HOUSE & HOME

North Jersey

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Volume 23, Issue 7



CLC Landscape Design and S Scott Construction:

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page 11

Dress Up Your Deck

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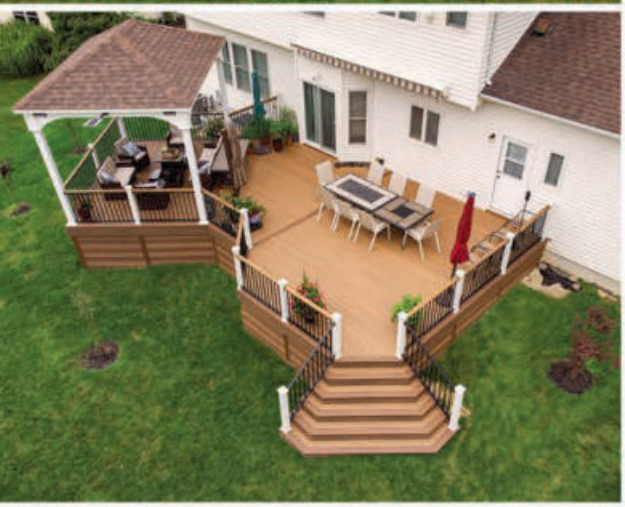
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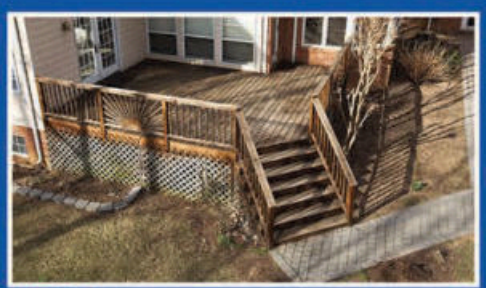


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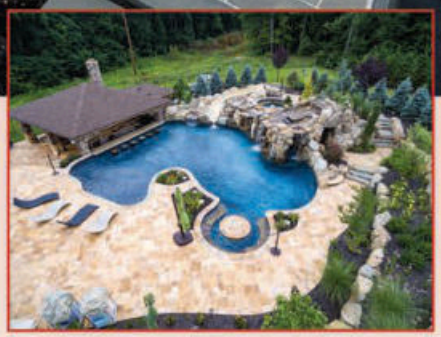
Designing Beautiful Outdoor Environments

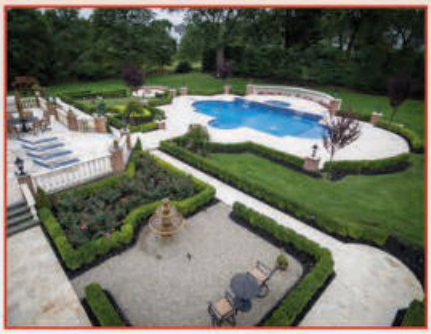


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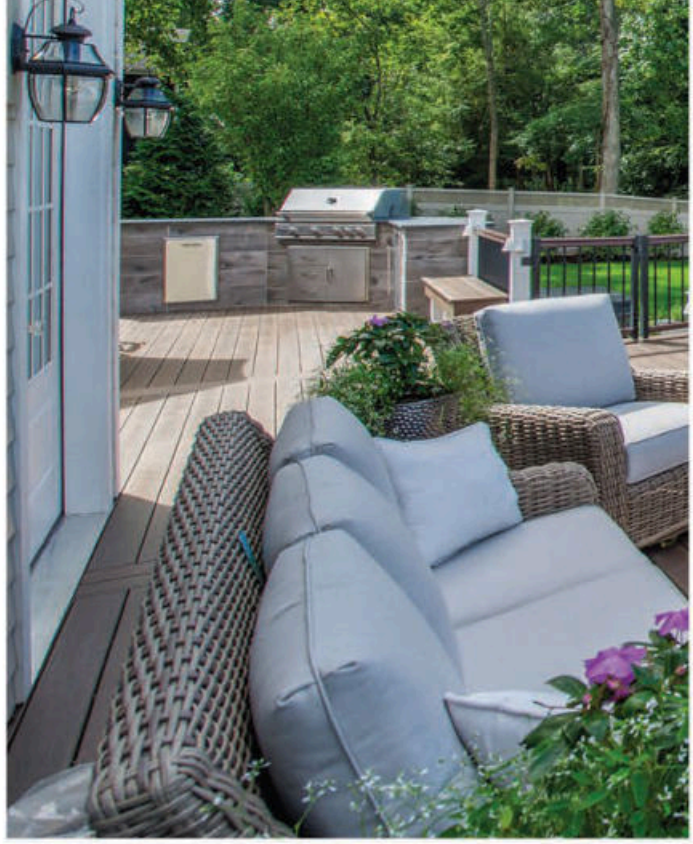
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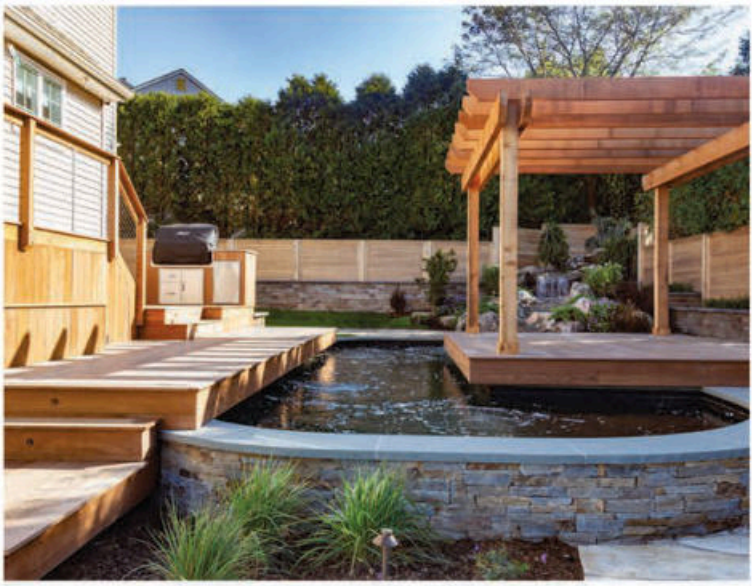




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by **Madeleine Maccar**

Two Companies, One Vision

CLC Landscape Design and **S Scott Construction** work in harmony to create breathtaking backyard living spaces.

A GREAT LANDSCAPE, RICHARD CORDING SR. OFTEN SAYS, BEGINS WITH GREAT DESIGN IDEAS. It's the tried and true philosophy driving every project CLC Landscape Design proudly puts its name on.

"Your dream backyard begins now," he says. "Step one is calling CLC Landscape Design for a master plan. We always start the process with the landscape design. We're licensed landscape architects and this is our strength, making designs that pull everything Together."

CLC has partnered with a range of experts providing specialized skills that deliver jaw dropping results. Among those partners are Shaun Scott and the S Scott Construction team, all of whom Cording has considered invaluable extensions of the CLC family for more than a decade, and specialize in building unique, "next-level" outdoor living spaces that are guaranteed to dazzle and delight, especially as those backyard living rooms have become increasingly in-demand requests.

"He's a builder, he's an architect, he does drawings for his own decks and pavilions—and these are phenomenal-looking pavilions," Cording says of Scott, who meets and speaks with the client just as extensively as CLC does.

"Once we do the design, step two is S Scott Construction installs the pavilion, cabana, deck, or a pergola." Cording adds that, whether a client is looking for a spacious outdoor retreat perfect for hosting comfortable football-watching parties in the fall or a pavilion or pergola for summer shade, the prevailing rule remains the same: Form follows function.

"S Scott and CLC both assign their own project managers, who work together throughout the project," notes Cording. "Our mission statement is that we try to make things fun and easy so that the client is going to get a smooth-flowing project, better value, and a project that exceeds expectations." H&H







Dress Up Your DECK

The right furniture, shade option and other amenities can take an outdoor space from ordinary to extraordinary.

BY MATT COSENTINO

While today's outdoor living spaces are meant to be enjoyed almost throughout the entire year, there is no question that summer remains prime time for get-togethers in the backyard. Whether homeowners are planning a new deck project or adding to an existing one, there is no shortage of ways to enhance the overall appeal and turn it into a coveted gathering place as they prepare to welcome family and friends in the coming months.

Of course, the right amenities for one person might vastly differ from the next, based on everything from lifestyle to budget.

"For us, it's important to dive into what the client is going to use the space for," says Randall Yoder, a designer with Keystone Custom Decks. "If they want just a lounge area or an extended living room, they can put a fireplace in. If they want to use it for parties, we might recommend putting in some lanterns with stone columns and stringing up some lights. A dining area is always a nice addition as well."



From shade features to outdoor kitchens and the right furniture, the possibilities are basically endless. *House & Home* spoke to several local professionals to learn more about the options homeowners have to dress up their deck.

MADE IN THE SHADE

Perhaps no added feature is more important for a deck than some type of shade structure. After all, what good is a beautiful outdoor space if the July or August sun is beating down and it's too hot to enjoy it?

"Especially since a lot of decks are made of composite material now, it heats up a lot more than your old-school wood decks," says Josh Eberly of Marygrove Awnings. "So when you try to walk on it, it's too hot, but adding an awning over that space provides shade. Our awnings normally cool down the inside of your house by about 10 to 15 degrees, so you save a lot of money on your energy bills. But with the deck it adds even more, because the deck is out in the sun all day and gets really hot. An awning adds a nice shaded space where you can eat, relax, play card games and just spend time with friends and family."

Marygrove offers retractable awnings in a variety of colors and styles that can be extended out or pulled in with the push of a button. Front and side screens can be included for additional blocking of the sun, and wind sensors will automatically retract the awning when a storm is approaching. An awning will also provide limited protection from the rain.

"Our fabric is not waterproof but it's water-resistant, which means you can have it out in the rain," Eberly says. "We also offer an adjustable pitch, which is a cool feature. If you have your awning out and it's raining hard, water could just run off the end of it and start to pool on the fabric. So we designed this product called the adjustable pitch … and you can pitch the awning down on one side and direct the rain runoff to where you want it to go."

An awning is probably the most cost-effective way to add shade to a deck, other than an umbrella, but some homeowners prefer the aesthetic appeal of a pergola or roof structure.



"Pergolas are really nice shade structures, but I always say if you're looking for a complete shade structure, a pergola is not the thing for you—you're probably looking for a roof structure," says Karim Mrad of Archadeck of Northwest Philadelphia. "A pergola can give you anywhere from 30 to 75% shade; in some cases if you end up going with an aluminum pergola that has pivot louvers, it can go up to 100%."

The price of a pergola depends on the choice of materials, Mrad adds. "Let's say we're building a pressure-treated pergola—the price is going to be minimal. But if you want to go with a pergola made out of aluminum that has lights and fans and heaters built into it, where the louvers can pivot up and down and it has rain sensors inside of it, the options are endless."

Dress Up YOUR DECK



Marygrove Awnings also offers louvered roof systems made of aluminum, metal, wood or glass. They give the homeowner the option to open and close the slats on top depending on the weather or the occasion.

"It's really nice because you can create an outdoor space without it truly being an enclosed space," Eberly says. "A lot of people will build a nice deck and then put a wood pergola over it, but when it's raining or super hot, you're not going to sit under that pergola. This solves that problem, and it's a premium product with all the bells and whistles: You can add fans, you can add lights and there are different ways for the louvers to operate. If you're going to add it to the deck, it's one of those wow statement pieces you can put on the back of your house."

NOW WE'RE COOKING

Whether it's being used for a Sunday night dinner with the family or a barbecue with 50 guests, the outdoor kitchen has become a must-have for many deck projects.

"For people who like to entertain and host, that is probably the best feature they can have," Mrad says. "You can do a simple outdoor kitchen with just a grill and a small countertop, or you can build a 20-foot-long outdoor kitchen that has a grill, a smoker, a pizza oven, an integrated fridge and some drawers for storage. As much as you want, you can elaborate on it. People who like the outdoors really like to spend time in their outdoor kitchen."

The outdoor kitchen craze that first started about 10 to 20 years ago has shown no signs of slowing down, despite rising material costs or concerns about the economy.

"We do a lot of projects with kitchens; they're still in pretty high demand," Yoder says. "I would definitely say the simple ones are still very common, where it's 8 feet wide and you have the standard grill, trash and fridge in a standard layout. Then when you get into the higher-end clientele, they want bars, sinks, icemakers, Kegerators and things like that, which add quite a bit [of cost] to the project."

FURNITURE SHOPPING

A fun part of accessorizing a deck is finding the perfect set of furniture that blends comfort and durability. Barnco Woodworks specializes in poly furniture built with plastic lumber that will not rot or rust and does not require painting. It is made for the harsh weather and can be kept outside all year long, even during the winter.

"It comes with a lifetime warranty and it doesn't blow away, it stays put," says Jake Stoltzfus of Barnco. "We've had a set for 15 years and it still looks like new. It's really the way to go. There's no storage involved—you don't have to take them inside for the winter. It's a done deal, you just put it where you want it; you could have 4 feet of snow, but when spring comes you don't have to get the furniture out."

Poly furniture comes in all styles, from dining sets to rockers, porch swings and Adirondack chairs.

"There's no maintenance," Stoltzfus says. "Every once in a while you might want to pressure wash it. Depending on where you have it, you'll get that green moss, but there's a cleaner for it that you spray and then you hose it off. It's very simple and it's a good deal."

Those in the market for outdoor furniture would also be wise to visit Sequoia Out Back, home to one of the area's largest and most impressive showrooms for outdoor living. They can peruse the many displays featuring high-quality choices from the most renowned names in the industry and get a firsthand account of the look and feel of the pieces to ensure they are making the right selections.

ADDED AMENITIES

Since summer parties have been known to rage late into the night, an LED lighting package has become an important part of deck design to create a certain mood and also for safety reasons.

"For the past two years, we've seen an uptick in people liking the aspect of lighting," Mrad says. "We always envision an element of lighting at night—not a bright, shiny light but ambient lighting to create coziness in the space. We incorporate lighting in the riser of the steps, the post caps of the railing and some under-rail lights. Especially when you have a change in levels, like stairs or a two- or three-level deck, you definitely need lighting."

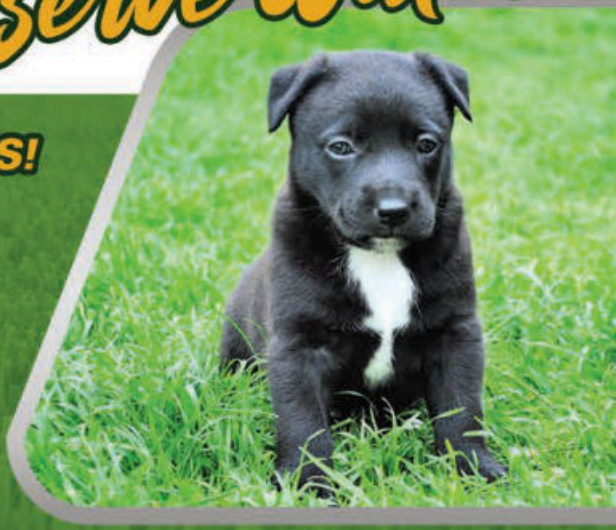


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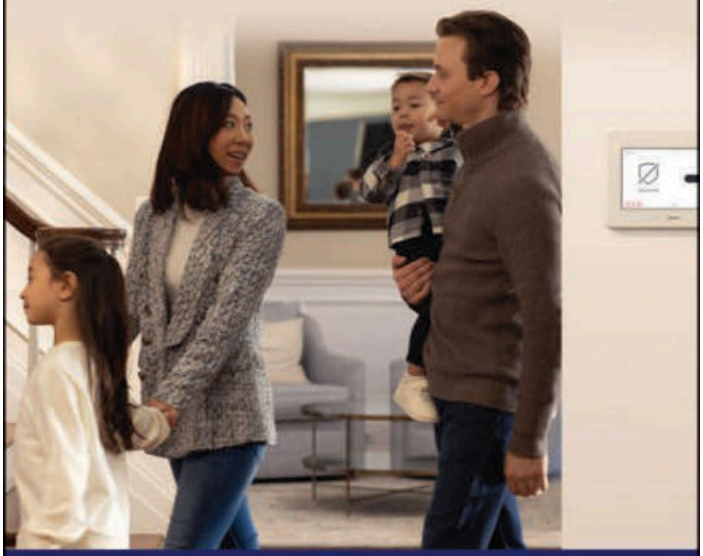
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Dress Up YOUR DECK

Yoder believes that masonry features can really set a deck apart, and Keystone offers stone walls, pillars, entrances and fire features.

"For us it's become pretty seamless," he says. "We have great crews who do the masonry and at the same time, we've done it so much that we've learned all the framing and how to best support the masonry product, because usually it's a lot heavier than other products. We have a good system and teams that work together to beef up the framing and keep it as open as possible underneath when there's a patio."

The stone fire pits and fireplaces are especially popular, allowing an outdoor space to be used in the spring and well into the fall. Yoder explains that some people still prefer to hear the cracking sounds of a wood-burning fire feature, but the majority now prefer the convenience of a gas option. Either way, it's a look that can complete the space.

"You can just have it in the background to make everything feel cozy, or you can at the forefront as the focus of the project," Yoder says. "I think fire features really help pull a project together." H&H

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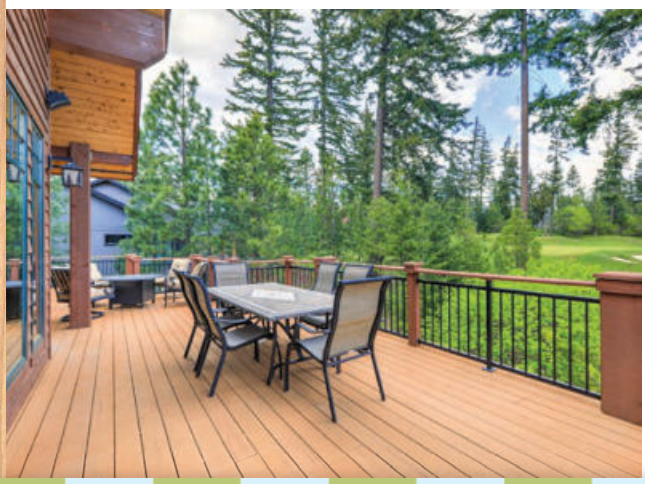
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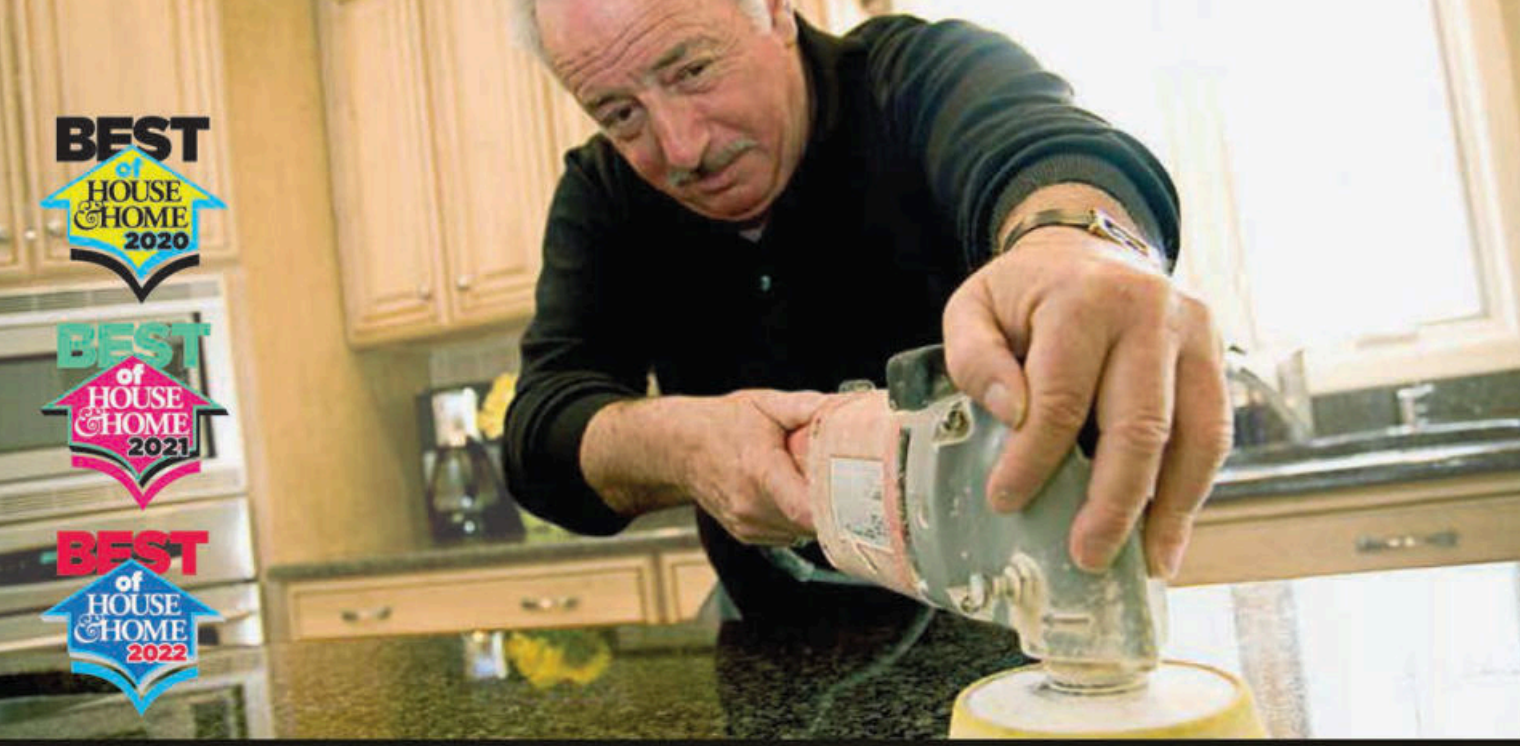
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by Lindsey Getz



Set Up Your Space for Summer

At **Sequoia Out Back**, customers can find endless inspiration for their outdoor dreams.



It's safe to say that the pandemic has taught us to appreciate the outdoors even more. While backyard outdoor living areas have been soaring in popularity for years now, for many, the stay-at-home orders and the experience of being stuck indoors for so long have made homeowners absolutely crave these spaces more than ever. They are truly a must-have—a fact that's been increasingly evident at Sequoia Out Back, where owner John Keller says that he's seeing even more people come into the showroom than ever before.

From the moment that homeowners walk through Sequoia Out Back's front doors, the experience is really unlike any other. The 30,000-square-foot showroom has everything you could want for your personal oasis on display so that you can envision it in your own backyard.

When you walk through a typical patio store or a big-box store, items aren't usually set up or paired together the way they would be in your backyard so it can be difficult to visualize your finished space. At Sequoia, you can see an entire outdoor living space the way that you might set it up on your own patio. It inspires so many ideas.

The goal of the showroom has always been to make homeowners feel like they're stepping into a real-life outdoor space. This helps homeowners to make the best choices when it comes to furniture and decking supplies that will work for their own projects.

Pair these gorgeous displays with the knowledgeable and helpful team members who are ready to assist—and homeowners can really appreciate the showroom visit



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experience. Customers always leave Sequoia with a lot of great ideas and information.

Of course, in general, inventory has been a major issue since the start of the pandemic. Homeowners who have tried to purchase furniture and decking may have noticed limited stock. But Sequoia Out Back has been fortunate to be able to keep a lot of inventory in stock thanks to its relationship with manufacturers and its purchasing power, as well as having a large quantity from the start. Even so, with so many people coming through the doors, now is the time to start planning for the spring while inventory is still available.

After all, before you know it, the weather will be consistently warm, and we'll all be spending even more time outdoors. Homeowners want to make sure their space is ready now!

"The sooner you can start planning, the better," urges Keller. "The number of visitors coming to the store right now is higher than ever for this time of year. It's definitely not too early to start thinking about setting up your outdoor space."

As you start planning, Sequoia Out Back has all of the amenities that you might want to consider. This includes fire pits, patio furniture and all of the material supplies including decking and railing and hardscaping. Sequoia works with all of the leading manufacturers including TimberTech, Wolf, Trex, Zuri and Fiberon—all of whom continue to offer innovative products.

Whether you're a do-it-yourselfer or someone who was sent by their contractor to look for materials, Sequoia's showroom can accommodate everyone.

It's all about making the experience as easy and as enjoyable as possible for homeowners. As the true outdoor living experts, Sequoia and its team are ready to help make homeowners' backyard dreams come true.

"Outdoor living has been a trend for a long time but it's hotter than ever," Keller sums up. "I think we're all ready to start spending more time outside." **H&H**

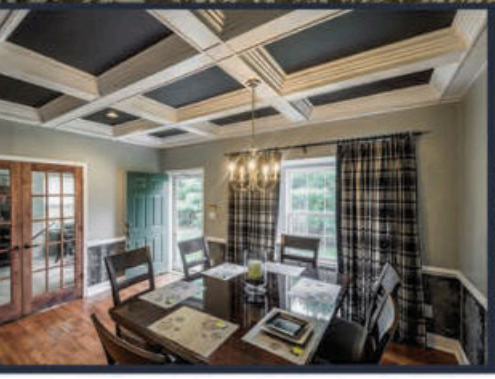
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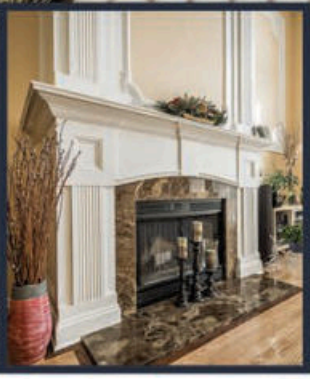
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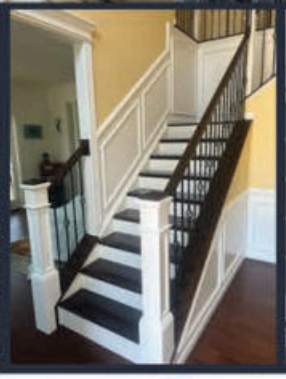


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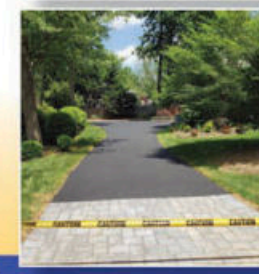
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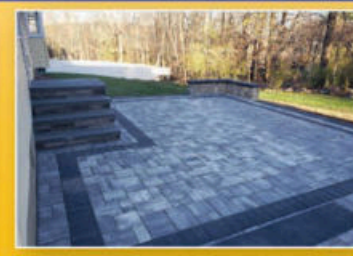
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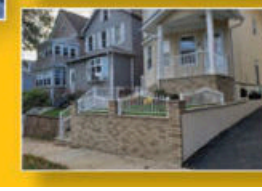
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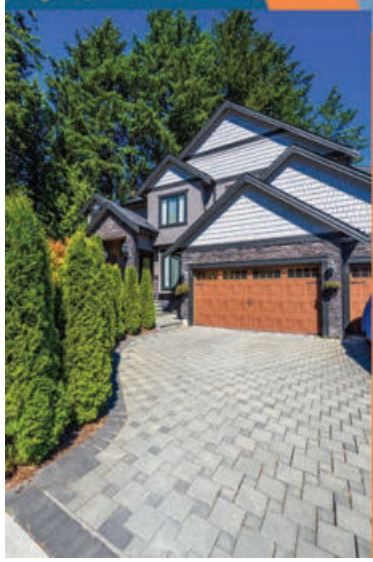


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Grilling Greatness

by Kristen Jorgensen

THE TRENDS WITH GRILLS, OUTDOOR KITCHENS AND MORE to help make this summer one to remember.

With the spring season well underway, the thoughts of summer are quickly approaching. The 21st day of June marks the solstice, and the official start of the summer season made up of meetings, conviviality, dinners and outdoor gatherings. This is when the outdoor environment becomes the protagonist, and outdoor kitchens and grilling take center stage. Outdoor kitchens are also accentuated by all the exterior hardscape designers and seasonally geared companies who are kicking off all new projects for outdoor spaces.

So what are the trends for the coming summer months? We talked with a few professionals in the industry to see just what exactly is trending for this season and how any homeowner can reach their level of "grilling greatness" this summer.

"Outdoor kitchens and grilling at home have been extremely popular in the past few years, especially since COVID, as people are spending more time in their homes and properties. They're excited to make improvements to entertaining family and friends and use these new spaces year-round. These improvements also add value to homes and property," explains Natalie Weeks Rossitto of M.C. Weeks, Inc. Window Fashions & Outdoor Kitchens.

In fact, owning an outdoor kitchen is still trending in all the major search engines and it is at the top of everyone's wish list this season. The evolution of outdoor entertainment spaces has been building momentum for quite some time and doesn't seem to be slowing down. Over the past couple of years, more homeowners than ever are eager to invest in luxury, innovation and unique design to create cutting-edge outdoor kitchens, functional and beautiful dining spaces, and super comfortable lounge areas to gather with friends and family.

"One thing that I think every homeowner considering an outdoor kitchen should insist on including is some sort of seating around the kitchen area. Just like

the kitchen tends to be the heart of the inside of your home, where everyone tends to congregate, the outdoor kitchen can be the heart of your outdoor living space—a place for gathering and catching up on the day's happenings," explains Steve Compton Jr., owner of CKC Landscaping.

Innovations in outdoor appliances mean you can have a professional-grade cooking experience while still enjoying the sun shining overhead. Much more than stainless steel grills, smokers can also be built into outdoor counters and cabinets. "While most outdoor kitchens still center around a gas or charcoal grill, we are seeing more and more customers expand their grill islands into full outdoor kitchens. Typically the first add-on once moving beyond just a traditional grill island, is to incorporate an outdoor refrigerator—this allows for greater convenience whether entertaining or just enjoying some time outside with the family," says Compton.

GREAT AT GRILLING

One of the quickest and easiest ways to turn your backyard into a culinary hotspot starts with getting the right grilling equipment. Of course, knowing how to get started is always a novice enthusiast's biggest hurdle. Grills have been the most common staple in most backyards, but customers today are looking for more premier products and to add more amenities to their grilling arsenal.

"Cart grills are quite commonplace in most backyards, but having the counter space of an outdoor kitchen or just an island as well for entertaining and preparing meals is important too," explains Weeks Rossitto. "When you're tired of wheeling a rusty cart grill out of the garage each year and replacing parts before you can even use it, think of investing in something more substantial like the Coyote Outdoor grill. These grills are made of 304 stainless steel, so they will last longer and be useable when you're ready to use them."

Karen Stalker, general manager of Gas Works, adds, "We've seen a renewed interest in outdoor grill islands, this year in particular with the modular ones that can grow over time and the uniquely designed styles specifically for the client's size area. When compared to a good quality stainless steel grill, the modular island is becoming more popular."

Flattops and pellet grills are also enhancing the cooking experience beyond just burgers because you can cook vegetables, fish, sides and more—even eggs, pancakes for breakfast.



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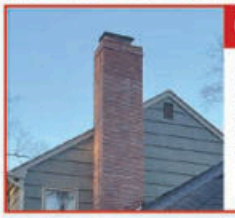
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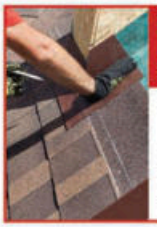
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Grilling Greatness

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Kristi Reading, managing partner of The Buxton Complex and certified "eggspert" when it comes to the Big Green Egg, one of the most recognized grilling companies in the country, further ignites the conversation. "Customers are always asking us what they need to get started, which is why we have different packages available, from the Tailgater Package to get you started with burgers and dogs to the EggHead Package that includes the ConvEGGtor and Cast Iron Grid."



When investing in a Big Green Egg grilling device, you can have peace of mind that you are taking home the highest quality cooker for the past 40 years since it was patented and introduced to the public.

According to Reading, knowing where to go to obtain the right equipment and grilling accessories is an "eggcellent" start to grilling success. But she also explains that your grilling goals play a large part in the direction you might want to go when investing your time and money.

"We have found that no two customers are alike when it comes to the Big Green Egg. It all depends on what you will be cooking or smoking and the 'eggcessories' that you will need. Whether it be pizza wedges to turn the Big Green Egg into a brick oven pizza, rib racks to smoke the perfect barbecue ribs, vertical chicken roasters to cook that perfectly brined chicken, or the rotisserie to perfectly roast your favorite cut of meat, there is an 'eggcessory' for you."

Finishing Touches

To truly make your outdoor space feel like an extension of your home and your happy





place, it's recommended to add a few personal touches. Invest in additional furniture like a sectional or lounge chairs for after-dinner socializing. Add a bubbling fountain or cozy fire pit to boost the ambiance and add to the overall experience. Finally, install some custom art panels or pieces and colorful planters to separate and define spaces.

With the increased time people are spending at home, the outdoor space will continue to be an important part of the home experience even past the summer season. "Just by simply adding a roof over an existing deck or an awning, you can make a true outdoor room and entertaining place to enjoy the outside for more than that just four or five months," adds Stalker.

"An outdoor kitchen can often be used year-round if they're designed right; also including patio and screen shades can help with this," says Weeks Rossitto.



As spending more time at home has become the new normal, outdoor living and entertaining are likely to continue. These new outdoor kitchens add a new and enticing dimension to the home. Planning the ultimate outdoor entertaining space for your home takes thoughtful consideration. But with so many options to choose from, it's easy to truly customize your outdoor areas to fit any and all of your needs. H&H

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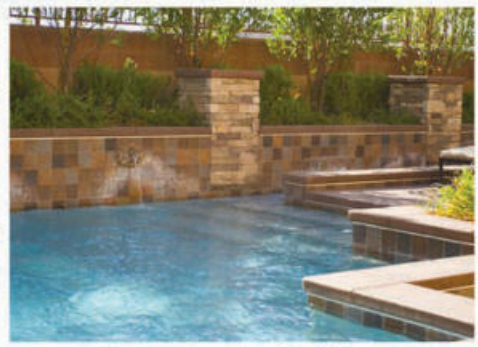
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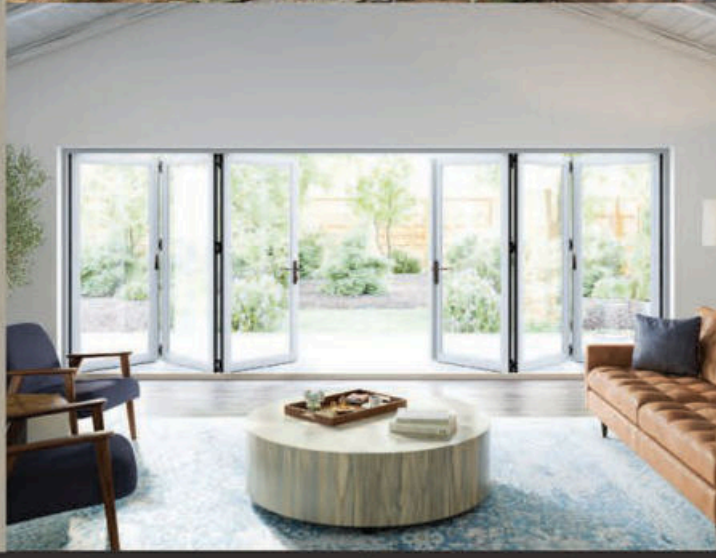
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