

THE INTERIOR MONOLOGUE

Transform Outdoor Living Into a Backyard Getaway

Bring your favorite vacation destinations to the backyard with these ideas



MARGARET CHAMBERS

Outdoor living spaces have become more popular in the last 10 years. So, if you are one of the fortunate ones with a covered patio, balcony, or deck attached to your home, there are many clever ways to turn these spaces into exciting outdoor entertaining rooms.

Whether you are in the midst of building a home and planning an outdoor covered patio or remodeling, here are some helpful hints for creating a comfortable and fashionable outdoor space.

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Make sure you consider a fireplace, which will add warmth in the fall and winter months, along with small inconspicuous heaters attached to beams on the ceiling, and, a built-in outdoor grilling area. Perhaps you have room for a small refrigerator and ice maker in your outside kitchen. And for the spring and summer months, it's a must to have ceiling fans. If the budget permits, add misters on the perimeters of the ceiling. Hanging lanterns can also provide an additional source of lighting.

Remember, it is important to do a floor plan of patio furnishings, making electrical outlets conveniently located to plug in table lamps. If you don't have electrical outlets

on your patio walls, create lighting with some cool lanterns or candles.

Exterior living spaces look best if they are a continuation of your interior style and color. The good news is that outdoor fabrics have come a long way in the past few years, with a wonderful array of colors, patterns, and textures.

Outdoor furniture styles are endless. Materials such as teak, redwood, and rust-resistant iron with powder-coated aluminum are perfect for around the pool.

Also, now you can find outdoor furniture identical to wicker with a guaranteed

durability. Made of vinyl-covered wire, it works great in the sun. But, if you have a covered patio, you can use real wicker, which is approximately half the price. When selecting outdoor furniture, I like to mix styles, as evidenced in this Hill Country-style home, where I chose dark brown wicker furniture with twig end tables.

And in this charming chaletau, notice the mix of solid iron chairs with a customized mosaic coffee table and cast stone supports on all four corners. Then, at the far end of the patio, iron side and wicker end chairs surround a wood-topped dining table. The furniture is made of five different materials in three coordinating fabrics. The larger the space, the more different materials you can mix and match without looking too busy. Large spaces also need the variety; however, I do recommend selecting either all terracotta pots or all cast-stone pots for plants — using both can look disjointed.

If you don't have a covered patio, look at having a tent made out of awning fabric, possibly in a bold stripe. Consider umbrellas over tables or a picnic table under a shaded tree. There are endless color schemes and accessory combinations for your outdoor living space. Accessories can really bring the space to life and give it personality. Create a theme. Maybe your accessories embody Maine's ocean landscape: a bowl topped with seashells, party napkins with a coral or lobster design. Try enamel-covered dishes, ship-style lanterns on your tabletops, or a rope hammock between two trees. Include large galvanized aluminum tubs to ice down the drinks and carry food and other essential things from the house to the outdoor living area.

An old pine armoire on a covered porch can be handy to store all of your party necessities, plus games or extra towels.

As you can see, the combinations are endless to make your outdoor spaces the perfect places to entertain!

Margaret Chambers is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers. She can be reached at chambersinterior@aol.com or through chambersinteriors.com.



COURTESY PHOTOS

This large, semi-formal living space is durable enough for three boys, their friends, and two hunting dogs.



This Hill Country rustic-style covered patio reflects the design and style of the inside living space.

Group Selected to Play in Inaugural CREW Classic Kick-Off Marathon



COURTESY PHOTO

Kennis Ketchum, CREW's director of community projects, and Betty Smith, chair of the CREW Classic.

Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Dallas is presenting a "new concept" in charitable golf with the Inaugural CREW Classic Kick-Off Marathon on Sept. 21 at Glenegles Country Club in Plano.

CREW's philanthropic arm, CREW in the Community, has put on the annual fall CREW Classic golf tournament for the past 23 years. Members wanted to move the Classic from fall to spring due to the fact that there are so many competitive golf tournaments for the real estate industry in the fall. This year, hosting the Marathon in the fall became the perfect option for CREW to maintain its autumn presence in the golf community, while the CREW Classic has been moved to April 19.

Twenty-four real estate industry professionals have been selected to play in the Marathon, noted Kennis Ketchum, CREW's director of com-

munity projects. "The Marathon will be exactly as it sounds — both difficult and fun at the same time — as our elite group of players will each attempt to complete 100 holes of golf in one day. We found some excellent golfers among CREW's longtime sponsors who are anxious to make a day of it, raising money for charity while playing an extreme marathon of golf, the sport they adore."

"The new golfing concept was very well-received by both players and our members, who are delighted that CREW is still having a fall golfing experience, but that is different from our traditional golf tournament held every fall," said Betty Smith, chair of the CREW Classic.

Smith also noted the spring date for the Classic is already set. "Players can look forward to the CREW Classic at the Glenegles Country Club on April 19," she said.

— From Staff Reports

Report Card

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ALARM SYSTEM

- If you live in University Park consider having your alarm system monitored by the University Park Police Department directly.
- Make sure your alarm system is registered with your city's police department.
- Always activate the alarm when leaving the house, no matter how short the trip.

"Even if you are going to the store for a few minutes you should activate your alarm system. It doesn't take a person very long to clean out your house... With the direct alarm service you cut out the middle man, because the alarm goes directly to us instead of going to a private company," CAPT. LEON HANMANN

SPECIAL LISTING

7720 Idlewood Lane

Listed by Ebby Halliday, Realtors, \$369,500



Mid-century contemporary custom three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath home with pier-and-beam foundation. Dramatic vaulted ceiling in living and dining areas. Gourmet kitchen and den have oak hardwoods. California closets, plantation shutters, and thermopane windows are also included. New wood fence gives the spacious patio

privacy. Gorgeous trees fill a low-maintenance yard. A storage room is located off of a two-car garage. Located conveniently near Kramer Elementary.

Contact:
Eva Kaplan
Ebby Halliday, Realtors
The Douglas Avenue Office
972-733-9620
214-692-0000

SPECIAL LISTING

4321 W. Lawther Drive

Listed by Ebby Halliday, Realtors, \$3,495,000
4/4,1/4LA/3FP/Pool/3



Rare offering of premier 3-acre White Rock lake-front estate featuring an early, three-story, Howard Meyer-designed home with pool and cabana. The property expands between Lawther Drive and through Fisher Road with the entrance at 7501 Fisher Road. Such exquisite details as leaded fanlight doorways, paneled white interior woodwork, magnificent chandelier in the dining room, Carrara marble, delft-tile fireplaces, and other features typical of the finest colonial homes. A rare opportunity to own a piece of Dallas history!

PRICE REDUCED
OPEN SUNDAY SEPT. 13
1-3 P.M.

Contact:
Penny Rivenbark
Ebby Halliday, Realtors
The Little White House
5999 W. Northwest Highway
at Preston Road
214-632-0805

SPECIAL LISTING

4415 Manning Lane

Listed by Dave Perry-Miller, Dave Perry-Miller & Associates



OPEN HOUSE FROM 2 TO 4 P.M. SUNDAY

This beautiful five-bedroom home in the heart of Old Preston Hollow offers a great location and a well-thought-out floor plan with ample natural light. Ideal for entertaining and everyday living, it features 5,376 square feet of living space per appraiser with a downstairs master suite. Just

reduced from \$1,495,000 to \$1,249,000, this prime home won't last long! See it this Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Contact:
Dave Perry-Miller
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