

A photograph of a swimming pool with a lounge chair on the deck. The pool water is a deep blue, and the deck is a light color. A lounge chair with a white cushion and a wooden frame is visible in the upper left. The title 'THE SWIMMING POOL' is overlaid in large white letters.

THE SWIMMING POOL

STYLISH AND INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS FOR
BUILDING AND DECORATING YOUR POOL

MARTHA BAKER

TEXT WITH ANNE MARIE CLOUTIER

THE ROMANCE OF RED

The moment that decorator Scott Sanders was shown this assignment in Southampton, New York, he saw red—a racy fire-engine red played against splashes of white. The inspiration for his color palette was the pool's redbrick patio, and the occasion was the 2003 showcase presentation sponsored by *House & Garden* at the Hamptons Designer Show House.

With the pool, patio, and tent structure already in place (as is often the case with

a newly bought property), this was purely a makeover job, and Sanders approached it with gusto. His first step was to replace the tent's canvas with broad panels of red and white fabrics to shelter a cozy dining area. Then, to create the sense of a real outdoor room, he established its farthest boundary with white wood lattice walls springing outward from each side of the tent and furnished the aforementioned brick patio with all the comforts of a conventional living room.

As you'd expect, the fabric cushion covers for that furniture reflect the color scheme, but they do it in a lighthearted and unexpected way. The chaise, sofa, and back pillow of one chair are red with white piping, one chair seat cushion is red with red piping, and the other two are white with red piping.

The red-painted box containers for the poolside topiaries are of Sanders's own design (a case of necessity giving birth to invention when he couldn't find any ready-mades he liked). And the pièce de résistance: two giant blow-up lobsters floating in the center of the pool.



ABOVE: Like hearts and roses, red says romance—as does the setting for this delightful pool.

OPPOSITE: The unexpected brilliant red of the peaked roof tent and humorous lobsters create a great vista from the house.

