

Make Your Outdoor Spaces Shine

The outdoor living space in the backyard was trending already, but it immediately went to the top of the checklist for essential items for every home when the pandemic arrived.

All the usual gathering places — restaurants and bars — were closed. The only place to meet up was someone's house, and medical experts said outdoor venues provided the least risk of transmission. Pinterest went wild with outdoor patio ideas, which double as beneficial to the value of the home.

“Anything that is an extension of your home, an extra living area, place to sit and enjoy the yard is added value to your home,” said Bethany Vaughn, a Realtor at Compass in Fort Worth, Texas. “If that involves having a barbecue area, fire pit or a bar area, all of those things can happen in the same area. Your main focus is really just having an extension of your home, adding an outdoor living space of some description with seating.”

THE STANDARDS

The days of the old, bulky Curtis Mathis television tube are a thing of the ancient past.



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REAL ESTATE 101

Outdoor Living Spaces Can Boost Home Value

Additions like patios and decks, fire pits and outdoor kitchens, and even swimming pools, you can improve the chances of selling your home for more and (in some cases) quicker. To learn more about creating value with outdoor living spaces, visit bit.ly/3cCQGOK.

You can hang these newfangled flat screens anywhere, including on the backyard patio. Watching college football outside on a beautiful day is an ideal fall day. Technology has also made them with anti-glare and weather resistance.

Modern outdoor spaces feature entire kitchens,

including small refrigerators, cooktops and sinks outdoors. Modern outdoor kitchen appliances also tend to come in stainless steel, since that makes the appliances more resistant to the weather and other wear and tear. A common design aesthetic is to put stainless steel in stone or

brick. The rustic stone and modern stainless steel combination creates interesting contrast. The stone also helps anchor the appliances in place and gives them a more outdoorsy look.

If you have an outdoor kitchen, you might as well include an outdoor dining

space, many of which look as if they belong indoors. Except these are built to stand up to Mother Nature's intrusions. With so many options surrounding space and materials, the outdoor dining space is customizable.

HIGH-TECH PATIO

The TV and theater system aren't the only possible outdoor tech add-ons.

Designers always advise to make sure every interior room is properly lit. Well, light up your patio with a smart lighting system. You can also avoid unsightly light fixtures by utilizing lighting products in natural colors that blend perfectly with the landscaping of your yard. Increase your energy efficiency with smart light bulbs, and better yet, control the lighting of your entire yard using your smartphone or the home's control panel.

Every gathering demands some music. Equip your most excellent patio with a smart audio system that can keep track of your favorite music apps and play them on command. What's outdoor relaxation or a party without good music? Equip your patio with a smart audio system that keeps track of your favorite music apps and plays them on command. You might want to listen to the game while grilling, but the kids need a Disney playlist while in the pool.



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HOMESWISE GLOSSARY

FHA 203k: A renovation and repair loan through the Federal Housing Authority, typically made for single family properties. SOURCE: MLS.com

AD SPACE