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Upscale décor and high fashion meet for a beautiful Big Day with a showstopping confection

A laidback black-tie affair: an oxymoron, perhaps, but that's just what Houston, Texas, native Courtland Crosswell envisioned for her October 26, 2013 wedding to John McBroom of Corpus Christi, Texas. "Both our families are extremely traditional, so we wanted a wedding classic in design but relaxed and festive in feel," Courtland says. Ellen Robinson of WED brainstormed with the bride—a food blogger who also dabbles in home décor—to fill The William Aiken House with verdant topiaries; an elegant palette of ivory, green, and silvery light blue; and patterned linens and pillows. "Using a variety of textures and prints made the space feel like someone's home," says Ellen, "while capping it at two patterns in the same palette helped keep the design cohesive." Last, Wedding Cakes by Jim Smeal pulled inspiration from the décor, as well as from the bride's Monique Lhuillier ensemble (available in Charleston through Maddison Row), for a five-tier confection that stunned. On the day itself, the newlyweds and their 400 tux- and gown-clad guests toshed, lounged, and danced the night away. Safe to say, mission accomplished. —Molly Ramsey

WEDDING DESIGN BY *Ellen Robinson of WED*
IMAGES BY *Marni Rothschild Pictures*



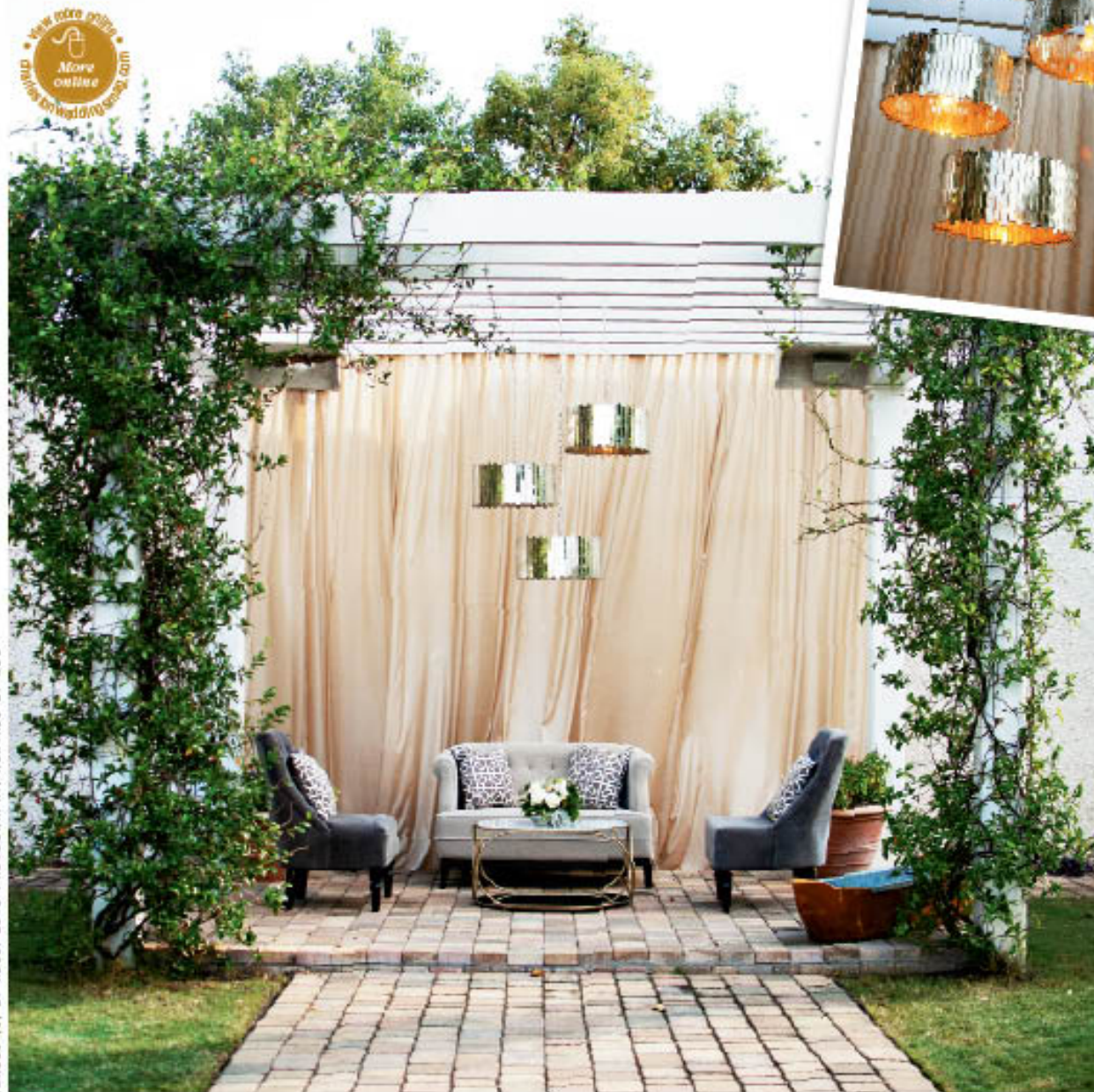
BRING IT TOGETHER: (top) Shimmering linens from Nüage Designs as well as the (left) lace and softly pleated satin from the bride's three-piece gown by Monique Lhuillier informed the (above) buttercream iced dessert from Wedding Cakes by Jim Smeal.

Up the Cozy Factor

Think like an interior designer when styling your wedding reception



IMAGES (L-R) BY KELLI BOYD PHOTOGRAPHY; RENTALS BY WED



SECRET GARDEN: When Jordan Kostylo and Will Hengsmühle asked **Katie Huebel** of **WED** to style their intimate outdoor reception last October in Beaufort, the couple asked that it be elegant, welcoming, and comfortable. Luckily, those are Katie's hallmarks, and their venue, **The Beaufort Inn's Tabby Garden**, offers the perfect canvas for just such a soirée. In addition to fashioning a cozy cocktail and dining area, Katie made full use of the site's existing nooks, and in the case above, transformed the jasmine-covered arbor into a sleek hideaway. "I love the dichotomy between organic and formal elements," says Katie, who stapled silken fabric in pleats to soften tabby walls and further upped the shimmer quotient with mercury glass drum shades and luxe velvet upholstered pieces. TEC installed dimmers throughout the space to create a soft glow. "At one point," says Jordan, "Will and I took a break here and I looked out and thought about how blessed we were."