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BACKYARD BLISS
Here's how leading outdoor living manufacturers transform ordinary backyards into exceptional outdoor living spaces.
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ON THE COVER: A PETER SKLARIS-DESIGNED MASTERPIECE IN THE HAMPTONS. PAGE 58: COURTESY OF JEFF HOLLANDER.



THERE WAS A TIME NOT TOO LONG AGO WHEN A HOME'S LIVING SPACE WAS SET BY ITS INTERIOR

...innovation. But these days are living open. "Outdoor areas are no longer secondary thoughts," says Ryan Hughes, the president and creative director of his sustainable design firm. "Especially for our high-end customers. Making an investment in their outdoor living areas is considered as important as the indoor living."

...Innovative technology, capturing architect and eye-catching accent pieces, such as luxurious outdoor furnishings and fire elements, help our customers take the best of their living spaces. Most importantly, these spaces are designed and built to blend seamlessly with the indoors. Continuity is key.

Today, even the ground level of a backyard is viewed through the lens of an interior designer. Outdoor spaces are reserved for specific uses, much like the rooms of a house. "There are always elements for relaxation and gathering, dining, and entertaining to incorporate," says Hughes.

And that's not the beginning. Those leading outdoor living product manufacturers know what it takes to take a backyard from ordinary to exceptional, and here's how they do it.

POOLS RULE

A spectacular coastal backyard nearly always features at least one pool. Pools are not just a focal point; they also help define the shape, size, and location of other living and entertaining areas. "We approach each pool design as an extension of the overall outdoor living space," says Hughes. "And we utilize a design style that's a mix of classic and modern. The scenery is all about the strategic planning required to make the space functional. The best is about how the space makes you feel."

These days, outdoor designs in all about adding drama through architectural elements and engineering, as well as through the incorporation of innovative materials.

Hughes points to a recent multi-million-dollar project in Boca Raton, Fla., that best encapsulates these ideas. The custom-ordered outdoor space is set only a few feet from the Gulf of Mexico and features four distinct pool levels with numerous fire elements and other architectural structures.

Because the home's interior is ornate and detailed with gold leaf moldings, Hughes and his team wanted some square foot of one pool's surface with intricate designs using gold leaf accents and fire covered in white, as case gold leaf. All of which increases no more than half an inch in size. And because the interior pool's inspiration was the soothing nature of water in motion, he implemented a diverter-powered hydraulic system. "It looks like it is gently moving over surfaces all according to our direction," Hughes says. "The appearance is all still and slow moving water is flowing, in a fluid that all hydraulic plan shows via pumps moving the water at an enormous speed."



as well as lights, fans, and motorized screens. They can be operated via a smart phone app or programmed to think on their own with the aid of rain and wind sensors. "It's pretty cool to think that an outdoor structure can conform to the way you live," Selzer says, "while at the same time protecting you from the elements."

PATIO PAGEENTRY

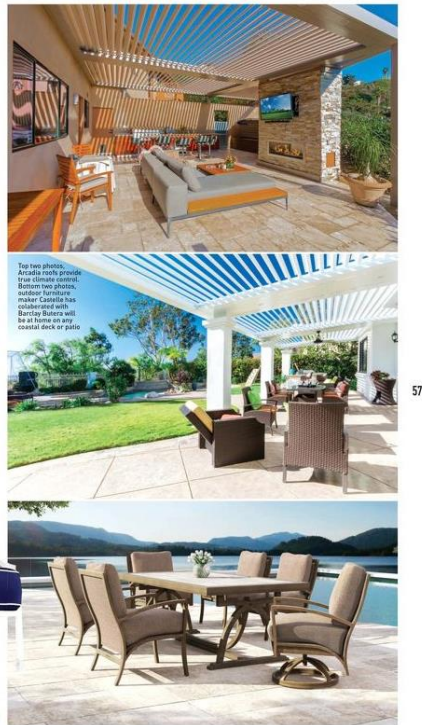
For more than four decades, Castelle has specialized in high-end and often custom-designed outdoor furniture. In any of the brand's traditional, contemporary, or transitional style categories, the furniture is made of cast and extruded aluminum and powder-coated, two features that enhance its durability. "Our contemporary collections have seen considerable growth across the last five years," says Derek Ritzel, president and CEO, "but traditional and transitional designs continue to be our foundation."

The brand has also built its reputation on regular partnerships with celebrity designers. Most recently, Castelle unveiled a new transitional style created in collaboration with **Barclay Butera**. "This collection, which is full of quality castings and tile-like designer geometric elements, has proven to be the fastest growing new introduction in Castelle's history," says Ritzel. "It is equally at home in the Northeast as it is in southern California."

CASTELLE



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT ryanhughesdesign.com, castellafurniture.com, argofurniture.com, castellafurniture.com/barclay-butera, www.outdoorliving.com, and oceanothemag.com/outdoor-living.



Top two photos: Anacapa roofs provide shade, climate control, and protection from the sun. Bottom two photos: Outdoor furniture maker Castelle has collaborated with Barclay Butera to bring a new style of outdoor living to the market.