

# Decorating Trends

## New Outdoor Furnishings Focus On Stress Relief

(NAPSA)—With Americans working harder than ever, more homeowners are investing in outdoor living spaces where they can enjoy some well-deserved rest.

From sleek contemporary chaises to warm, traditional rocking chairs, this season's outdoor furnishings are designed to offer a much-needed respite from their frantic lifestyles.

"Our own porches and patios are the most easily accessible 'de-stressing' zones we have. They can replenish us in ways no other place or destination can," said Jackie Hirschhaut, vice-president of the American Home Furnishings Alliance. "If you're feeling frazzled, create an outdoor oasis you can escape to every day."

Some trends that you may spot this outdoor season include:

- **Designer labels.** Designer labels are making their way to the outdoors. For example, Vladimir Kagan, one of the most important contemporary furniture designers of the 21st century, has designed his first outdoor collection.

- **Sophisticated style.** Shoppers can now find outdoor furnishings inspired by historic places and styles. For example, The Ladies Association of Mount Vernon, the home of George and Martha Washington, has licensed a new outdoor furniture collection.

- **Colorful comfort.** From soothing blues and greens to earthy bronze and copper, top hues in outdoor furnishings this year bring an element of calm to outdoor settings, even on the duller of winter days. Manufacturers have taken a cue from their



**This beautifully crafted, stylish outdoor chaise by Lloyd Flanders offers a comfortable place to enjoy some well-deserved rest.**

indoor upholstery counterparts and begun presenting fabric options in professionally matched groupings to simplify selection.

- **Materials mix.** A new luxury fabric that combines the opulence of velvet with weather-resistant capabilities gives manufacturers the opportunity to create unprecedented extravagance in high-end outdoor fabrics.

- **Rock on.** If you want to take the pressure off, a few minutes in a rocker on your porch or patio—or perhaps your urban balcony—just might do the trick. Studies suggest the humble low-tech rocker can ease the stress and anxiety brought on by our high-pressure, high-tech lives.

- **Party on.** Backyard entertaining has never been easier with functional products such as compact outdoor kitchens, multifunctional service bars and beverage centers.

For outdoor furniture care and cleaning tips plus information on the latest outdoor furniture, visit [www.findyourfurniture.com](http://www.findyourfurniture.com).