

SWIMMING POOL

A glamorous pool with a finish of black silica sand and resin is housed in the second extension, which has sliding doors so that the room can be opened up to the garden in summer. At night, polychromatic lighting set into the floor is a dramatic and enticing feature.

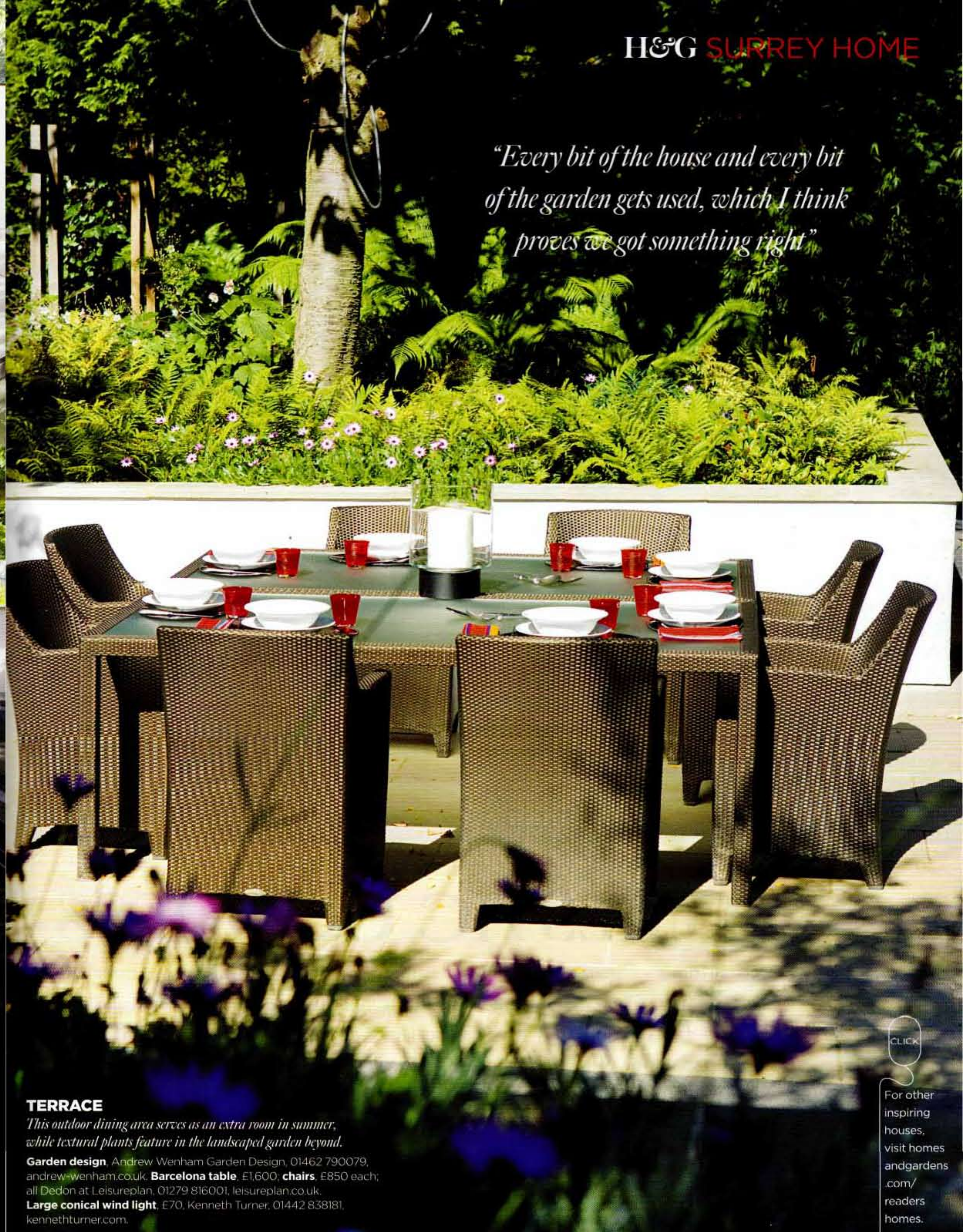


comfort, colour and texture to counteract the harder glossy surfaces. Red crops up again in the vast living space, and here it is used to mark out the main seating area. "Rosie's spatial awareness is much better than mine and she was able to bring a sense of cosiness to this big space," adds Cat. No mean feat, really, when you consider that the room also houses a dining table which comfortably seats no fewer than 22.

But perhaps the greatest success story of this project is the way in which the garden room – furnished in soft, soothing greens – and the dramatic black swimming pool interact with the outdoor spaces, giving the family a home that could easily hail from sunnier climes. The

terrace, with its bench seating and spacious dining area is a triumph, as is the natural landscaped garden. "Every bit of the house, and every bit of the garden gets used, which I think proves we got something right," says Cat.

And it is when Cat and Nathan throw their legendary dinner parties that this spectacular house really comes into its own. Once a week, the couple will sit down to dinner with 20 or so friends, a culinary challenge that leaves Cat completely unfazed. "Once you're used to it, it's easier to cater for twenty than it is for four – I can't portion down," she admits. "And if you can't entertain on a large scale in a house like this, then what on earth is the point of it?" ■



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TERRACE

This outdoor dining area serves as an extra room in summer, while textural plants feature in the landscaped garden beyond.

Garden design Andrew Wenham Garden Design, 01462 790079, andrew-wenham.co.uk. **Barcelona table**, £1,600; **chairs**, £850 each; all Dedon at Leisureplan, 01279 816001, leisureplan.co.uk. **Large conical wind light**, £70, Kenneth Turner, 01442 838181, kennethturner.com.

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