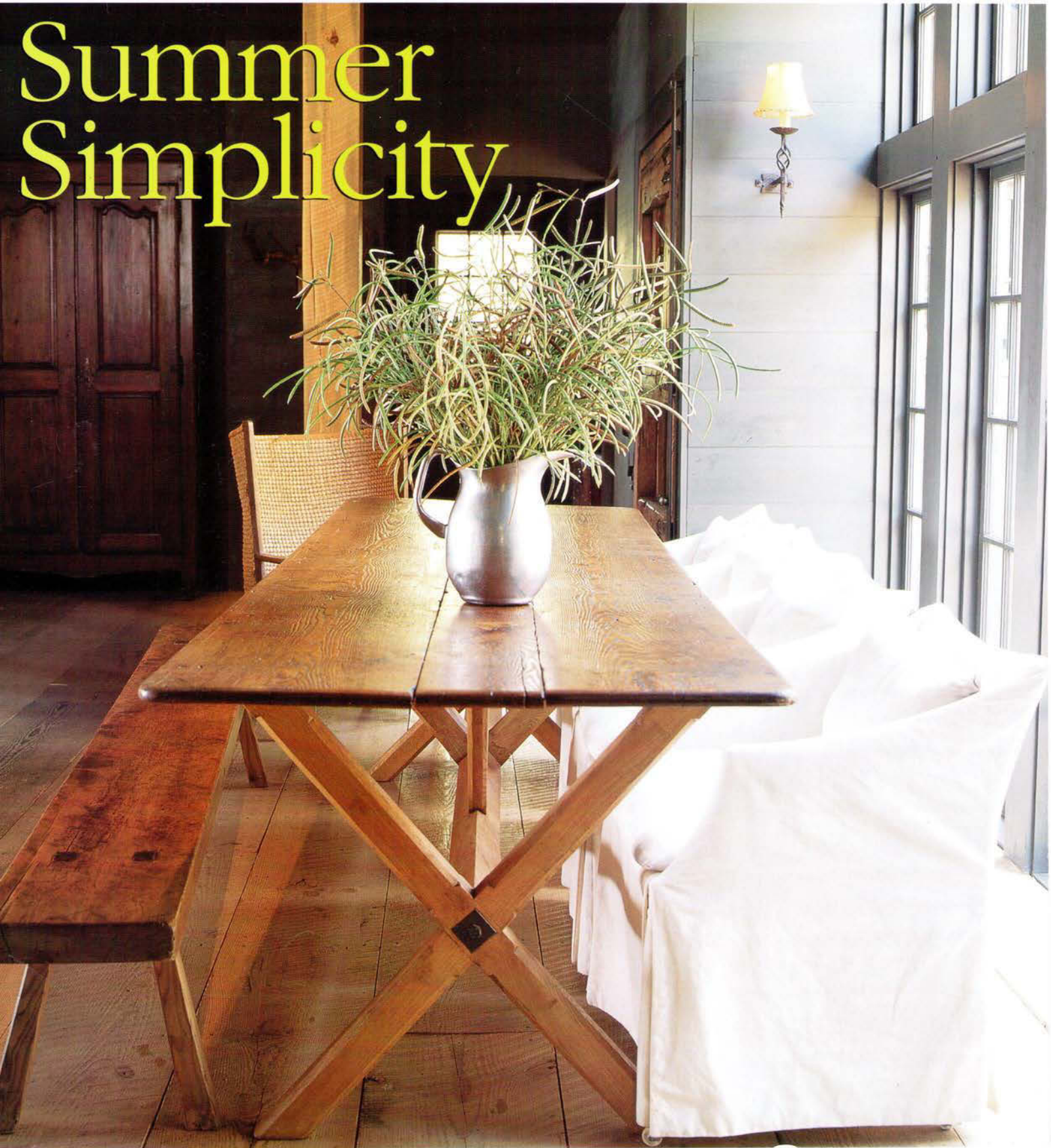


# Southern Accents

The magazine of fine Southern interiors and gardens

July-August 2000 \$5.50

## Summer Simplicity



# room **service**

A new Birmingham café captures the spirit of French dining



HOWARD L. PUCKETT

When people stroll into Chez Fonfon,” says decorator Patrick J. Dunne, right, “they check their compasses to make sure they haven’t strayed into a different longitude.” A new restaurant venture of Birmingham’s Frank Stitt, left, creator of Bottega and Highlands Bar & Grill, Chez Fonfon is a café devoted to French food and the artful wasting of an afternoon. With well-selected wines, traditional French “small food” such as *pâté* and *croque monsieur*, and a *boule court* out back, the café garnered a loyal following when it opened in May. For an authentic look, Dunne and Zoubir Tabout, middle, from New Orleans’ Lucullus scoured France for Belle Epoque cherry café tables, leather banquettes, and Art Deco nickel chandeliers and found marble wainscoting in an old Birmingham building—then set it against creamy walls covered with what you’d swear was the patina of Gauloise smoke. ♦

by Lydia Longshore