

American Dream Homes

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UNIQUE DESIGNER
HOME PLANS

PLUS 3 IDEA-PACKED
SHOW HOMES

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LIVING TRENDS

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The intricately tiled table—a hot outdoor trend—and wrought iron chairs were custom made by a local artisan in Los Cabos, Mexico, while the fabric donning the chair cushions is by Giati. (Opposite) This table, too, was custom crafted, but the chairs are by Kreiss Collection.

Thankfully, the outdoor furnishing realm has come a long way since the days of splintery-wood picnic tables and plastic-strapped lawn chairs, with modern motifs making open-air rooms that rival their interior counterparts. “In the ‘80s, everybody felt that the outside was ‘outside,’” says Espinet, owner and senior designer of San Jose del Cabo, Mexico-based Interiors by Sandra Espinet. “Now we have outdoor rugs, which we never had

Exterior Motives

Outdoor design doyenne dishes on fetchingly foolproof (and entirely fab!) furnishings for dolling up your outer sanctum.
By Alison Rich

With the vast inventory of to-die-for furnishings, flowy fabrics, and fun frills on the market today (including stuff you’d never dream of displaying outside), the sky’s the limit for outfitting your out-of-doors living environment. So how do you best navigate this back-to-nature bounty and pick the perfect props for your terrace-turned-living room? Well, thanks to internationally renowned design expert Sandra Espinet, prettifying up your patio can be an easy, breezy undertaking if you follow a few important pointers. Here we present Espinet’s artful advice for fashioning a sure-to-please space that will radiate style from the inside out.

before, we decorate the outside with cabana curtains—[there are] all kinds of things now to create patios that look like living rooms.”

What’s particularly popular for fashioning an alluring alfresco ambiance, according to Espinet? Pocket doors that, when slid open, create an airy pass-through from the interior living space to the exterior one. Another hot trend: cabana curtains. “A lot of homes we’re doing right now have outdoor curtains,” she says. “If the sun is in a certain area of the pavilion, you can close them. And it also helps to create that [feeling of being] a part of the inside.”

An oversized orbit chair that spins and comes with billowy pillows and its own canopy is a decadent way to deck out your alfresco den, Espinet says. “It’s so comfortable,” she says. “We’ve

