

ALL ABOUT:  
*Outdoor*

Whether your home sits upon an expansive waterfront lot or offers just a taste of the outdoors via a sky-high terrace, there's no wrong way to enjoy a bit of fresh air, so long as you're doing it in style. Outdoor spaces represent an extension of a residence's interior and a homeowner's personal aesthetic, and as such they should be approached with just as much care and attention to detail. What do you envision for the ideal sanctuary in the sun? Regardless of size, the opportunities are nearly endless, from a cozy gathering spot with an electric fireplace or a smaller-sized fire pit to a water-lover's paradise with an infinity pool or elements like a fountain and a soaking tub. Furniture pieces for alfresco dining and lounging are a must, while manicured landscaping with the right plants sets the overall tone. Here, experts offer their tips for designing your own great outdoors.

Looking to match the home's newly remodeled, British Colonial-inspired exterior, landscape designer Keith L. Williams gave the backyard of this Palm Beach pad a cleaner, more organized look with chic chaises from McKinnon and Harris and inset pavers leading to the crisp pool refinished by Royal Palm Pools.





MICHAEL SCIGLIANO  
Designer

**Why are outdoor spaces so important in South Florida?** Outdoor living and entertaining is paramount in South Florida, so all of our projects have some sort of outdoor living component. In the case of this residence (right) we created several outdoor cooking, dining and lounging areas. We wanted to make sure that each setting fit nicely into the site plan without being too overwhelming.

**Anything trending in outdoor living?** The sky is the limit. On the electronic technology front, we have waterproof televisions, speakers, lighting and heated seating. With textiles, we now have fast-drying fabrics, area rugs and seating inserts. Everything is more durable than ever, even in our crazy Florida climate, so whatever mood the client wants to have, we can now design. There are virtually no restrictions.

**What about the furnishings?** Personally, for outdoor spaces, I try to keep my fabrics in the neutral range because I feel it's easier on the eye, and they never go out of style. Then, I like to bring in color with throw pillows and potted plants. These are easier to switch out if the client gets tired of them and wants a change.



SCIGLIANO LOGGIA PHOTO: NO. JANSSEN BOSCH FRAGALI PHOTOGRAPHY ROSUMAS.

**Left:** Designer Michael Scigliano fashioned the loggia off of the living room of this Balinese-inspired home, by architects Sergio R. Artigues and Emilio Cubero, as a party-perfect spot, complete with a barbecue bar and a conversation area with outdoor furniture from Holly Hunt, as well as a full tech package with speakers and laser lights to keep the celebrations going late into the night.

**Below:** Builder Luis Bosch crafted a smart backyard layout for a Miami Beach residence with hardscaped planes of varying heights and purposes. This tiny poolside gathering spot, for example, is welcoming and non-fussy and features an understated contemporary banquette, designed by Luciana Fragali and built by Kauri Group, with a trio of movable stools serving as coffee tables that are easily rearranged to accommodate groups both large and small.



*“PEOPLE FORGET THAT AN OUTDOOR SEATING SPACE NEEDS TO HAVE BOUNDARIES JUST LIKE AN INDOOR ROOM; IT’S HARD TO FEEL INVITING AND COZY IN A COMPLETELY OPEN SPACE.”*

—MIMI MCMARKIN, KEMBLE INTERIORS

THIS PAGE: VELEZ PHOTO: ROBIN HILL. OPPOSITE: HAVRYLEWICZ/LEBER PHOTO: KEN HAYDEN.

**Left:** Landscape designer Justine Velez used geometric slits in the hardscape for plantings to add modernity to the home's gardens. The fountain, built by Gables Pools, recalls those found in the gardens of southern Spain and does double duty as a turtle habitat, a fitting tribute to nature that continues elsewhere on the property where 70 percent of the plantings are edible.



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ESSENTIAL TIPS  
FOR DESIGNING OUTSIDE

1. Clearly define areas for different activities such as for dining, lounging or gardening. 2. Don't overcrowd the areas; allow for breathing room and space to wander. 3. Incorporate native plantings, which will appear to have grown naturally and thrive in the environment. 4. Be sure to provide cover from the sun when designing for the outdoors, so that guests will have a place to stay cool alfresco. 5. If you have a killer view, build the home around it and ensure it remains unobstructed when creating outdoor spaces.

Tasked with transforming 3 1/2 acres of Intracoastal-front land in Boca Raton, landscape architect Krent Wieland and colleague Stephanie Portus sought to create an experiential environment, where each part of the property acts like a distinct getaway—from quiet and unassuming to completely showstopping, like this blooming arched trellis path that leads to a kitchen garden.

THIS PAGE: WALSH LOGGA PHOTO; BRANTLEY PHOTOGRAPHY; AQUÍ HEADSHOT: ANA MARIA WONG HEADSHOT: KEN HAYDEN. FONT HEADSHOT: RODRIGO VARELA. OPPOSITE: WIELAND/PORTUS PHOTO; MARK ROSKANS.



Landscape designer John Walsh planted thick hedges on either side of an open loggia for added privacy for a waterfront home in Tequesta. The covered patio's nautical design, with plenty of blue and white throughout, is a nod to the home's location as well as to the design of the home's interiors by Jackie Armour.

# BRANCHING OUT

Turning exterior spaces into outdoor rooms that act as extensions of the interiors, all while curating plant materials and respecting the land, is at the crux of today's landscape design. And with the landscape architecture coming into play at the very beginning of a project, the result is a cohesive outdoor living space that holds as much importance as the architecture and interior design. Here, landscape architects lend their thoughts on how to curate such a dynamic space.

**Lewis E. Aqüi:** My design style for the outdoors is dictated by a combination of factors: The client's program or wish list, the desired architectural style, and the site-specific traits of a piece of property, all combined. The client's lifestyle and personality, and our working knowledge of art, engineering, urban planning, sustainable design, green building and horticulture mesh together to create visually pleasing and environmentally sound solutions. I try to create outdoor rooms that are interactive and personally prefer a monochromatic palette with splashes of color where needed to accentuate a space.

**Fernando Wong:** Technology has definitely changed the way people think about outdoor living. Our clients now understand that the outside is simply an extension of the rooms inside their home and creating little vignettes within that larger space makes for great places for entertaining. We have designed and built elaborate outdoor kitchens with

pizza ovens, multiple dishwashers, commercial stoves, and, of course, televisions. We have also designed outdoor theaters so clients can show the latest movies to guests as they lounge around the pool. Also, fireplaces and fire pits are just as popular with our clients down south as they are with our clients up north.

**David Font:** The increasing understanding of the importance of land stewardship, in regard to native environments and water conservation, for example, is very refreshing. The responsibility that we as landscape architects must uphold while creating planned, beautiful spaces is not always easy to convey to clients, but it's becoming an easier task. In addition, the increasing palette of products and materials that can stand up to the outdoors is very exciting. The choices we now have for hardscape, shading, lighting, furnishings, fabrics, planters and more continues to grow exponentially.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Lewis E. Aqüi, Fernando Wong, David Font



A black-bottom pool strikes a moody aesthetic in this backyard oasis by landscape designer Karla Ortiz-Colindres, a perfect complement to this Miami ranch home's midcentury vibe. The interior's sandblasted volcanic rock flooring from Piedras International continues outside in a lighter form, forming a walkway to the pool.

THIS PAGE: SAPUSEK PHOTO: MARK ROSKAMS, LITMAN/POPCAR PHOTO: JEN HAYDEN, OPPOSITE: ORTEZ-COLINDRES PHOTO: CARLOS DOMENICH.



Landscape designer Michael Sapusek created a trellised pergola, housing a spa that flows into the pool. To enhance the tropical feel, he then added plenty of greenery admired by the owners, including date and coconut palms. The site's existing oak trees were supplemented with citrus trees, palms and flowering vines.

Simplicity drove both the interior and exterior of this Golden Beach home by residential designer Martin Litman. In the backyard, a bright pop of color from the minimalist chaises on the pool deck lends a bit of fun to the all-white expanse of the home's exterior. Landscape designer Mercedes Porcari of Exoticscape stayed with the modern theme, relying on a materials palette of bamboo and river rocks for interest around the house.

