

inside OUT

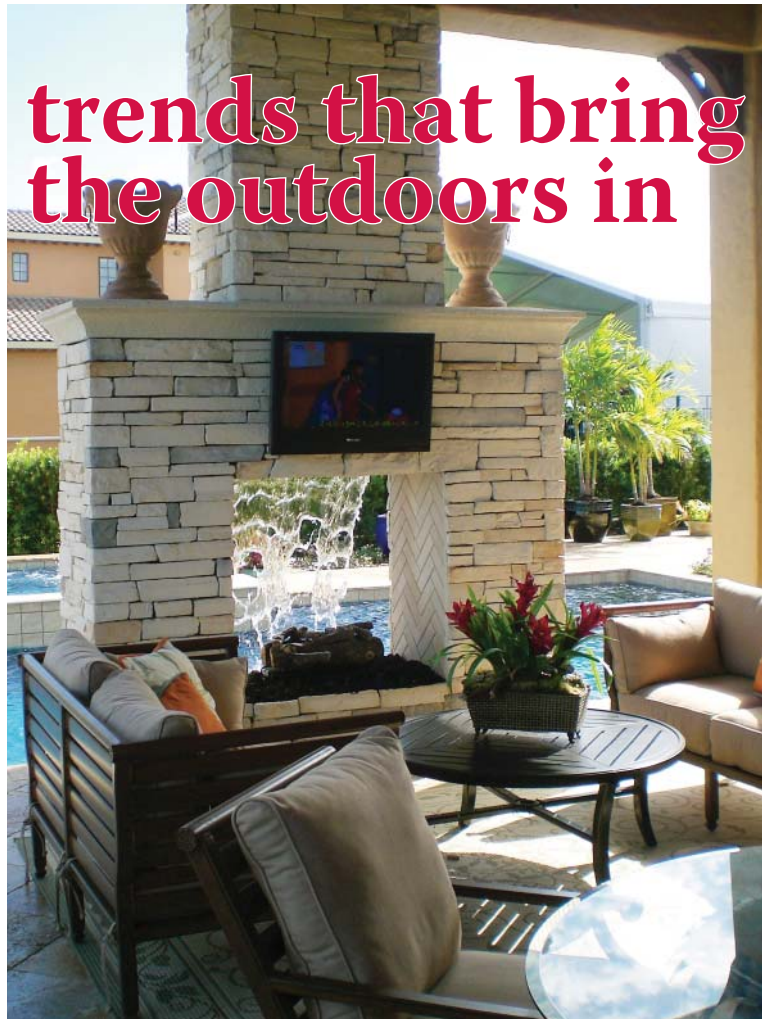
Among the many new trends in home design,

blending the outdoors with the indoors is high on several home buyer preference lists. In a recent Better Homes & Gardens online survey, 68% of future homebuyers preferred outdoor grilling and living areas in their new home. But that's not all. Outdoor living areas also rank high on return for investment and they improve a home's resale value. Popular trends in floor plan design actually happen outside the walls-fantastic outdoor spaces that are both useful and appealing, especially when they create pleasing scenery when you look out of your windows. Plan your outdoor living spaces for your enjoyment - but be sure to plan them well.

Not Just a Leftover Slab Consider your outdoor living space as an extension of your family room or kitchen, and design it as you would any other room in your home. First, decide how you want to use your outdoor space - whether it should be covered, an open yard or deck space - then consider the furniture you need or the features you want to make that space work. Arrange the furniture intimately, conducive for conversations. Orient the furniture toward focal points like a fireplace, a water feature, a panoramic view, feature landscaping or even an outdoor television.

Acknowledge the daily sun positions during the course of a day and during each season. The ceiling over your sitting or eating settings should be at an appropriate height to shade them from a blinding sun and to avoid fabric fading, yet not be too high which can cause your furniture to get soaked from the rain.

trends that bring the outdoors in



Food Network At get-togethers, everyone seems to flock to where the food and the drink coolers are. Outdoor kitchens and detached cabanas - some complete with a gas grill, bar top and refrigerator-are still very popular. Gas grills are getting larger and more sophisticated and include desirable features such as



Wolf & Sub-Zero Outdoor Appliances

easy-to-light methods, interior lights, exterior temperature read-outs and high heat searing stations that assist in cooking the perfect cut of meat or roasted vegetable. Companies like Sub-Zero and Wolf are manufacturing products that are approved for outdoor usage such as undercounter refrigerators, warming ovens, ice machines, and hoods for ventilation.

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Years of research in custom home design, home building and remodeling has led Tony Weremeichik, Principal of Canin Associates' Architectural Design Studio, to be a strong advocate for home buyers and home owners to get the best design and construction value for their money. He leads clients and builders through a well-orchestrated design process that provides his clients with the utmost attention and creative design solutions. Tony can be reached at tweremeichik@canin.com or visit his company's website at www.canin.com.



Fire Table

also use accent foliage to mark a view terminus. Add elemental features to your outdoor environment like fire, water and sound. Popular new outdoor features include gas fire tables for you to enjoy the warmth and glow of a fire while being with company. Swimming pools are still desirable on hot summer days, even if they are smaller ones, and a hot tub with massaging jets can be relaxing after a hard day of work. Waterfalls and fountains offer ambient animation and soothing tranquility. To add mood to your time outdoors, pipe your favorite music from your iPod dock through outdoor speakers - some are cleverly disguised as rocks. Keep items like these in mind when dreaming up your ideal outdoor living spaces. Even if outdoor features may be unaffordable now, pre-plan for them during the design phase so you can possibly add them in the future.

Throw it Open Don't think of the outdoors as a separate part of your home. Rather, think of it as part of the square footage of your home and blend the outdoors with the indoors by minimizing or eliminating the visual and physical barriers between the two. Aluminum sliding glass doors, although affordable, are being substituted with trendy folding glass doors (doors that open like bi-fold doors on closets). They can open



Inside Outrageous: NanaWall Grand Transformations

fully to maximize the openings in the wall in order to provide a better sense of openness. Some openings in new modern homes are even being equipped with overhead garage doors with glass panels – when they are open, they too provide a feeling of expansiveness and allow visual continuity from the inside to the outside. Full glass walls are actually growing in popularity in contemporary designs. If full glass walls are unaffordable, consider placing the tops of your windows and doors at 8 feet above the floor rather than the usual 6 feet 8 inches; this will make the openings taller, expand the view and it allows more daylight in.

Live and Laugh Enhance your outdoor environment with the right landscape to stir the senses. Add elements that you can see, smell and hear. The right plants can add visual excitement or pleasant aromas. Use plants effectively to screen undesirable views like neighbors' homes, utilities or air conditioner condensing units. You can

Roll it Down Living outdoors isn't enjoyable with pests like mosquitoes or flies about. So retractable screens are also a new trend for outdoor living spaces. These screens, which can be motorized, are hidden inside part of the beam and they roll down between columns to the floor to close off a back patio or a front porch from pests. Some screen colors and styles offer protection from the sun's ultraviolet rays and some even hold in cool conditioned air.



Phantom Retractable Screens

Outdoor spaces require special design attention and creativity to make them truly useful and enjoyable - it all depends on what you can dream up and what you can afford. Don't be afraid to envision your outdoor living space as a replication of your favorite getaway whether it is a woody hiking trail, a Caribbean resort or even a Zen garden. An experienced home design professional with a landscape designer should be able to help you bring your vision to reality. Keep in mind that your outdoor living spaces should be designed to tolerate climatic conditions in order to fully enjoy this rediscovered extra square footage of your home though all seasons. ●

about our firm

Canin Associates believes great ideas and great placemaking merge when connections are made to the regional context, vernacular architecture and the cultural heritage of a region. Our 25-person, 29-year old interdisciplinary firm of idea-based professionals is committed to creating sustainable resort and mixed-use communities that enrich the quality of life and are wonderful places to live, work or visit.

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