

MAY/JUNE 2013

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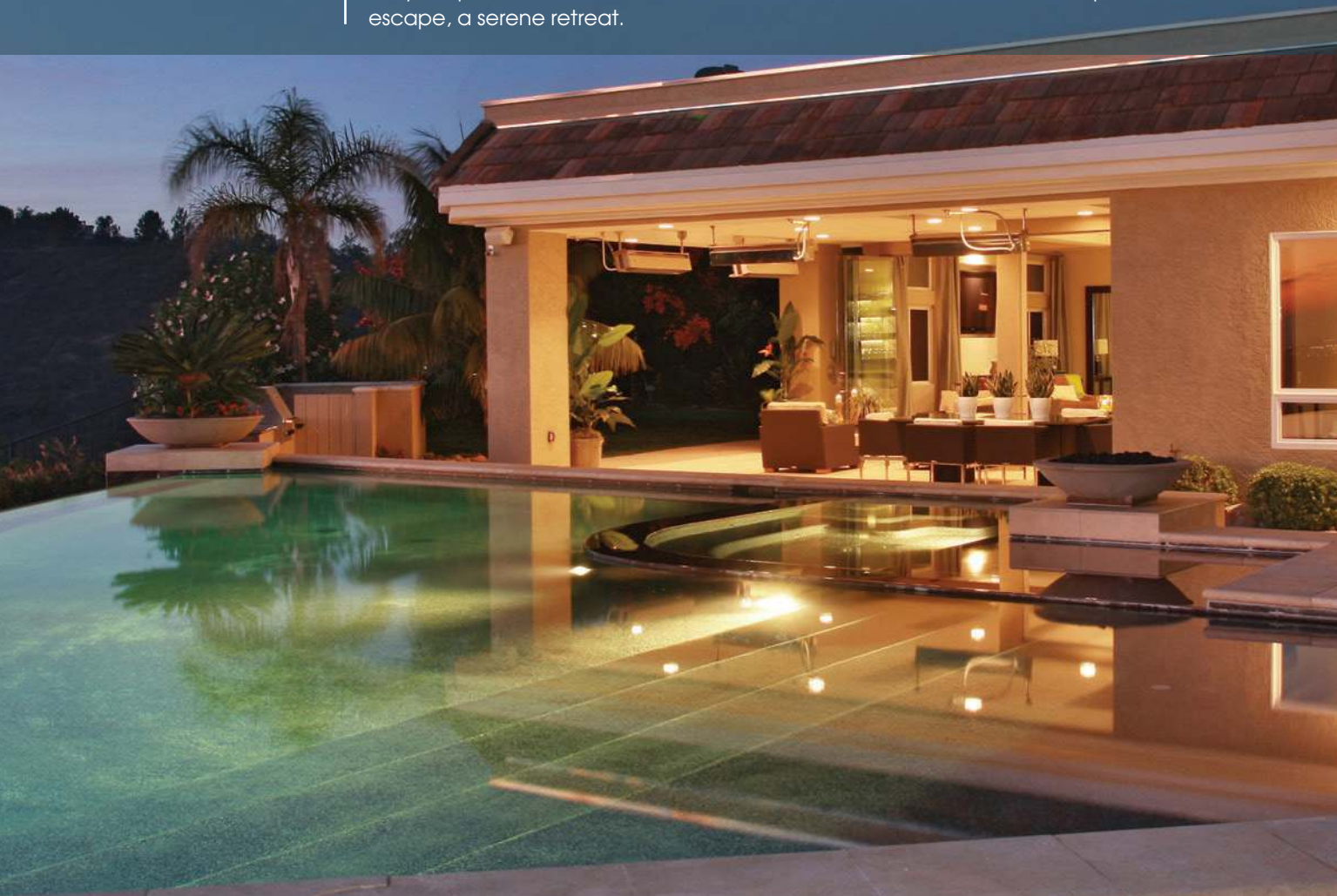
Four pages of inspiration

by Nina Patel

WHETHER YOU LIVE IN SEATTLE OR SARASOTA, outdoor living is hot. And the trend is only growing.

According to Craig Durosko, founder of McLean, Va.-based Sun Design, outdoor living is part of a larger trend of homeowners tailoring their homes to suit their lifestyle. Durosko says his clients are asking for outdoor spaces that will be part of everyday living and places for bonding and experiences. "They want to create memories," he says.

Unlike a kitchen or bathroom remodel, an outdoor space is purely a "want," says Todd Jackson, of Jackson Design & Remodeling in San Diego. "You're drawn to a lifestyle—picturing yourself out there on a warm summer night." Similar to the popularity of spa-like master suites, homeowners want their outdoor area to provide an escape, a serene retreat.





POOLSIDE RETREAT



7 TIPS TO OUTDOOR BLISS

Designing an efficient outdoor living space is a daunting task. Here are seven tips to help you create a successful project.

1. Create a board on Pinterest or a folder in Houzz to save your favorite outdoor images. Even if they're expensive projects, you can find an element or feature for your project.
2. Expand seasonal use of outdoor space by building a screen porch or adding an under-deck drainage system so you can use the space below the deck in the rain.





7 TIPS TO OUTDOOR BLISS (CONTINUED)

3. Stand outside and look around to see the view from a potential patio or deck. You might have to use landscaping to hide your parked car or a neighbor's house to create the retreat you want.
4. Adding outdoor lighting will make your view from the inside more expansive. In some areas of the country, building code requires lighting for outdoor stairs.
5. Start looking at furniture early to make sure it fits in your new space.
6. Water features are not only beautiful and contribute to a spa-like feel, they also create a white noise that can block out traffic sounds.
7. Make sure appliances such as refrigerators or dishwashers are designed for the outdoors.



OUTDOOR OASIS





GRAND SPACES



But exactly how do you go about creating the right outdoor space? Designer Adrienne Nienkamp with Mosby Building Arts in St. Louis, Mo. starts by asking her clients how they want to use the space. Based on this information, she can create an outdoor family room or include fireplaces, grills, and different features throughout the yard to create a good flow for entertaining.

When homeowners are taking down the walls between the living, dining and kitchen areas, they also see the possibilities of improving the backyard. Durosko tells his clients to think about the sight lines from inside the home to the backyard, as well as from the outdoors in. For example, if you're adding a deck, a railing might obstruct your view of the yard.

Durosko sometimes recommends lowering a second-floor deck or moving it away from the house if it's going to block natural light to the basement below. Jackson adds skylights to patio roofs to maintain the flow of natural light to

interior rooms. Many homeowners also want sight lines from the kitchen to the swing set or pool so they can watch the kids play.

The kitchen is usually a priority and the hub of the house, so Durosko recommends that when clients are remodeling it, they think about traffic flow for everyday and for how they entertain. He often recommends that they enhance the entryway from the kitchen to the outdoor areas.

Outdoor finishes and products are important elements of the outdoor room, and lately they have gotten an upgrade from the pressure-treated lumber and aluminum sunrooms of the past, Durosko explains. Trim and materials should be low-maintenance and match the house's exterior finishes.

Though Jackson works on high-end projects, he says the price points of luxury outdoor materials have decreased, making them more affordable for more homeowners. Popular options include folding glass doors that open com-

pletely, glass deck railings, stainless steel grills, heaters, and furniture.

The outdoor living trend has replaced the theater rooms that were popular 10 years ago. And though the spaces are popular with almost every demographic, Jackson says these types of projects are often more male-driven than the interior. "It's like a man cave without the cave. ■

