



the backyard butterfly

With a pool and a barbecue deck nearby, this is one backyard that wants you to stay awhile. And where better to stay than beneath the almost-beating wings of a cedar butterfly? While gazebos and other traditional shade structures often are designed to match the style of the main house, this bit of shade-making was designed to celebrate the garden's insect life. After consulting with the homeowners' 12-year-old son (a budding entomologist), Ontario architect Christopher Simmonds designed a gridwork of beams,

rafters, and purlins that's held up by sections of powder-coated steel tubing. The antennae are made from curved stainless-steel bars. A patient carpenter, Tymen Van Stryland of Ottawa, Ont., was instrumental in bringing the design to reality. And as Simmonds learned from his young consultant, the insect portrayed is more like a four-legged, short-tailed nymph than a true butterfly, but it works for most of us, right?

Photos by Gordon King



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