

# GARDEN DESIGN



JILL RICHARDS

## Made in the Shade

*An architect's house gets a cool down with passive solar panels*

BY NANCY ERDMANN

**W**hen the clock ticks 12 p.m., architect Catherine Hayes can be pretty certain that the temperature in her kitchen is going to heat up, thanks to the room's glass door and expansive over-the-sink window, both of which face southwest. "From noon to sunset, that side of the house gets hammered by the sun," says Catherine.

To help combat the intense heat, she came up with the idea of installing aluminum shade panels outside the kitchen wall. Her design studio calculated the panel sizes and configurations and collaborated with local metal fabricator Magnum Engineering, which positioned three panels on top of a powder-coated steel

framework. Pin brakes that are pulled out of plates with holes in them enable the shades to rotate, allowing Catherine to adjust the amount of shade cast onto the wall.

The homeowner then had the panels finished with a heavy-duty powder coating. "I selected this shade of orange because I knew it would wash the entire living area with cheery orange-pink light," she says. "The day the shades were installed, the entire spirit of the house changed to a welcoming, comfortable, happy home."

*See Sources.*