

# HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

## Bring Indoors Out With Outdoor Rooms

(NAPSA)—Many homeowners are taking the indoors outside by creating outdoor rooms where they can cook, eat, entertain and play while basking in the sunshine or gazing at the evening sky. Creating and furnishing your outdoor room is easier than you think, particularly with these simple tips:

- Be sure to use materials that can handle exposure to outdoor weather when building an outdoor kitchen. Slate is a good option for countertops, and stainless steel works well for sinks, refrigerators and grills.

- Outdoor furniture and fabrics designed to withstand the elements are a must. Performance fabrics, such as Sunbrella® brand fabrics, won't fade and resist stains and mildew. Perhaps even better, they're available in a variety of styles, from bright stripes and intricate jacquard weaves to solid colors in traditional earth tones. The latest designs incorporate the best of interior styling with outdoor performance.

- Tall plants, such as potted palms, make attractive screens, lending privacy to areas that might otherwise feel too exposed. They also can serve as a wall of sorts, separating an outdoor kitchen from an area where family members and guests can chat and relax.

- Consider using a mix of neutral colors and bright hues in fabrics and furnishings to complement both nature and your home. Pillows and other accessories can add splashes of color and change with the seasons.



- If mosquitoes and other bugs are a problem, consider screening off a section of your outdoor living space. That way you won't be forced to go inside when dusk falls.

- Performance fabrics for the outdoors have many applications, from seat cushions and market umbrellas to privacy screens and curtains. With Sunbrella fabrics you can coordinate everything in your outdoor room with the fabrics you use inside your home, due to the extensive collection of new interior Sunbrella fabrics.

- Make sure your cushions are cellular foam so that water does not get trapped inside, and by using a performance fabric, you will spend more of your time enjoying the great outdoors and less time with care and cleaning.

- Ceiling fans allow air to circulate in a screened-in porch, gazebo or any covered area, keeping temperatures comfortable even outside.

The outdoor room has been called a natural extension of America's love of being close to nature. Thanks to performance materials, appliances and fabrics, you can be just as comfortable and stylish, outside as inside your home. For more information, visit [www.sunbrella.com](http://www.sunbrella.com).