

# Southern Living

A wooden crate filled with a variety of colorful hydrangeas in shades of blue, pink, purple, and white. The crate has "FRENCH-BAUER CINTI 0 47" stamped on it. The background is dark green foliage.

MAY 2009

## Capture The Magic Hydrangeas Set the Stage

**JEWEL BOX  
OF A HOUSE**  
We'll Show  
You How They  
Did It

**OUR BEST  
BURGERS**  
Serve 'em Up  
Southern  
Style

P.134

**(INSIDE)**

**SOUTH  
CAROLINA:  
PEOPLE&PLACES**  
**BONUS  
SECTION**

FRENCH-BAUER  
CINTI 0 47

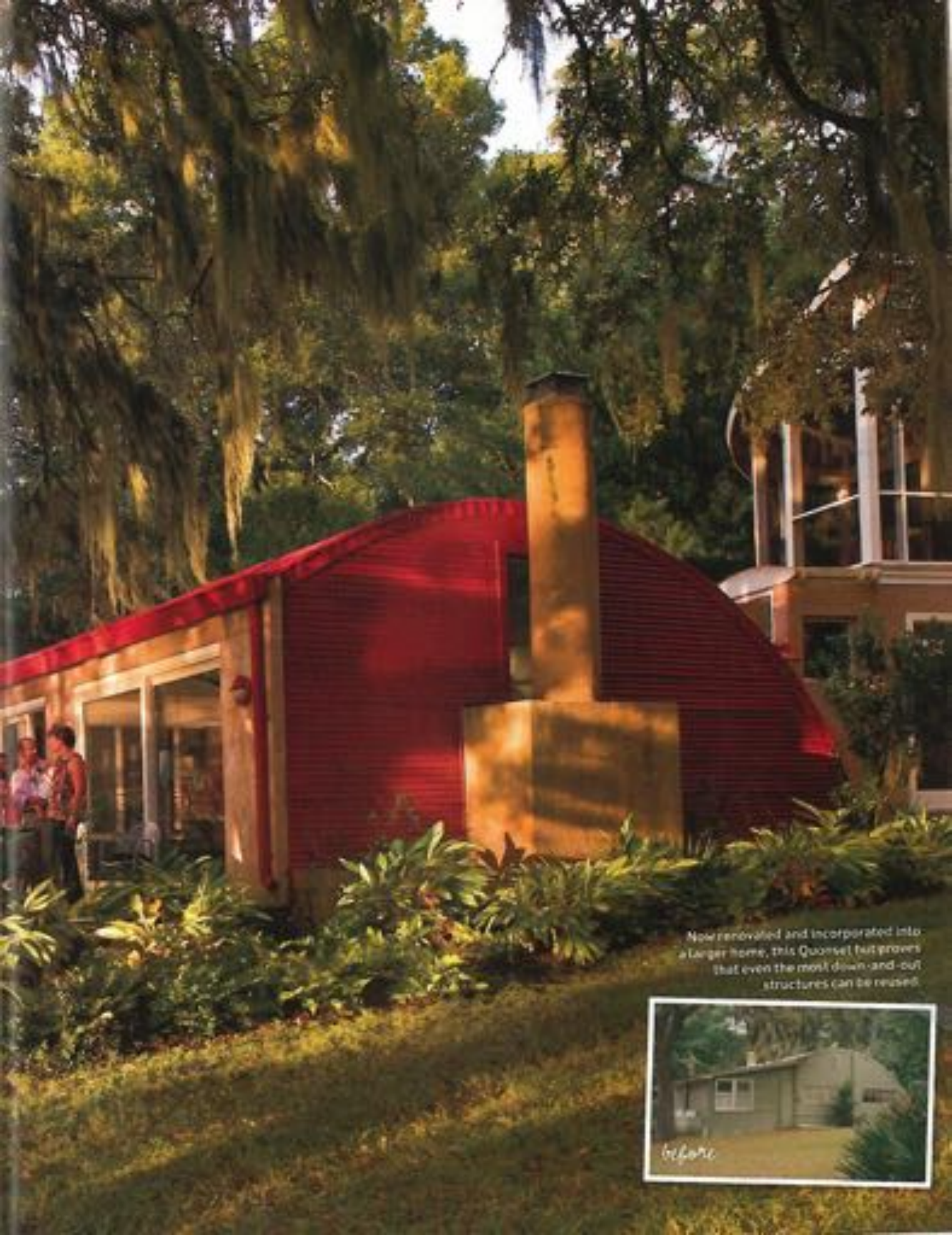
*Elegant  
& easy*

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Now renovated and incorporated into a larger home, this Quonset hut proves that even the most down-and-out structures can be reused.



The home's formal entry, part of an addition, is a two-story, screened stair hall that introduces materials such as concrete and metal, which are also used in the revamped hut.



# H

What's bigger than a bread box—but kind of looks like one—and you can live in it? If you answered “an Airstream trailer,” you’re close, but guess again. I could also mention that Beaufort, South Carolina, holds the answer, but most likely you would still be in the dark.

Apart from its historic houses and picturesque riverfront, this quaint Southern town claims something quite out of the ordinary—a renovated Quonset hut. Be rest assured, however, that this former barracks has little in common with its lowly beginnings. In fact, we were so impressed with its jaw-dropping makeover that we named it the Best Before and After in our 2009 Southern Home Awards.

**A Curious Landmark** Fully revamped and integrated into a larger home by husband-and-wife architects Michael and Jane Frederick, the hut boasts a colorful past.

Originally erected by a local WWII veteran who had grown accustomed to makeshift living during the war, the 25- x 48-foot structure made quite an interesting place to raise a family. “The jig was up for him, though, when his wife insisted on moving into a real house,” Michael confides. For the next 40 years, the hut saw numerous inhabitants come and go. When the Fredericks bought the property, the enclosure contained three bedrooms, a tiny kitchen, a pecky cypress great room, and two baths.

Renovating the hut wasn’t the couple’s first inclination. More impressed with its location, which encompassed wonderful live oaks and marshland views of the Intracoastal Waterway, Jane and Michael



**TOP:** One of the features that sold the Fredericks on renovating the curious dwelling was its barrel-vaulted ceiling, which is not interrupted by walls.

**ABOVE:** A much-needed addition, this screened porch sits just beyond the breakfast room. Its roof, consisting of translucent plastic panels attached to wood framing, mimics the Quonset hut's roof.



**LEFT:** Jane and Michael's innovative use of unusual nooks and crannies is most evident in the tucked-in library.

**RIGHT:** The industrial, prefab nature of the Quonset hut prompted the homeowners to use corrugated metal panels (available in most building-supply stores) on the kitchen island and surrounding cabinetry.

toyed with the idea of tearing it down and starting from scratch. Eventually, the hut's quirky charm, and local sentiment for it, won them over. "People would stop by and tell us their memories of the place. That swayed our thinking," admits Michael. "We realized that it had become part of the neighborhood."

**Adaptive Reuse** Initially, the Fredericks lived in it as is while they designed and built a bedroom wing and garage. In addition, they reworked another existing building into their architectural offices.

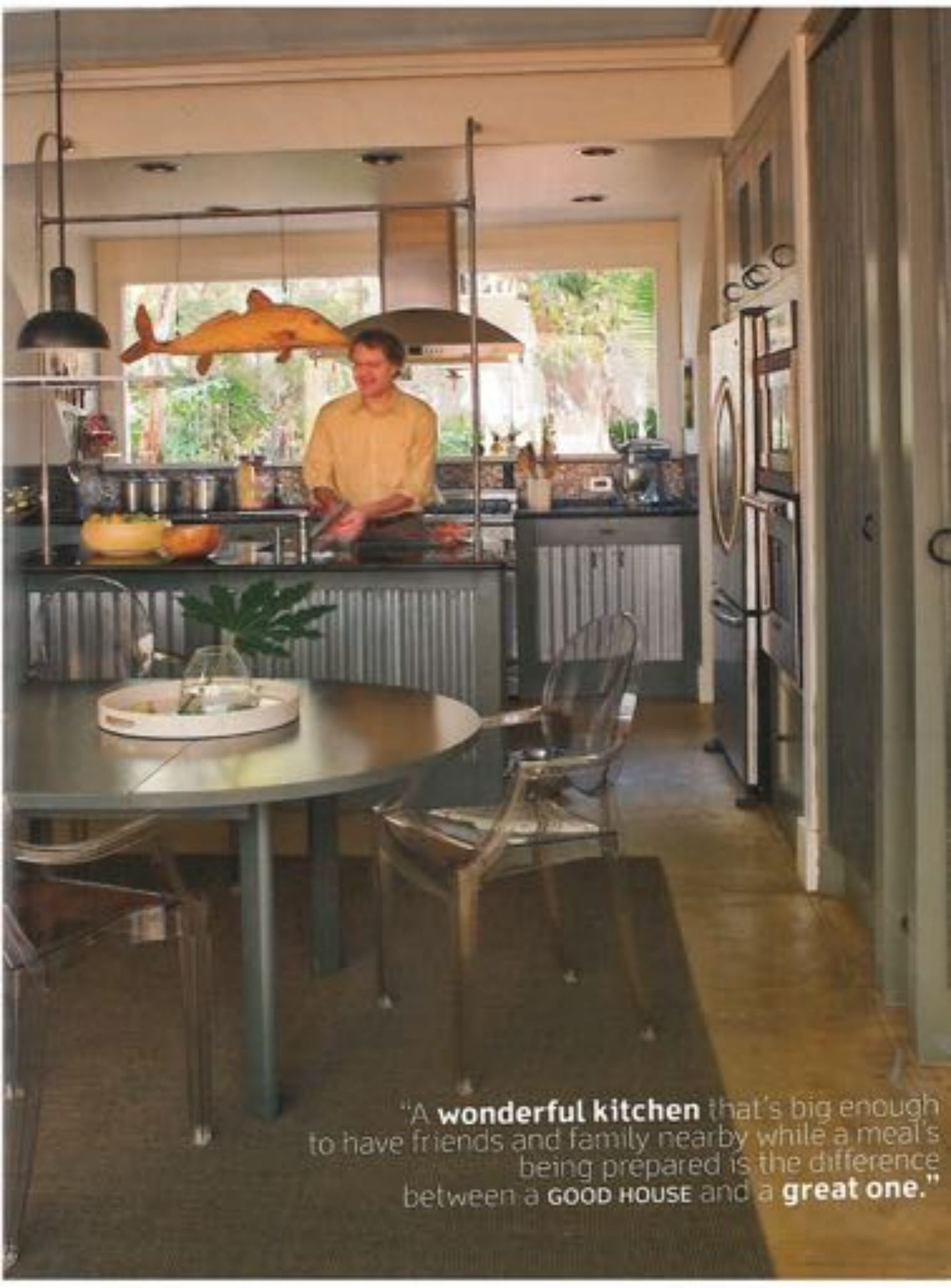
Once those projects were complete, the homeowners went to work on the hut by removing everything except its foundation and metal shell. As the living, dining, and kitchen areas took shape, Jane and Michael were faced with several odd, leftover spaces. That's when their creativity really kicked in. "We fit in a small library, powder room, and closets," explains Michael. To provide abundant natural light and capitalize on the views, they placed sliding glass doors on the entire back of the hut. They also added a laundry room and mudroom just off the kitchen. Another vital part of the renovation involved linking the dining terrace and kitchen with a screened porch.

So with all said and done, are the Fredericks satisfied with their choice for a home? "Every time friends marvel at what we've done with the place, that tells us that we did the right thing," states Michael.

Knowing the full scope of their efforts, we wholeheartedly agree. ■

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"A **wonderful kitchen** that's big enough to have friends and family nearby while a meal's being prepared is the difference between a **GOOD HOUSE** and a **great one.**"