

HearthWarming

A Consumer Guide To Hearth Products

\$6.00



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The Joy of OUTDOOR LIVING

The most exciting, enjoyable, entertaining room in the house is beyond the back door.

The Outdoor Room is a major trend – from coast to coast, from Sunbelt through Snowbelt. Homeowners are creating outdoor spaces for cooking, dining, reading, relaxing and entertaining, and doing so with as much style and attention to detail as they used throughout the interior of their home.

It's a trend that started in southern California (where else?), but now has spread throughout the country. The pace of life is one reason cited for interest in The Outdoor Room. Most of us are working harder and longer and, at times, even a vacation seems fraught with effort.

Another reason was advanced some years back by John Neisbitt in his book "Megatrends." He cited the principle of "high-tech = high-touch," meaning that as our world becomes increasingly complex, we turn to those things that are soothing, that provide comfort and safety.

Home is one of those things. Friends and family are another. By being together, at home, and interacting in a comfortable environment, we can all recharge our batteries and relax a little.

Whatever the reason, an increasing number of Americans are transforming their backyard areas into retreats that would rival any exclusive resort. No longer a mere location for the picnic table and a rusty swing set, the backyard is becoming a room unto itself – The Outdoor Room.

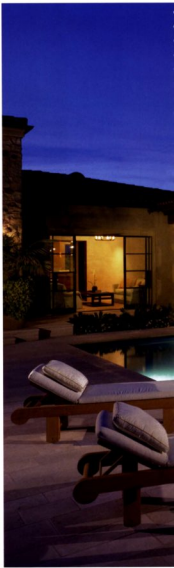
What makes up an Outdoor Room and how it's designed depends on space, climate and budget limitations, as well as lifestyle considerations. At the very least, an outdoor living area will offer space for cooking, dining and relaxing. If money is no object, the possibilities are endless.

Like the inside of many homes, the kitchen is the heart of The Outdoor Room. Backyard kitchens are state-of-the-art and packed with many of the same kind of conveniences found indoors. No need to dash between the house and the yard; everything you need to prepare an entire meal is at your fingertips.

The grill takes center stage, and what a star it is. No longer a black metal carcass that's wheeled out in embarrassment, today's grills are truly "appliances" that look as good as they function. Sleek, stainless steel is the material of choice, offering rustproof protection from the elements and a high-quality, commercial appearance.

These high-end grills are bigger than ever and offer greatly expanded cooking capabilities for more serious barbecuers. Many come with huge grilling surfaces, multi-level cooking grids for items that need to be cooked at different heights from the heat source, and multi-zone cooking temperatures for grilling at different temperatures at the same time.

Other features include rotisseries,





A well-designed outdoor room allows space for various activities and a number of people. In this instance there are spaces for cooking, eating, chatting, relaxing and swimming. There's ample room for quite a gathering of friends and family.