen years ago and now own close to thirty. Each cup commemorates a special get-together or milestone—the one hundredth birthday of a friend; a B-52’s concert in Las Vegas when the band dedicated “Love Shack” to Pickard and Howard’s marriage (they’re friends with members of the classic party band). Pickard considers the cups implements of Southern hospitality. “When we invite guests to our home,” he says, “we want to make them feel special.”

**BRICK LAYERS**

Above: A party in the making. Opposite, clockwise from top left: A garden fountain, the well-stocked bar, tuteurs and foxglove. Homeowners Carey Pickard (right) and Chris Howard.