

# Town & Country

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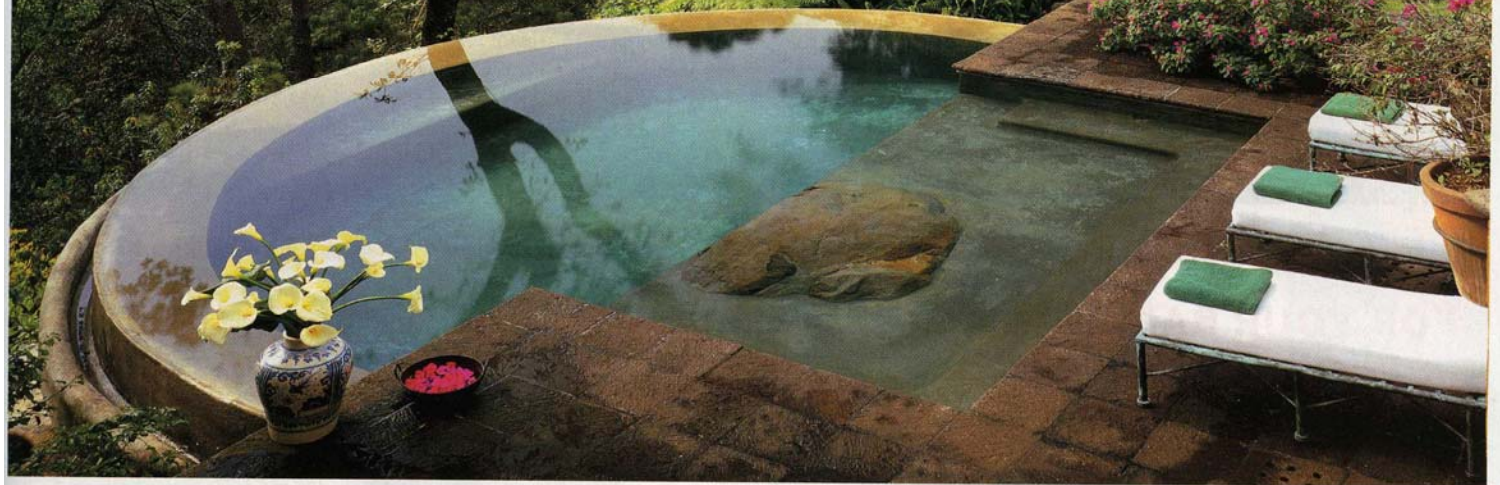
Milla wears  
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# IN THE COUNTRY

## Designs for a Weekend

A plunge pool in Valle de Bravo, Mexico, from Annie Kelly's *Rooms to Inspire in the Country*.



ALTHOUGH WALDEN POND may represent the philosophical ideal of country living, who wouldn't want Thoreau's spiritual simplicity delivered with a hearty dose of high design? Two new books, Annie Kelly's *Rooms to Inspire in the Country* (Rizzoli; \$50) and Susanna Salk's *Weekend Retreats* (Rizzoli; \$45), provide stylish fodder for those reworking their rural retreats or just looking for a visual vacation. Veteran

EDITED BY MELINDA PAGE PHOTOGRAPH BY TIM STREET-PORTER

decorator Kelly describes seventeen notable homes, all photographed by Tim Street-Porter. There's the Connecticut Colonial Revival—done up in pitch-perfect 1930s Hollywood style—owned by antiques dealer Ellen Ward and her newscaster husband, Chuck Scarborough, and the late designer Tony Duquette's 150-acre Malibu compound, once a wonderland of pagodas poached from the *Kismet* set and sprayed malachite



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green. Kelly also provides a look at the best swimming pools, including decorator Rose Tarlow's lakelike splashing grounds.

The architectural fantasies on show in Salk's *Weekend Retreats* are of a quieter sort, yet no less inspiring. The author, a former editor at *House & Garden*, has an eye for simple pleasures: a screened porch filled with a grandmother's heirloom rattan furniture, a hammock strung between two trees, the exposed beams in photographer Maura McEvoy's 1864 farmhouse. She profiles twenty-five Northeast escapes, all filled with an air of comfort. Interior designer Alexandra Champalimaud, for example, eschewed an estate in favor of a summer camp, its rough-hewn walls still scrawled with childish graffiti. And for neo-Thoreauvians who live by the mantra "Less is more," Salk offers up a shoebox prefab in the Catskills, its oak pressed into the clean lines of a log cabin fit for the 21st century. **ELIZA PICKERING**

This lakeside dining room in New Preston, Connecticut, is featured in Susanna Salk's book.

