

Creating the Perfect Outdoor Oasis

WRITER | KATELYNN SCOTT
PHOTOS | DECORATING DEN INTERIORS

As the weather warms up and the sun shines brighter, it's time to start thinking about outdoor entertaining. Whether you have a small balcony or a spacious backyard, maximizing your outdoor living space can create a perfect summer oasis for relaxation, parties and family gatherings. Here are some tips to help you create an inviting and functional outdoor area for summer entertainment.

Create Zones to maximize space and create a multifunctional outdoor living area. You can designate different zones for cooking, dining and relaxation. For example, you can use an outdoor rug to define a seating area and a fire pit to create a cozy atmosphere for guests to gather around. Adding plants and trees also helps separate different areas while adding privacy and natural beauty.

Lighting can make all the difference when it comes to outdoor entertainment. Adding ambient light can create a warm and inviting atmosphere for your guests, and it can also add a touch of magic to your outdoor space. String lights, lanterns and candles are great ways to add soft lighting to your outdoor area, while landscape lighting can create a beautiful backdrop for your summer evenings.

Outdoor Cooking in the summer provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the warm weather and fresh air while whipping up delicious meals. Having a full outdoor kitchen with a built-in grill, refrigerator, sink and countertop space can provide a complete cooking and dining experience. However, even a simple setup with a portable grill and some prep space can be a great option for those with smaller outdoor spaces or those who just want a more basic setup.



ADDING PLANTS AND TREES HELPS SEPARATE DIFFERENT AREAS WHILE ADDING PRIVACY AND NATURAL BEAUTY.

Seating plays a key role in an outdoor living space. It's important to provide seating options that are both functional and comfortable so your guests can relax and enjoy the space. There are many different types of outdoor seating to choose from depending on the size and style of your outdoor space. For a cozy conversation area, consider investing in comfortable armchairs or a plush sofa. Adding accent pillows and throw blankets can also provide extra comfort and make the space feel even cozier.

Water Features can add a peaceful and tranquil element to your outdoor space. Whether you choose a small fountain or a full-scale pool, there are numerous options available to suit your space, budget and preferences. A small fountain or birdbath can be an excellent choice for those with limited outdoor spaces. For those with larger outdoor spaces, a pool or hot tub can provide a luxurious backyard retreat for family and friends.

Outdoor Entertainment such as music, games and outdoor movies can create a fun and inviting atmosphere for your guests. It can also help to break the ice and encourage people to socialize and have a good time. A wide range of outdoor entertainment options are available from a basic Bluetooth speaker to a complete outdoor movie theater setup. A simple game of horseshoes or cornhole can also be a great way to keep guests entertained and create a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

Maintenance of your outdoor living areas is essential so your space stays functional and inviting throughout the summer. Regular cleaning and upkeep can help prevent damage and prolong the life of your outdoor furniture. Adding covers to your furniture and investing in weather-resistant materials can also help protect your outdoor living space from the elements.

Maximizing your outdoor living space for summer entertainment is all about creating a functional and inviting space for family and friends. From zoning your space and adding lighting to incorporating outdoor cooking and water features, there are many ways to make the most of your outdoor living space. With these tips, you'll be able to create the perfect summer oasis for relaxation, parties and family gatherings. □