

home design guide

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Inside OUT Trends in outdoor living



Among many of the new trends in home design, blending the outdoors with the indoors is high on several home buyer preference lists. In fact, Better Homes and Gardens conducted a recent online survey of future home buyers and 68% preferred an outdoor grilling and living area in their new home.

Outdoor living areas also rank high on return for investment and improves a home's resale value. Popular trends in floor plan design actually happen outside the walls - the outdoor spaces that must be designed to be useful and appealing when looking out your windows. Plan your outdoor space for your enjoyment - but make sure to plan it well.

Not Just a Leftover Slab

Consider your outdoor living space as an extension of your living room and design it as you would any other room in your home. First, decide how you will use your outdoor room - covered areas, open yard or deck space - then consider the furniture setting in that space. Arrange the furniture intimately, conducive to conversations. Orient the furniture toward focal points like an outdoor television, gas fireplace, water features or a panoramic view. Acknowledge the daily sun paths in summer and winter and be sure the ceiling is at an appropriate height to shade your area from the blinding sun but not too high which may cause your furniture to get wet from the rain.

Live and Laugh

Some of the most popular new features for outdoor living spaces include fire tables and bar tops that invite intimate conversations with friends and family. Of course, everyone enjoys a pool on a hot summer day, and a hot tub can be relaxing after a hard day of work. Keep items like these in mind when dreaming up your ideal outdoor living space. Outdoor furniture manufacturers are creating come

very inventive and comfortable new products, like outdoor beds with cushions and fabrics that are durable and last against the elements. Hammocks are back in vogue and they are ideal to cool off with natural breezes in hot climates.

Open Up

Don't think of the outdoors as a separate part of your home. Rather, blend it with the indoors by minimizing the visual and physical barriers between the two. Aluminum sliding glass doors, although affordable, are being replaced with folding glass doors (doors that open like bi-fold doors on closets). They can fully open to maximize the openings in the wall to provide a better sense of openness.

Outdoor spaces require extra design attention and creativity to make them truly useful and enjoyable. These spaces should be designed with the right climatic conditions in mind in order to fully enjoy this rediscovered extra square footage of your home through all seasons.

Do you have questions about home design or remodeling?



Contact Tony at twereimeichik@canin.com or visit his company's website at www.canin.com.

Years of research in custom home design, remodeling and home building 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.