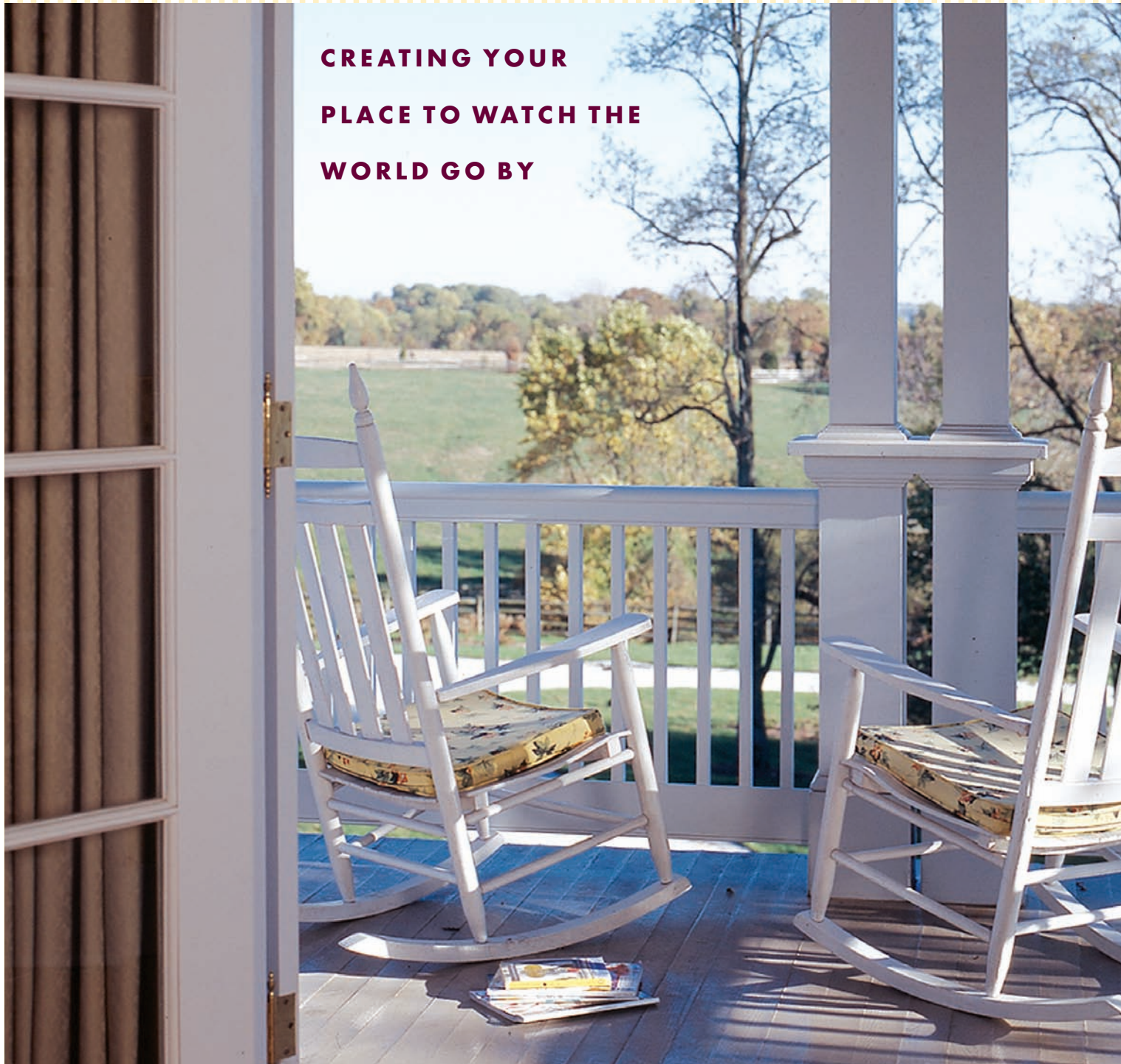


ON THE PORCH

**CREATING YOUR
PLACE TO WATCH THE
WORLD GO BY**



JAMES M. CRISP AND SANDRA L. MAHONEY

How a porch can redirect traffic

The extent to which a porch can change the patterns of your daily life should not be underestimated. When a porch is added to a home, its impact is felt immediately. The visual impression it makes is clear from the yard or the street, but a porch affects flow patterns in and around the home as well.

An outdated tract house in Tulsa, OK, is a case in point (see photo below). A respectful renovation resulted in a simplified floor plan and the addition of front and back porches that gave the formerly nondescript house a heightened sense of importance. But what is perhaps more notable is how the new porches changed the way the homeowners used their backyard. The new rear porch and patio are now “destinations” that inspired the installation of winding brick walkways that direct traffic around the side of the home to the yard. What had been stark, seldom-used space is now a multi-level, multi-use entertaining haven for the family. Brick pavers lead down to a courtyard, fountain and formal dining area. The homeowners appreciate the ease with which they now move from house through the yard, encouraging them to spend more time outdoors.

Because a new porch can actually allow you to direct the way people experience the area around your home, we often take advantage of that opportunity when we design for our clients. We spend a lot of time

The backyard of this dime-a-dozen suburban home was transformed by the addition of a gently elevated brick patio and porch. Anchored by two sets of defining posts at the corners and artfully lit by sconces and spots, the new space inspires gracious entertaining.

