

Outdoor Living Spaces

By Jim Seiler

Getting the most out of your outdoor living space may be as simple as adding a natural stone bench, an outdoor fireplace or a water feature. Simply, when you create a function for a space you draw people to that space. From an elaborate outdoor kitchen, to a peaceful arbor with natural seating, your yard becomes more than just an extension of your home but an extension of the way you live!

At Seiler's Landscaping, one of our favorite features to add to a home is a seating area near the front door. A small living space is worked right into the landscape by adding wide stone steppers and a beautiful natural or wrought iron bench. It is a wonderful place to wait for the school bus, the mailman or a friend to arrive. It also offers a great opportunity for creative landscaping when you add a small fountain, water bubbler or a fantastic flower display. This type of area sets a tone of leisure and welcome, offering the respite we crave from our home.

Moving to the backyard area, the possibilities soar. Consider dividing your deck or patio into areas with multi levels and multi uses – eating, sunbathing, entertaining, etc. Wide inviting steps that join two levels of a deck become seats for watching backyard activities. Add large pots of bright flowers to accentuate the level changes. Ends of decks can be finished with benches for safety and generous seating. If you visited the Home and Garden show this year, you probably noticed that the outdoor fireplace has become enormously popular. Hasn't man (and woman) enjoyed sitting around a fire since the dawn of time? Watching or tending a fireplace relaxes everyone and seems to enrich conversations between spouses, parents and teens. It can be a simple put or an elaborate fireplace, but like fire, it has a magical effect!

Another personal favorite of Seiler's is to create a destination somewhere on your property. Wide deeply set stone steppers can lead you to a small handsome cedar deck or to a petite stone patio. What a perfect place for reading, meditation, practicing yoga or relaxing in a hammock. This destination spot is beautiful to look at from your home, but even better when you arrive there.

There are so many creative uses for landscaping around your home why not develop a new spot to enjoy this year and maximize the enjoyment of your "great outdoors".

Happy Planting and Remember, Green Side Up!



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