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OUTDOOR LIVING TRENDS/KITCHEN & BATH SINKS & FAUCETS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF KBIS

**Rising Star Navigates Guest Editor Issue
Bathroom & Kitchen Trends from Milan
Blending Indoor & Outdoor Living**

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Connecting to Nature

The outdoor living movement advances in personalization and innovative materials

WITH SMART DEVICES, HIGH CONNECTIVITY AND THE POPULARITY OF WORKING REMOTELY, the home is no longer separate from the busy world. Homeowners

looking for a way to unplug are finding that escape in their own backyards.

“We live in a very active, connected culture with lifestyles that are often dominated by our hand-held devices,” said Sue Nadolski, director of business development for Eldorado Stone’s Outdoor Living Division. “It’s understandable that many people are seeking to renew their connections to the natural world by spending more time outdoors. How this expresses itself in each space is as unique as the person or family that will be using it.”

Advancements in technology and materials have made it possible for consumers to create spaces that better reflect them. Most homeowners look for not only a personalized getaway but also a place to entertain with all the comforts of the indoors at hand.

“Planning an outdoor living area requires research, planning, creativity, know-how and a heavy dose of patience,” said Kerrie Kelly, founder of Sacramento, Calif.-based Kerrie Kelly Design Lab and brand ambassador for Coyote Outdoor Living. “Outdoor living spaces offer a great place to entertain, relax, capture more storage space and the opportunity to be more adventurous when cooking and welcoming guests to your home.”

ABOVE The Coyote Firetable powered by Blazing Beats from **COYOTE OUTDOOR LIVING** is a visual and auditory experience enhanced by flames dancing in synchronized movement with music. Blazing Beats incorporates a gas fire burner assembly linked directly to a self-contained, integrated speaker system and Bluetooth audio system.

ABOVE RIGHT WoodForm Concrete Tables from **JM LIFESTYLES** are made of a lightweight engineered composite that looks like wood and acts like stone. They will not split, crack, splinter, stain or rot, and multiple color choices, edge details and accessories are available.

RIGHT Designed by Franco Sargiani for **FANTINI**, the newest version of the Milano Slim Outdoor Shower features a brushed stainless steel shower column and wood support, built on the same 60-mm base module as the rest of the collection. This outdoor version is weather resistant and available in either half or full teak.

BY ERINN LOUCKS

WHY OUTDOOR SPACES?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average American spends about 87 percent of their life indoors – including five percent in a car. Because of the prominence of computer-based jobs and offices, most have little choice but to add to this statistic. This puts a strain on mental and physical health, and consumers are searching for a solution.

“Our bodies were created to be outside and moving, not sitting at desks for eight hours a day,” said Kelly. “Outdoor living spaces bridge the gap between our indoor spaces and nature and allow us to enjoy rich, resort-like experiences at home.”

A seamless transition between the indoors and outdoors not only makes an outside space more usable on a daily basis but also can bring more natural light inside. This type of area also adds valuable square footage to a home without a costly addition.

“Consumers want to be able to combine their outdoor space with the indoor floor plan, blending the two into one entertaining area,” said Matt Thomas, marketing manager at NanaWall Systems. “It offers fresh air ventilation, natural daylight and more room for guests.”

WHAT HOMEOWNERS WANT

In this extension of their interior, clients today are looking for more than just a place to unwind; they also want a personalized space. New products, including fire features, cooking appliances and certain technologies, can enhance this.

“To create the full outdoor living experience, we’re seeing homeowners incorporate a larger variety of options and activities into their spaces,” said Stephen Schroeter, senior vice president of sales, marketing and administration for Napoleon. “Increasingly, homeowners want to bring the comfortable, indoor living experience to the outdoors, so almost anything typically indoors is now migrating to the outdoor living experience.”

Depending on the client’s lifestyle, options like a bar, a large TV or even an outdoor pool table can be incorporated and used regularly for entertaining, watching a big game or just socializing.

Fire features, particularly gas-fired options that emit less smoke, are especially popular for lighting ambiance. Unconventional and personalized additions – like a yoga garden or a bocce court – are more easily included outside because of the versatility of a backyard. Consumers are also installing nontraditional, built-in cooking options that cannot work or fit inside, such as a tandoor oven, a smoker or a flat-top grill.

“Food is also driving the trends we’re seeing in outdoor kitchens,” said Russ Faulk, chief designer and head of product for Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet. “Homeowners are craving authenticity in their cooking, so they are gravitating toward products like dedicated wood-fired grills, smokers and pizza ovens with intense heat.”

TECHNOLOGY’S PLACE

The outdoor kitchen and living space might be intended as a place to unplug, but that doesn’t mean technology is lacking. Instead, items like speakers, outdoor theaters and televisions are designed to be easily disguised. These elements can create ambiance for an outdoor event and offer more versatility for the space – enticing homeowners to spend more time outside.

“Technology can definitely enhance the outdoor living experience, especially if it contributes to ease of use and improves upon memorable moments,” said Schroeter, explaining that products like wireless digital thermometers that monitor food or a gas fireplace can allow the host to spend less time cooking and cleaning and more time enjoying their guests.

Recent lighting features, particularly LEDs, are other technological advancements that add both atmosphere and safety to the outdoors. The right lighting will brighten up steps or debris on the ground, which helps limit falls. Fixtures for



ABOVE The Sherwood Wood-Burning Fireplace from **ELDORADO STONE** has an Isokern firebox interior made from volcanic pumice, which is one the safest and most energy-efficient materials for holding flames. This signature piece assembles in less than half the time of traditional masonry block installations and without the mess and waste required by those techniques.

BELOW The Ultimate Multi-Slide Door from **MARVIN WINDOWS AND DOORS** features a flush sill that meets ADA threshold criteria and a multi-point lock for extra security. Available in sizes up to 56 feet wide and 12 feet high, the door is available in IZ3 certification and meets or exceeds a LC-PG50 rating. *Photo courtesy of Marvin Windows and Doors*



the outdoors have expanded in variety and style; more decorative options like sconces, bollards and pendants can complete an environment.

“The night provides the opportunity to feature interest and texture by [how] you illuminate objects in their environment,” said Robert Sonneman, founder of Sonneman – A Way of Light. “Bright light shone into a black space creates a high degree of harsh, high contrast. Subtle light reflected off architectural textures, trees, plants and rocks provides dramatic visual richness in the surrounding darkness.”

ENDURING MATERIALS

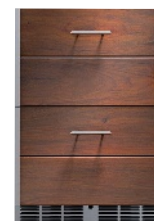
When incorporating an outside living area, one of the most important considerations is the choice in materials. Even if the project is in an ideal outdoor environment, everything needs to include extremely durable and low-maintenance features.

“When a client is thinking about a renovation, I always encourage him or her to make sure not to skimp on materials – this may mean building a deck with a compost material over wood or using a higher-quality stone for a patio,” said Chip Wade, owner of Atlanta-based WadeBuilt, a design and construction firm. “In the long run, investing in the right materials will save money down the line.”

Options that use heavy-grade stainless steel, a strong fiber and resin or are available with a cover provide longevity in outdoor spaces. According to Jared Becker, vice president of design and marketing for Walker Zanger, porcelain tile is at the forefront of flooring materials for the outdoors because of its durability and ability to mimic other materials.

“In terms of floor tile, homeowners are searching for a low-maintenance, lasting tile that includes an anti-slip option for outdoor use,” said Becker.

If the budget allows, including a protective ceiling like a pergola or creating a partially enclosed California room will also add value to the home. Including these shielding measures is especially important in more extreme environments, where despite the challenges, more homeowners are requesting outdoor spaces.



The Arcadia Series of cabinetry from **KALAMAZOO OUTDOOR GOURMET** features four clearly defined boards in either oiled ipe wood or powder-coated stainless steel. The ends of each cabinet are capped in brushed stainless steel, tying the overall look to the company’s stainless steel outdoor cooking appliance line.



The **ANGLEPOISE** Original 1227 Giant Outdoor Floor Lamp features marine-grade stainless steel fittings and knurled bespoke adjuster wheels, a sealed light unit and a durable silicone rubber cable. This statement piece comes in six standard colors, along with custom color and finish options. *Photography by Alexandra Davies*



Designed by Mario Ruiz, the Paloma Teak Lounge Chair from **RESTORATION HARDWARE** offers broad, beveled planes and crisp lines for a sculptural, geometric composition. The chair is made of eco-friendly and durable teak, and the cushions come in a choice of fabrics that resist mildew, stains and fading.



The **ABIMIS** Outdoor Kitchen uses AISI 316 stainless steel, which is resistant to water, sudden temperature changes and general atmospheric agents. This outdoor kitchen can be customized in every detail, including choice of appliances, the height and depth of the worktop and the finishes.



VINOTEMP has announced the addition of the 41-Bottle Outdoor Wine Cooler to its outdoor entertaining appliance offering. This outdoor wine storage solution features adjustable shelving, a customizable 31-degree temperature range and is front vented for easy installation.



The Bera & Beren Collection from **WALKER ZANGER** offers a complete solution for porcelain flooring in both indoor and outdoor projects. Available in natural and structured finishes in both standard and large sizes across a range of neutral colors, the collection mimics fine-grain Portuguese and Spanish limestone.



Trends

“These clients will want to design with attention to their particular extremes,” said Gregory Thomas, Eugene, Ore.-based architect and design consultant with the Neil Kelly Co. “In the Southwest, designing to work with prevailing breezes can help with cooling an outdoor space. In the Northeast, designing to block cold winds and providing convertible wall panels that can be put in place seasonally will add warmth during the shoulder seasons.”

THE FUTURE OF THE OUTDOOR SPACE

With a larger variety of climates and demographics considering outdoor spaces, the trend of creating more spaces unique to the client will continue. Homeowners in urban areas will look for ways to include outdoor experiences in smaller spaces, and more traditionally indoor activities – like watching sports – will move outside. Manufacturers will likely continue catering to requests for more personalization, including finishes and looks that usually appear inside.

“We used to see a very narrow range of styles and selection of materials and finishes, but the outdoor kitchen designs of today have never been stronger or more diverse,” said Faulk. “The range of design styles is broader than it has ever been.”

Highly durable materials that emulate more delicate ones, like wood-look porcelain tile for the outdoors, will advance in detail and accuracy. Advances in temperature control, like the ability to circulate some of the indoor heating or air conditioning to a protected outdoor space, are also likely. This will allow more consumers of all environments to enjoy the outdoors more.

“From an electric grill on a cart with a bistro set, to a full-blown kitchen design that ties into a pool, lounge and covered dining area, outdoor living is versatile, fun and the new hub of the home,” said Kelly. “Outdoor spaces encourage authentic engagement among family and friends and a new level of wellness for all who partake.”

LEFT NANAWALL SYSTEMS introduces Kitchen Transition – a dual-height combination of the company’s opening glass windows and walls – now with the new RemoteSTACK feature. This addition allows designers and homeowners to stack the glass wall systems virtually anywhere.

MIDDLE LEFT SONNEMAN – A WAY OF LIGHT’s Offset Panels offer shielded LED illumination that reflects dramatically off the slightly hidden, offset surfaces of this layered composition, which is at home inside or out. The fixture is available in textured bronze, textured gray and textured white.

BELOW NAPOLEON’s OASIS Modular Island enables homeowners to personalize their outdoor kitchen area with a cooking and storage solution that fits a variety of spaces and budgets. The kitchen includes knockouts for easy electrical and gas piping installations, 304 stainless steel doors and powder-coated steel in a carbon finish with a two-coat pebbling system.

