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SEPTEMBER 2015

Outdoor Cooking: From Portable To Posh

Dining outdoors for every space, style and budget p. 60

PLUS! Hundreds of resources to help you with your home improvement projects p. 85

PLUGGED in

What Atlanta home improvement insiders want you to know p. 73

All About Hardwoods

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32nd Annual Fall
Atlanta Home Show &
Outdoor Living Expo
Official Guide
p. 39

Sept. 11-13



This month's cover is presented by:
Overhead Door of Atlanta
For more photos and garage
door details go to pages 58-59



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58 Stunning Garage Door Before & Afters

Presented by Overhead Garage Doors

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39 2015 Annual Fall Atlanta Home Show

A guide to the 32nd annual event to be held September 11-13, 2015, at the Cobb Galleria Centre

ON THE COVER: Talk about a curb appeal upgrade! These custom wood Carriage House style garage doors with stain-grade lumber were built to the exact specifications and design the customer wanted. To see more garage door makeovers, turn to pages 58 & 59. Photo courtesy of Overhead Door of Atlanta.

Photos courtesy of (top to bottom) Coyote Outdoor Living; SEMCO Productions



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Photo courtesy of Crates and Pallet



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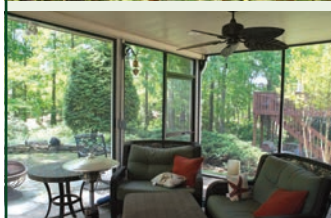


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editor's letter

A Few of My Favorites



Call it summer brain. Call it ADD.

Usually, I focus this letter on just one theme or idea. (Or some half-baked philosophy.) But this month I can't pick just one. I realized that our "Four Things You'll Learn In This Issue" list is one of my favorite things to write. So why not do a little more of that? Here are a few

of my favorite things in this issue.

Favorite #1 – Green eggs and underdecks! To an upstate New York girl like me, the notion of cooking outdoors at all (let alone investing in a permanent outdoor kitchen) initially seemed weird. But here in Atlanta, the outdoor cooking season lasts much, much longer than in my tundra homeland. So our page 60 article shows you how to make the most of this lengthy season, no matter what your space or budget constraints may be.

Favorite #2 – Steps with style. I'm lightly obsessed with the Garden Inspiration project on page 68. The landscaping, the drama of the steps, the modernity of the home itself! I just love this entire makeover so much.

Favorite #3 – DIY'ing it. Now don't get me wrong. I always love the DIY projects we feature from all the clever, cool Atlanta bloggers we meet. But this month's project on page 90 is particularly eye opening. It comes to us not from an independent blogger, but rather a company that actually sells crates and pallets intended for use in DIY projects! Did you know such a company existed? I didn't! Wait until you see what they built.

Favorite #4 – Finally, I love what we did with our flooring feature. Rather than trying to cover all types of flooring, we instead did a 'deep dive' into hardwoods. The trends, tips, types. Check it out on page 24.

P.S. Remember that the 32nd Annual Fall Atlanta Home Show & Outdoor Living Expo is happening September 11-13. Turn to page 39 for more information.

Playing favorites,

Jayne Hallock
Editor & Social Media Director

In this Issue

4 Things You'll Learn This Month

- 1 What is the least family-friendly hardwood floor? P. 24
- 2 Why should you stop wearing shoes indoors? P. 15
- 3 When is a crate...a desk? P. 90
- 4 Why not to use rubber mats on your deck! P. 67

Coming in October:

Ahhhh, **spas**. **Lap pools**, **hot tubs and more**. Even with limited outdoor space or budget, you can still transform your boring backyard into 'relaxation central!' We'll show you how.

We're also going to be talking all things lighting: the **psychological effects of lighting**, interesting new places that **chandeliers** are popping up, **new solar options** and much more. Finally, make sure you pick up this issue and use it to guide you through the fun, inspiring **NARI Tour of Remodeled Homes!**



Photo courtesy of Colonial Lighting





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editor's picks

New and notable home improvement products

For this month's Editor's Picks, we went "OTP." Way, way OTP! We visited the serenely beautiful Woodstock/Acworth area to do a little home décor and antique shopping. Here are just a few special items from just a few of the neat little shops we visited.



1. Revive Consignment

It'd be easy to miss this hip consignment store because it's tucked into a strip mall. But you shouldn't miss it! Although they also have a big clothing selection, they offer fantastic home décor and furniture at equally fantastic prices. Like this [red lounge chair](#) for \$59.99. Stop by either their Smyrna or Woodstock locations or visit [ReviveConsignment.com](#).

2. Woodstock Market

Fabulous! That's the best way to describe this huge array of home furnishings and treasures. From the sumptuous vintage couches to the funky and functional touches – like this large, [arrow-shaped \\$56 chalkboard art](#) – Woodstock Market is an absolute joy to wander through. Come see them at 5500 Bells Ferry Road or online at [WoodStockMarket.com](#).

3. Woodstock Antiques & Consignment

More mall than shop, this 25,000-square-foot space features more than 150 vendors. They offer consignment goods, vintage items (like this charming little \$75 [stainless steel box](#)) and even a "DIY paint store" where you can customize your own pieces! Visit 5643 Bells Ferry Road or [WoodstockAntiques.com](#).

4. Antiques by Samson & Delilah

This was the most straightforward, traditional 'antique' store on our shopping trip. Antiques by Samson & Delilah offers everything from antique glassware to wall hangings and tea sets. Check out the groovy 'deco' design on this darling \$38 [pitcher](#). Visit 8578 Main Street or call 770-516-4000.

5. Blue Frog Imports & Art

Like a little piece of Little Five Points, Blue Frog Imports & Art brings an earthy, rainbow vibe to Downtown Woodstock. Chock full of vivid hand-painted artwork and handcrafted metal statues, this lively little store also features outdoor pieces like this \$50 [terra cotta fountain](#). See [BlueFrogImports.com](#) or drop by their 8608 Main Street location.



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Expert Tips, News and Happenings from
Atlanta's Home Improvement Community

The 32nd Annual Fall Atlanta Home Show



Photo courtesy of SEMCO Productions

It's one of our favorite hometown traditions. It's huge. It's fun! It features celebrity appearances (like HGTV's *Curb Appeal* host John Gidding) and interactive and delicious live cooking demos. It's even got a big, beautiful new Outdoor Living Expo featuring the Red Hare Brewing Company's beer garden. It's the **32nd Annual Fall Atlanta Home Show! From September 11-13**, the Home Show will take over the **Cobb Galleria Centre**, and we can't wait to meet the thousands of homeowners and hundreds of great exhibitors who will be there. See AtlantaHomeShow.com for more information.

Take 'Em Off!



Should you or shouldn't you ask your guests to remove their shoes when they enter your home? This very Eastern idea is gaining ground here in Western society...and for good reason!

Several **studies show that there are two great reasons to not wear shoes indoors**. The first is bacteria, which we can track in when we inadvertently step in bird droppings or even simply from public restroom floors. Toxins can also be brought in via walking through chemical-laden rainwater and pavement. Take all that into consideration, and leaving your shoes at the door is a no-brainer! ▶

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Expert Q&A

Q: I am looking to refresh my home. What colors should I consider?

A: Designers don't pull color schemes out of thin air. Nor is there a list of "current popular" colors they immediately go to.

Each home is different, each room has different lighting and each client has a different idea of what colors they find pleasing. If your home is already neutral, it's easy to spruce it up with colorful accents, throw pillows and area rugs. These are affordable items that allow you to take bigger risks with colors like yellow, orange or turquoise.

If you want to paint an entire room a "new neutral," grey hues are more popular than the beige and tan of years past. You can choose more adventurous colors in wall, door, ceiling and trim colors. But you'll want the skilled eye of a professional designer to blend them. Fortunately, most designers will charge a small flat fee to consult with you in your home.



—Jessie Danielle LaFalce
& Renata Borges-McDonald,
DeCasa-Revive
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Photography by Richterkessing Photography

What Will You Salvage?

This wonderful **curated vintage show** (brought to you by The Indie Craft Experience) features vendors **selling clothing, décor, home goods, books and more** from all decades. A great way to get unique home décor while supporting local vendors! It takes place at the Yaarab Temple in Midtown on **Sunday, September 20**, and you can learn more by checking out ICE-Atlanta.com 🏠



Photos courtesy of Revelry Photo House

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

September 5 - 7

Art in the Park
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Marietta Square
ArtParkMarietta.com

September 10 - 13

43rd Annual Yellow Daisy Festival
Hours Vary
Stone Mountain Park
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September 11

Can and Jam Workshop
6:30 - 8 p.m.
The Beehive Atlanta
TheBeehiveAtl.com

September 12

Terrarium Garden Workshop
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Callanwolde Fine Arts Center
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September 12

The 5 Arts Festival
Euclid Avenue
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
5artsfest.com

September 11 - 13

The Annual Fall Atlanta Home Show
Hours Vary
Cobb Galleria Centre
AtlantaHomeShow.com

September 20

Salvage Vintage Show
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Yaarab Temple
ICE-Atlanta.com

September 24 - October 4th

North Georgia State Fair
Hours Vary
NorthGeorgiaStateFair.com

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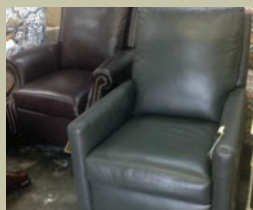
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Photos courtesy of (left to right) Picture People; Life Management Service, LLC, photography by Ramzi Sabree; Life Management Service, LLC, photography by Ramzi Sabree; Put-It-There; Michelle Cooper, photography by CLIX of North Atlanta

Go ahead.

Spend all you want on gorgeous home décor, fixtures and furniture. It's fun to fix up your home. It's a smart investment! But if your shiny new hardwoods are constantly crusted in mud or your elegant couches are forever piled with backpacks, you can't enjoy the fruits of your home improvement efforts.

If you have a school-age child (or, gasp, more than one!) you know how their school stuff can absolutely bury your home and disrupt its peaceful beauty.

So we asked some Atlanta professional organizers to give our readers some great tips on how to keep their homes organized, orderly and oh-so-stress free.

Kid's Bedroom Chaos

Katina Hand: An easy way to organize and create a functioning, organized bedroom for kids/teens is to ensure that all of the child's belongings have a "home." Organizing bins and over-the-door shoe organizers both can serve as great storage for clothing, toys, school supplies and much more. It is very important to label each



bin and each pocket of the over-the-door shoe organizer either with pictures (for younger children) or words to help them recognize where their belongings are to be stored.

Scattered Study Area

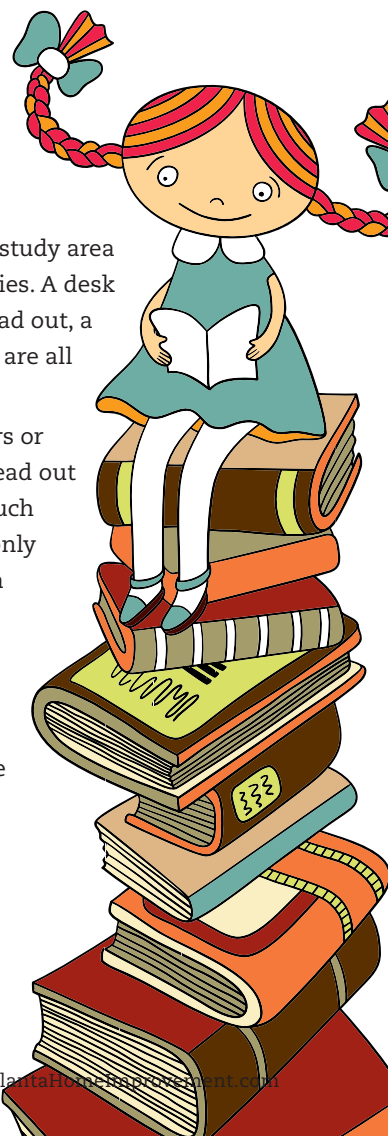
Terri Stephens: Set up a designated study area with the right equipment and supplies. A desk (or table) with enough space to spread out, a comfortable chair and good lighting are all a must.

Keep school supplies in desk drawers or handy organizers so they're not spread out all over the desktop. Get rid of as much visual clutter as possible and keep only what is needed in front of you when studying.

Limit distractions by turning off the TV and phone. Try playing rain sounds or soft music (without lyrics) in the background to enhance concentration.

Bustling Bathroom

Danielle Carney: When there is a shared bathroom space, I like to use the dorm room approach ▶





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(aka, when children have their personal items in a portable caddy). That way, there is no confusion about whose toothbrush is whose. To make it more interesting for the children, let them decorate their caddy with markers and stickers. The added benefit is that this habit will be ingrained in them for when they go to college.

Linda Lanier and Michelle Cooper:

Assign certain drawers and cabinets per child. Then have each child organize their items the way he/she would like and set agreed upon rules. For instance, if one child tends to leave all of his/her items all over the counter to the frustration of another sibling, then they need to discuss and reach some solutions on what is and is not acceptable. Middle territory should be used for storing items for everyone, such as toilet paper, shampoo, cleaning products, etc. Clear shoe bins are great to stack in the deep drawers or cabinets—one for nail polish, one for hair accessories, one for travel/spend the night items. Also, two-tiered pull-out bins are good for deodorant, contact lens solution and the like.

Mudroom Muddle

Danielle Carney: A mudroom is a great place to organize by type of item or by person. I suggest designating a bin for each person to store all of their items in. If there are smaller children, make sure you vary the heights of hooks so that they can hang their own jackets.

Gigi Miller: Think about adding a magnetic board to display notes for the kids, artwork and pictures. Another option is to look for an all-in-one entry cabinet or system that meets all your needs.

Linda Lanier and Michelle Cooper: Baskets for shoes are always



helpful (if this is an item that piles up). And a family calendar showing everyone's activities, as well as family commitments, is a must.

Sports Shambles

Linda Lanier and Michelle Cooper:

Create a designated place in the garage for the sports items so that they are not mixed in with excess household items, gardening tools, etc. Mount as much as you can on the wall. An inexpensive trash can is a great way to store bats or tennis rackets. Plastic shelving with labeled bins or baskets for each sport is a way to keep items separated.

Gigi Miller: Here are three steps to help combat the sports clutter and create organizational systems and routines your family can easily maintain.

Step 1: Gather all the sports items into one place so you can take inventory of what you own. This is a great opportunity to declutter. Toss out old or broken items and donate anything that is still in good shape to a local charity.

Step 2: Sort items into categories such as soccer, ballet, swimming and so on.

Step 3: Contain the items by using backpacks, gym bags or even bins/baskets. The key is to have everything you need for each activity all in one place. Label the bag or container and store it in a designated place in your entryway or mudroom.

Danielle Carney: I like to segregate items by sport or equipment type. Try using big bags (such as the inexpensive IKEA bags) and hook them on the wall. This way they are off the floor and easy to grab on your way out to practice. 🏠

RESOURCES

Hand in Hand Organizing

Katrina Hand | HandInHandOrganizing.com

Life Management Service, LLC

Danielle Carney
LifeManagementService.com

Put It There Professional Organizing

Linda Lanier and Michelle Cooper
Put-It-There.com

Real Order Professional Organizing, LLC

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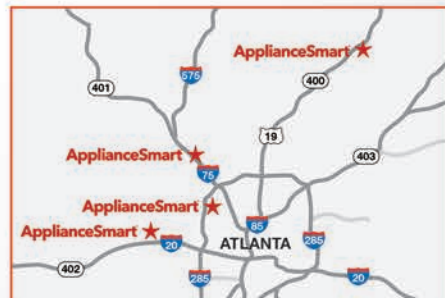
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ENGINEERED HARDWOOD
Shaw Floors World Tour
Color: Umber
Wood Species: Hickory
Plank Width: 3/8" x 5" x random lengths

Photo courtesy of MODA Floors & Interiors and Shaw Floors



HARDWOOD
Color: Jacobean Stain
Wood Species: Antique Heart Pine
Plank Width: Wide random



ENGINEERED HARDWOOD
Versailles
Color: Smoked
Wood Species: Oak
Plank Width: 9/16" x 8 3/4"

Photos courtesy of (left to right) MOSAIC Group [Architects and Remodelers], photography by Gregg Willett Photography; Floor & Décor

All Things Hardwood!

Types, Trends, Tips & More

By Amy Meadows

If you're a fan of home renovation television shows (and who isn't?), then you know that one of the first things the renovation experts focus on is flooring.

Just about any televised home makeover includes the removal of old, dirty, damaged flooring and the installation of gleaming hardwood floors. They may be dark and trendy or light and traditional. Whatever the style or the color, they are usually placed throughout the entire home.

But have you ever wondered why hardwood has become the go-to material for residential flooring in recent years? Actually, it isn't really a new development at all.

"Hardwoods may be thought of as more popular today, but it has been the first choice of flooring for over 100 years," says Jerry Park of MODA Floors & Interiors. And the reasons are pretty clear. He continues, "Hardwood floors provide an innate beauty with lasting durability. And not only is wood durable enough to last for generations, but it also can incorporate the green label as it applies to sustainability and environmental stewardship." ▶

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Photo courtesy of Cruickshank Remodeling,
photography by Gregg Willett Photography

ENGINEERED HARDWOOD

Alberta style from Shaw

Color: Brushwood

Wood Species: Hickory

Handscraped

Plank Width: random

Joann Kandrac of Kandrac & Kole Interior Designs, Inc., concurs, adding, “I believe there are three very important reasons for hardwood’s popularity. First, hardwoods are timeless. They can go with any décor, whether it is traditional or modern. They last a very long time and never go out of style. Second, hardwood flooring improves the value of your home. And third, hardwoods are easy to clean and less expensive than cleaning and maintaining carpet.”

Whatever your reason for choosing hardwoods for your home, it’s important to understand what decisions you face as you make your selection. “Most people put very little thought into their flooring except to choose a color,” reveals Cheryl Draa of Cheryl Draa Interior Designs. “But there are so many options available in size, placement and pattern that you have a chance to make a statement with your floors. It’s a quarter of your home’s surfaces. Don’t disregard the impact they can have when done well.”

Type A or B?

There are two main types of hardwood flooring, says Laurie Clark of Floor & Décor. *Solid hardwood* consists of a single piece of wood that is between $\frac{5}{8}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick. *Engineered hardwoods* are made of multiple layers of flooring (often a veneer of hardwood backed by layers of plywood or recycled wood fibers) that are typically $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. In addition to a difference in price, with solid wood being more expensive, a key distinction between the two involves *where* the hardwood can be installed. ➤

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Photo courtesy of GA Flooring

ENGINEERED HARDWOOD

Jakarta from Mohawk
Color: Antique
Wood Species: Elm
Handscraped
Plank Width: 5", random length

"Solid wood floors are suitable for on or above-grade installation," Clark explains. That's because solid wood will expand based on humidity and temperature levels in a home and needs to be applied over plywood or a level subfloor. That makes it ideal for rooms on a main level or above. However, engineered hardwoods offer a bit more flexibility. Clark notes, "Engineered floors are very dimensionally stable and are suitable for all flooring levels in your home—on, above or below grade." Engineered wood can be used throughout a home without the concern about warping, shifting or cupping.

Once you decide on the type of hardwood and where you are going to place it, you need to **decide if you want to install *prefinished or unfinished (site finished) hardwoods***. "With prefinished woods, the wood is stained and finished at the factory," says Elisabeth Stubbs of Enhance Floors & More. "With unfinished woods, the raw wood is brought into the home and sanded and stained onsite." Obviously, the process associated with prefinished hardwoods is less difficult and time consuming, and this flooring can be walked on immediately after installation. While unfinished woods present a longer and more involved installation, including drying time, these floors can be customized onsite and offer a larger choice of finishes.

A Question of Style

Choosing the style of your hardwood begins with the species. "There is a vast amount of different species of wood to choose from," observes Mallory Bernard of Enhance Floors & More. "The most popular today is the traditional oak, but hickories and maples are also very popular. There are also exotic species like Acacia and Brazilian Cherry, which offer more unique looks." And it doesn't stop there, with everything from pine and walnut to tigerwood and teak being used today. 🗨

EXPERT TIP

How you can keep your hardwood floors in tip-top shape? Tint your windows! In Atlanta, the sun can be brutal not only to drapes and rugs, but to flooring as well!



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In addition to the dozens of species available, you might be surprised about how many other decisions there are to make. “There are so many options in the marketplace today. Wide plank or narrow plank. Handscraped, wire-brushed or smooth. High gloss, semi-gloss, matte finish or oil finish. There are beveled edges, square edges and micro-beveled edges. And don’t forget the more than 1,000 stain colors for both site finished and prefinished wood,” Kandrac says. “The options are almost endless.”

Whatever you choose, the experts recommend keeping your family in mind as you move through the decision making process, as this will help you choose the most appropriate type and style of hardwood. “It is important to evaluate your lifestyle before deciding on a particular hardwood floor,” Stubbs advises. “For instance, if you have an active family, it is best to steer clear of a high gloss, dark wood floor, as it will show scratches more readily.” Kandrac recommends that you ask yourself certain questions, including what the room will be used for, if it is a high traffic area and if children and pets are part of the equation. “This will determine the durability of the wood you need,” she says. “And it is helpful to bring fabric and paint colors to the showroom with you so you can coordinate with the wood.”

On Trend

While hardwood is a traditional choice, there are a number of trends that can help give your flooring an extra aesthetic boost, particularly when it comes to color, finish and pattern. “Color is trending to more brown and grey tones,” Clark notes. In fact, Kandrac states that “grey is the new beige” when it



ENGINEERED HARDWOOD
Shaw Floors Cape Ann
Color: Rockport
Wood Species: Oak
Size: 4"

Photo courtesy of MODA Floors & Interiors and Shaw Floors

ALL THESE BEAUTIFUL HARDWOOD OPTIONS! BUT WHAT WORKS WITH YOUR SPECIFIC BUDGET?

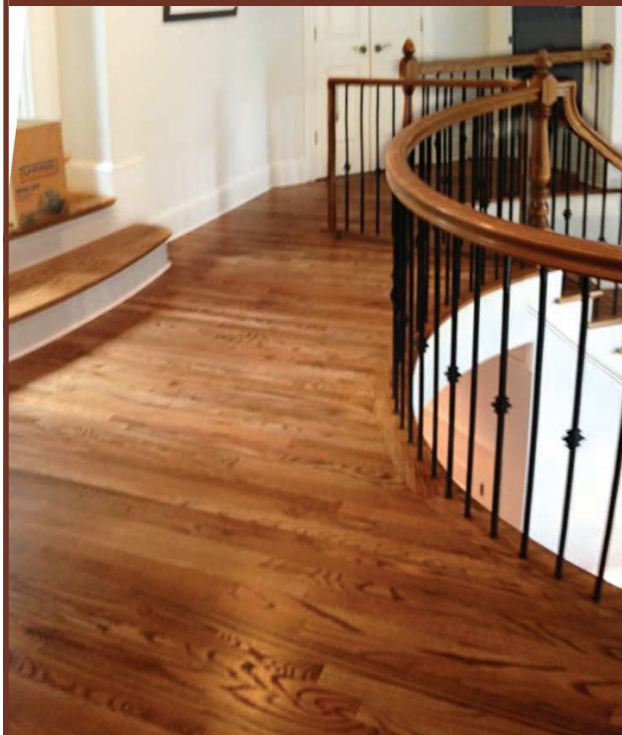
We asked Judi Provence of Glover’s Flooring America to help us create a quick “Good, Better, Best” chart. She agreed—with a few important caveats.

She says, “Price alone doesn’t equal good, better, best! Choosing flooring that is appropriate for the style of the house and the lifestyle of the people who live there...and choosing flooring that meets their budget...that is what is important!” She also points out that the prices listed below include only “basic” labor installation.

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comes to flooring. Many homeowners also are turning to wire-brushed and scraped finishes, which give the wood a subtle texture but a smooth finish. Also, the weathered or distressed look is sought after not only for its rustic feel, but also for its ability to show fewer scratches—a perfect fit for families with children and pets.

Plank width and length are changing as well. Standard planks, or “strips,” are smaller than three inches wide and have been used for years. However, Kandrac observes, “Today, wider planks of five, six and seven inches, as well as longer planks, up to as long as six feet or more, are very popular.” And how those planks are laid down can make a difference in the look of a room. According to Bernard, “The majority of hardwoods are installed straight, but you can install them in a diagonal or herringbone pattern. You can also customize your floor with a border with wood in a contrasting color.”

New Innovations

According to Park, many of the innovations in hardwood flooring today involve the installation of the product. “There has been more innovation in installation due to the environment, such as no VOCs, no odor, adhesive upgrade and the quality of polyurethane,” he says. “There have been great strides in products, and it is usually represented in longer warranties. If the manufacturer stands behind the product from 25 years to a lifetime, you are making a good decision.” 🗨



HARDWOOD
Color: Natural with oil finish
Wood Species: Ipe/Brazilian Walnut
Plank width: 1" x 4"

Photo courtesy of MOSAIC Group [Architects and Remodelers]



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Floyd Abdul of GA Flooring, Inc., agrees, stating, "The finishes used today are made to last a lifetime." This includes the newest aluminum oxide finishes, which Stubbs says are one of the biggest innovations in prefinished woods today. "Finishes will continue to be developed so that they are harder and more scratch resistant," she explains. "And with increasing technologies, hardwood floors will become easier to care for."

The Investment of a Lifetime

Of course, your budget will play a key role in your hardwood flooring choices. As Bernard notes, "Putting in hardwood will on average be about two times greater than the installation of carpet." The ultimate cost will relate to the species of wood and finishes you choose. But it's also important to keep in mind that the final cost does not include the materials alone. "Always look at the entire quote, as many stores price labor and materials differently. That can be confusing for consumers," Abdul states. From subflooring to sanding and finishing, there are several elements that go into a quote for hardwood installation. Kandrak recommends getting multiple quotes and using a professional installation company that is insured. When you do your homework, you'll be sure to have a positive experience. And in the end, you'll have a home that you can enjoy for years to come. As Clark concludes, "Hardwood flooring is an investment that will last a lifetime." ►

RESOURCES:

Cheryl Draa Interior Designs
CherylDraaInteriorDesigns.com

Enhance Floors & More | EnhanceFloors.com

Floor & Décor | FloorandDecor.com

GA Flooring, Inc. | GaFlooring.com

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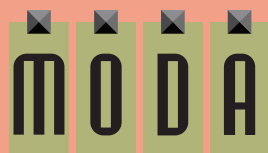
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"Hardwood floors are definitely becoming more popular as a replacement for carpeting in new and remodeled homes. While there are many benefits to hardwood floors, they can feel colder than carpet during the winter months," says Peter Newman of Speedheat US, LLC. "Hardwood floors are generally glued or nailed to subfloors, and some are installed as 'floating' floors. Speedheat has a solution for all three of these installation methods." 🏠



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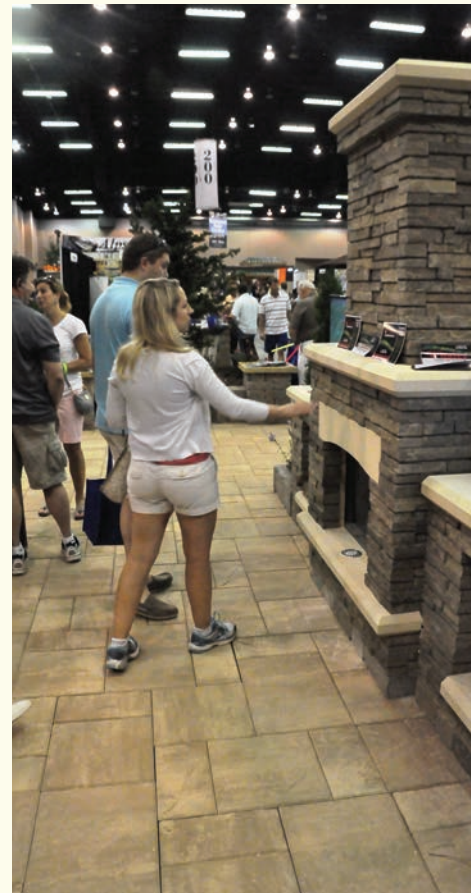
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and bath design and much, much more. Enjoy comparison shopping in our fun, festive atmosphere where everything you might need for your home, inside and out, is gathered together under one roof. You can drop in on a cooking demonstration to check out the latest in stovetops, grills and cookware. Talk to indoor and outdoor kitchen designers about your particular needs, walk through landscaped exhibits to get ideas and solutions for your own yard, pick up product samples and information and schedule appointments for experts to visit your home. Many of the exhibitors offer show specials, which can save you thousands of dollars. For 32 years, the Fall Atlanta Home Show & Outdoor Living Expo has been the largest Fall Home Show in Georgia! This event is owned and produced by SEMCO Productions – Atlanta based and family owned since 1959.



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Fall Atlanta Home Show & Outdoor Living Expo Details

Admission:

General Admission	\$10
Children 12 and under	FREE
Adults 65 and over	FREE (with ID)
Military & First Responders	Buy One Get One FREE (with ID)

Tickets are now available online at AtlantaHomeShow.com

Location: Cobb Galleria Centre
Two Galleria Pkwy, Atlanta, GA 30339

Show hours:

Friday, September 11th	10am – 6pm
Saturday, September 12th	10am – 7pm
Sunday, September 13th	11am – 5pm

Complete Show Info:
AtlantaHomeShow.com

24-hour information line (770) 798-1997

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What is The Atlanta Home Show?

A home show is a marketplace where hundreds of companies set up their latest offerings for home improvement – all in one building. This makes it easier for people to research the latest in home repairs, remodeling, design, landscaping, gadgets, market value and more! Homeowners can save time and money by shopping at the Atlanta Home Show and talking with a variety of the industry's experts in the field of home improvement.

Trade Day



Trade Day is designed to help educate members of the Atlanta housing industry and its affiliated associations. Thanks to PMC Building Materials, we offer complimentary Friday admission to all home-related tradespeople and members of these organizations: National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI), North American Deck and Railing Association (NADRA), Professional Real Estate Agents (Realtors), Home Builders Association (HBA), National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA), Georgia Real Estate Investors Association (GaREIA), American Institute of Architects (AIA), National Aging in Place Council (NAIPC) and the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) by simply providing us with your business card at the show entrance on Friday, September 11!

A sample of show categories includes:

- appliances
- bathrooms
- beds
- closet organizers
- concrete repair and resurfacing
- cookware
- decks and underdecking
- decorator items
- doors and windows
- elevators
- energy saving and environmental
- fireplaces
- flooring such as wood
- carpet and tile
- garage doors
- grills
- gutters
- heating and air conditioning
- home remodelers
- kitchens
- landscape design and installation
- lighting
- marble and granite
- painters
- pest control
- plumbing
- pools
- roofing
- satellite equipment
- spas and hot tubs
- security systems
- siding, stained and leaded glass
- solar equipment
- sunrooms and patios
- vacuums
- waterproofing
- water and air purification
- windows
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This year's grand prize is a Kamado Joe Ceramic Grill. The Kamado Joe Ceramic Grill offers unmatched cooking flexibility, aesthetic design and higher grade materials at a competitive price. The prize is being supplied by Builder Specialties. Builder Specialties provides Better Home SOLUTIONS in appliances, fireplaces, mantels, garage doors, lighting and outdoor products to trade professionals and homeowners. They are recognized for the finest showrooms featuring the most recognized brands in the industry. The showrooms are located in Buckhead, Marietta and their Colonial Lighting showroom in Sugar Hill. Be sure to stop by their newly designed Atlanta Home Show exhibits totaling 1,600 square feet on display at the Fall Atlanta Home Show – booths #548, #635, #636, #648.

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Reliable Heating & Air – Home Show Stage Schedule



John Gidding



Walter Reeves



Joe Washington



Tonya M. Williams



Summary of presentations

Meet crowd favorite John Gidding! The Reliable Heating & Air Home Show Stage will host 16 eye-opening presentations over the course of three days. Topics range from **John Gidding's** personal pointers to **Walter Reeves'** tips for lush lawns and perfect pansies to **John Trent's** educational seminar on heated tile floors. **Jim Lewis** will share his expertise on freshening up your home with new looks for your foyer, and **Danna Cain** has real solutions for dog-friendly landscapes. **Joe Washington** returns to present his very popular "Adapt & Garden Smart," a wonderful how-to presentation that will guide attendees on continuing to garden no matter your physical ability. **95.5FM and AM750 News/Talk WSB** will be broadcasting *The Lawn and Garden Show* with Walter Reeves, *The Home Fix It Show* with **Dave Baker** and **Belinda Skelton's** *Atlanta Living*. See these presentations and more all on the Reliable Heating & Air Home Show Stage!

Visit www.AtlantaHomeShow.com for all the topics, presenters and times.

Schedule

Friday, September 11th

- Noon** **Walter Reeves**
Lush Lawns and Perfect Pansies
The Georgia Gardener
95.5FM and AM750 News/Talk WSB
- 1:00 PM** **Danna Cain, ASLA**
Pet Friendly Landscapes
Home & Garden Design's Award-Winning Landscape Designer
- 2:00 PM** **Joe Washington**
Adapt & Garden Smart
HGTV's *Ground Breakers*
- 3:00 PM** **Robert Kauffman**
Steps to Hiring the Right Contractor for Your Project
NARI Atlanta – Owner, Kauffman Design

Saturday, September 12th

- 6 - 9AM** **Walter Reeves**
The Lawn & Garden Show – Live On-Air Broadcast
95.5FM and AM750 News/Talk WSB
- 9:00 AM** **Dave Baker**
The Home Fix It Show – Live On-Air Broadcast
95.5FM and AM750 News/Talk WSB

- 12:15 PM** **John Trent**
DITRA-HEAT: Heated Tile Floors
Schluter Systems L.P., Territory Manager Southeast
- 1:00 PM** **John Gidding**
Beyond Curb Appeal: Décor & Design Tips to Boost Your Home's Appeal Inside and Out
Architect & Designer – HGTV's *Curb Appeal* and FOX's *Home Free*
- 2:00 PM** **Jim Lewis**
Refresh Your Foyer. First Impressions are Everything!
Owner, Vision Stairways & Millwork & Tango Doors
- 3:00 PM** **John Gidding**
Beyond Curb Appeal: Décor & Design Tips to Boost Your Home's Appeal Inside and Out
Architect & Designer – HGTV's *Curb Appeal* and FOX's *Home Free*
- 4:00 PM** **Steve Lindstrom**
Kitchens & Baths: Aesthetic and Functional Design Trends for 2015
CSI Kitchen & Bath Studio

Sunday, September 13th

- Noon** **Dale Seiden**
Professional Approach to Outdoor Kitchens
Alfresco Open Air Culinary Systems/Builder Specialties, Inc.
- 1:00 PM** **Joe Washington**
Adapt & Garden Smart
HGTV's *Ground Breakers*
- 2:00 PM** **Tonya M. Williams**
Paint, Plumbing or Patio? Projects That Increase Home Values
HGTV Real Estate Expert & Atlanta Realtor
- 3:00 PM** **Steve Hallock and Jeremy Queen**
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A photograph of an attic space with wooden rafters and a small window. A large section of the floor is covered with thick, pink fiberglass insulation. The lighting is warm, coming from the window.

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*Georgia Power customers may be eligible to receive a rebate of 50% of the installed cost up to \$300 on qualified insulation upgrades. Rebate available through December 2015. Application and receipt/invoice must be submitted within 60 days of purchase or installation. Installation of dense pack or wet cellulose and spray foam insulation (also considered an air sealing improvement) must be installed by a Program Participating Contractor. Certain preconditions and requirements must be met in order to qualify for this rebate. © 2015 Georgia Power. All rights reserved.

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Before & After Spotlights

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For instance, this customer chose Napoli granite, a warm color with clusters of excitement and great versatility. This simple kitchen features white Thermofoil cabinets and a budget-friendly granite. (It won't matter what color the walls or floor are, since this stone has something for every color.)

For more information, see us at The Fall Atlanta Home Show & Outdoor Living Expo in booth #1444 or contact us, Atlantis Granite and Marble, 678-292-6600.



AFTER



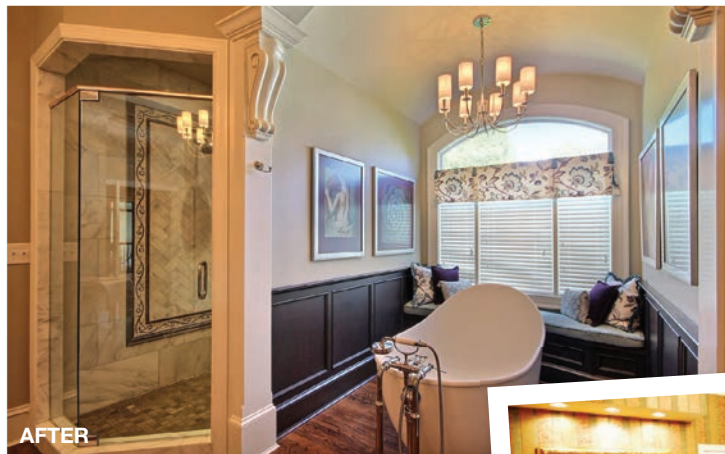
BEFORE

CSI Kitchen & Bath Studio

The owners of this Roswell home wished to update the quality level of their master bath to match the rest of the house. To accomplish this, the dated steps and tub platform were removed and an elegant free-standing soaking tub by MTI was installed in its own alcove. Cherry wainscot paneling and a curved built-in bench by Rutt HandCrafted Cabinetry were both added.

We built a barrel-vaulted ceiling and installed a new arched window that echoes the curve of the barrel vault. The shower was completely rebuilt, thus cutting back part of the surrounding walls to let in more light and incorporating a little space from the attic to make room for a seat.

Frameless glass, Carrara Bella marble walls and limestone floor with a decorative framed feature for the showerhead lends elegance to the shower. Custom cherry vanities also by Rutt with curved fronts and Calacatta Caldia marble tops add to the luxuriousness of the bath. New chandeliers and refinished floors completed the transformation of this bath. Visit CSI Kitchen & Bath Studio at the Fall Atlanta Home Show & Outdoor Living Expo in booth #503 or call 770-729-1999.



AFTER



BEFORE

ShelfGenie of North Atlanta

Space in the bathroom and kitchen – especially in the pantry and under the stove – was creating frustration to the homeowner due to inefficient space utilization.

ShelfGenie custom custom-designed & built solutions provided the homeowner with easy access to the belongings in the kitchen, pantry and bathroom. By improving organization and accessibility, thereby reducing stress, ShelfGenie was able to transform the way they use their home. Visit ShelfGenie at The Fall Atlanta Home Show & Outdoor Living Expo in booth #1329.



AFTER



BEFORE

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Before & After Spotlights

Southeastern Underdeck Systems

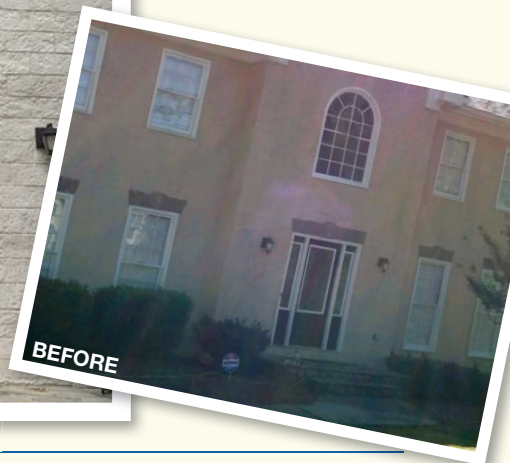
This space was being underutilized. There was no protection from environmental elements. The homeowners chose to have

Southeastern install an underdeck to create an inviting entertainment space adjacent to their pool. They also got the added benefit of storage for pool supplies in the same project. Visit Southeastern Underdeck Systems at The Fall Atlanta Home Show & Outdoor Living Expo in booth #1230 or call 404-405-0754.



StoneCre8tions of Atlanta

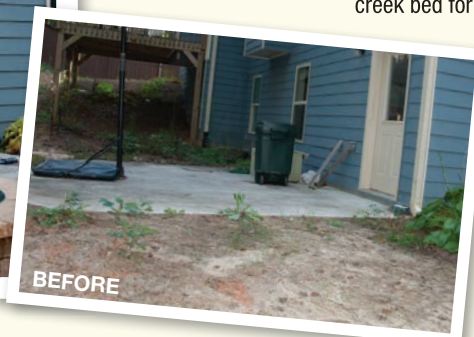
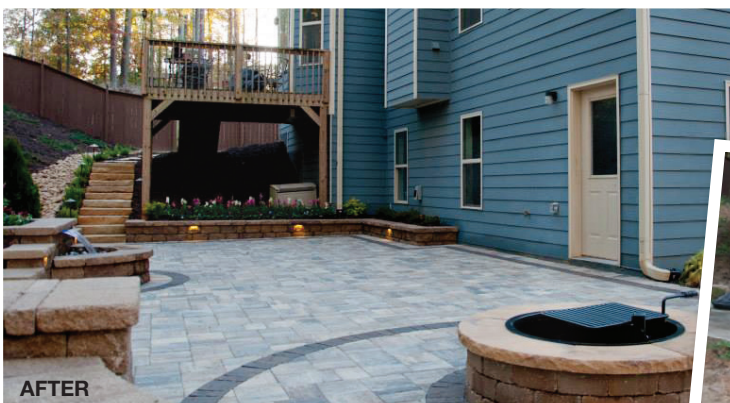
This house was originally stucco. We transformed it into a natural hand carved limestone home. The patio was plain concrete, and we transformed it into a natural quartz overlay with a flagstone design. Visit StoneCre8tions of Atlanta at The Fall Atlanta Home Show & Outdoor Living Expo in booth # 941.



Terra Flora

This was a total transformation of a boring, overgrown, unloved backyard into a relaxation paradise. We added a patio with custom inlay, seating walls with columns, a firepit, water feature, steps, dry creek bed for drainage, turf and plantings of fresh mulch.

We even added landscape lighting so the area can be enjoyed at night. Visit Terra Flora at The Fall Atlanta Home Show & Outdoor Living Expo in booth # 342.





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This wildly popular exhibit is a must for everyone interested in local landscape and/or local brew! Marietta's own Red Hare Brewing Company returns to team up with Hope Atlanta, Georgia Landscape and Landscape Plans Plus to offer home show attendees the chance to sample some local brew while strolling through a beautiful backyard! For just a \$5 donation to Hope Atlanta, attendees in the garden can sample Red Hare Brewing's Long Day Lager and Gangway IPA. Both were winners of multiple People's Choice Awards in 2011 & 2012. Watership Brown, an Atlanta Home Show favorite, will also be available. Landscape experts Matt Hambrick and Bruce Holliday will be available to answer questions as you examine and explore local landscape options for every type of yard. Learn about landscape design, services and products. Every penny of the \$5 donation goes to Hope Atlanta, the programs of Travelers Aid, dedicated to the prevention of homelessness in our community.

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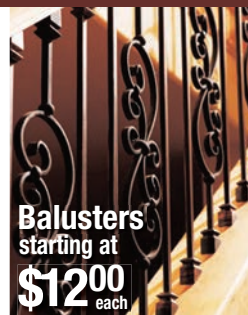
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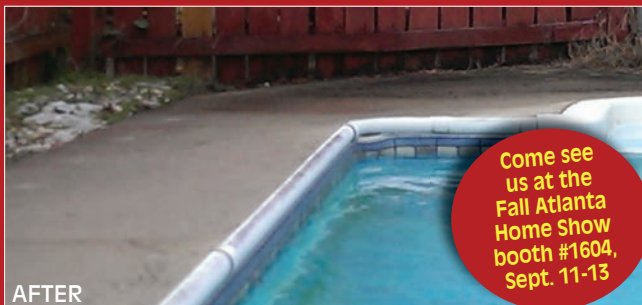
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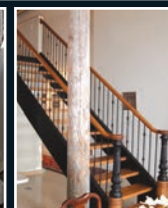
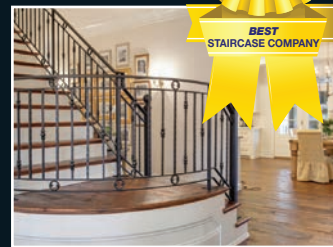
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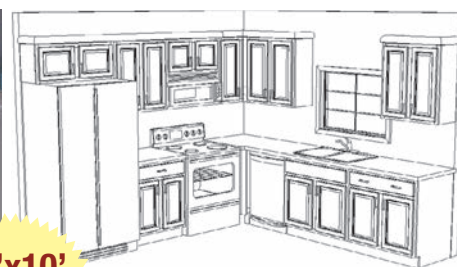


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2 AFTER



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4



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Outdoor Cooking:

FROM PORTABLE TO POSH

Dining outdoors for every space and budget

By Kathy Kantorski

As everyone knows, the kitchen is usually the heart of the home. This is especially true during parties!

When you entertain outdoors, the same thing happens. Family and guests alike tend to flock to the outdoor cooking area. This is usually the center of any gathering, and likely the most-used area in your backyard. Even if your outdoor cooking spot is in the parking lot at a tailgate or under the trees at a campground, it's the hub of activity.

No matter what your budget constraints, space constrictions or portability needs, we've got you covered. Here's a roundup of some of the newest, most innovative cooking options—from portable to posh! ►

Made for Mobility

Grilling on the go? In Atlanta, where grilling is almost a religion, there are a few extremely popular options.

One is of course The Big Green Egg, which is headquartered here in Chamblee. The Big Green Egg is specially designed to contain heat with only a small vent at the top to create enough draft to keep the fire going. They are more versatile than traditional grills, allowing for baking and smoking as well. They're so popular that their fans even have their own moniker: Eggheads!

Kamado Joe is another 'egg like' option. It's similar to Big Green Egg but is often a bit more affordable, and many users prefer the extra versatility of the split grill grates and removable ash drawer.

Even more affordable are more traditional but still powerful grills like the Weber Q 1200 grill (\$219), which was just released in a variety of colors. Renowned for its durability, the Q 1200 has a lid and body made of cast aluminum; it also boasts a single 8,500 BTU burner, electronic ignition, 189 square inches of cooking space, two folding work tables, a built-in lid thermometer and porcelain-enameled cast iron cooking grates. "The versatility of the Q 1200 allows every griller—new and experienced—to enjoy this grill," says Kim Lefko with Weber-Stephen Products LLC.

"It's perfect for millennials looking for a grill that fits on a balcony or can easily be toted to the beach or a music festival. Also, more established grillers—many of whom own multiple grills—can fire up the powerful Q 1200 for smaller meals that don't require the space of a full-sized gas grill." Weber also offers the Weber Q Portable Cart (\$79.99), a folding stand to support the grill.

If you're looking for a larger grill, the Coleman NXT 200 (\$250) is a popular choice, especially among campers. The grill offers a built-in collapsible stand, a 321-square-inch cooking surface, push-button start, 20,000 BTUs and a built-in thermometer on its lid.

Small Space, Big Design

In today's outdoor kitchen market, homeowners have the ability to customize many options to meet their preferences, which makes it easier than ever to design for small spaces. "A hybrid grill offers the ability to use both gas and charcoal while grilling, allowing for complete customization of the grilling experience in one appliance," says Jim Ginocchi of Coyote Outdoor Living. "Grilling has become much more diverse and has really gone beyond just hamburgers and hot dogs. Adding appliances such as a power burner or drop-in griddle allows you the capability to make non-traditional grilling foods, such as pancakes or eggs, right on the grill."

Whereas traditional outdoor kitchens are built into patios with stone surrounds and countertops, today's outdoor kitchen options have expanded to include modular offerings, such as those ►

Plan your outdoor kitchen

Define Your Needs

Fill out this quick questionnaire to decide the design of your outdoor kitchen.

What are the dimensions of the space you have to build an outdoor kitchen?

_____ ' _____ " X _____ ' _____ "

How many people, on average, would you like to entertain with your outdoor kitchen? _____

What kind of cook are you?

- ☐ **Serious chef:** I take my time to prepare multi-course meals
- ☐ **Semi-serious chef:** I don't have a lot of time, but when I do, I like to prepare larger meals
- ☐ **Casual cook:** I prefer to spend more time eating the food than making it

Describe the views offered by your outdoor space: _____

What features would you like your outdoor kitchen to have?

- ☐ Stand-alone grill
- ☐ Built-in grill with countertops
- ☐ Charcoal grill
- ☐ Gas grill
- ☐ Smoker
- ☐ Big Green Egg (or similar appliance)
- ☐ Wood-fired pizza oven
- ☐ Stainless steel pizza oven
- ☐ Beverage refrigerator
- ☐ Sink
- ☐ Dishwasher
- ☐ Drop-in cooler (to hold ice and drinks)
- ☐ Built-in storage/cabinetry
- ☐ Bar
- ☐ Fireplace
- ☐ Fire pit
- ☐ Dining area
- ☐ Shade/overhead structure
- ☐ Lighting system
- ☐ Sound system

Other: _____



The Big Green
Egg Family
—Mini to XL
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on Cart
(Grill: \$1,799
Cart: \$600)



Kamado Joe
Classic Joe with
Cart & side
shelves
(\$850-\$1,000)



Coleman NXT
200 (\$250)



Coyote 28"
Grill (\$999)



MIX AND MATCH freestanding cabinets (by Gensun Casual Living) to create the look you desire in the space you have available.



of configuring and customizing your outdoor kitchen to suit your size and needs. Made from stainless steel or powder-coated aluminum, these options are also budget-friendly and eliminate costly site modification or additional construction.

Large and Luxe

With a big backyard and a big budget, you can essentially recreate your indoor kitchen outdoors.

From cabinets to countertops and sinks to refrigerators, outdoor options are aplenty. "Many grills now offer capabilities similar to those of an indoor kitchen, allowing homeowners to smoke, roast and slow

cook items," Ginocchi says.

Stainless steel pizza ovens are hot commodities for outdoor cooks, as are extra large cooking spaces with grill grates, griddles and burners. You can also incorporate design elements that match your home, such as stone or brick to match your exterior and granite or tile to match your interior.

But fully loaded outdoor kitchens don't have to break the bank. Coyote Outdoor Living offers a line of professional-grade appliances that allow for a full outdoor kitchen at a cost of less than \$6,000, including a 36-inch grill that features an infrared RapidSear burner, rotisserie kit, smoker box, interior hood lights and backlit knobs; a built-in beverage refrigerator; outdoor-rated stainless steel cabinets with a warming drawer; a 60,000-BTU power burner; and a refreshment center equipped with a built-in sink/faucet and an insulated drop-in cooler.

from Coyote Outdoor Living or Gensun Casual Living (both are available at retailers throughout the Atlanta area). These modular options include cabinetry, grills, bars and more, and they allow you the flexibility

countertops and sinks to refrigerators, outdoor options are aplenty. "Many grills now offer capabilities similar to those of an indoor kitchen, allowing homeowners to smoke, roast and slow



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Design Considerations

Play By The Rules

Before beginning an outdoor kitchen project, you should learn about your limitations: zoning laws, building setbacks, homeowners' association regulations, etc. How close can you build to your property lines? What are the building codes for an outdoor kitchen?

Think Ahead

Your mind may be intoxicated with the late-summer weather right now, but don't forget to think about how you will use your outdoor kitchen area throughout the rest of the year. Year-round usage will require protection from both cooler and warmer weather. Consider adding a shade structure such as a pergola, umbrellas or a permanent roof to cover from rain or harsh summer sunlight.



Photo courtesy of Duradek

NO YARD SPACE for an outdoor kitchen? Look under your deck or upper patio! Turn unused or storage-only areas into gorgeous new outdoor living and dining spaces.

Waterproofing

"The ideal place for kitchens is below an existing deck," says Norm Shafer with Duradek of Georgia. "However, the

most common deck is made of wood with space between the boards; when it rains, water will leak through below the deck." ►



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Though there are many different ways to waterproof an underdeck area, Shafer points to Duradek's 60 mil vinyl decking membrane, which waterproofs the deck itself. And to waterproof the below-deck kitchen area's floor, Duradek offers Tiledek, a waterproofing membrane specifically designed for exterior tile assemblies.



Photo courtesy of Fiberon Decking

YOU DON'T NEED to break the bank to create a cozy outdoor dining area. Invest in comfortable seating and group it near the grill. This way the 'chef' can socialize too!

Safety First

"Far too often, homeowners forget that there are real risks associated with grilling," say the pros at Fiberon. When cooking on a deck (whether the deck is made of wood, a composite material or PVC), they recommend using a deck protector or grill pad underneath to help protect from grease, ash and other spills that will compromise the look and feel of the deck. A mat without rubber backing is recommended because, over time, the rubber will cause fading and moisture issues.

Utilities

As with any indoor space, the plumbing, electrical and gas lines need to be planned for and installed prior to the construction of a patio—otherwise, it will be difficult and costly to retrofit. Also, if you're planning to install a roof overhead, pre-wiring it for ceiling fans and recessed lights is less

expensive than wiring it after or during installation.

What's Your View?

Where should your outdoor kitchen go? Think not only of its proximity to your home, but also of the kitchen's positioning in the space, capitalizing on the views you want to have. 🏠

RESOURCES:

Coyote Outdoor Living | CoyoteOutdoor.com

Duradek of Georgia | Duradekga.com

Fiberon | FiberonDecking.com

Gensun Casual Living | GensunCasual.com

Weber-Stephen Products LLC | Weber.com

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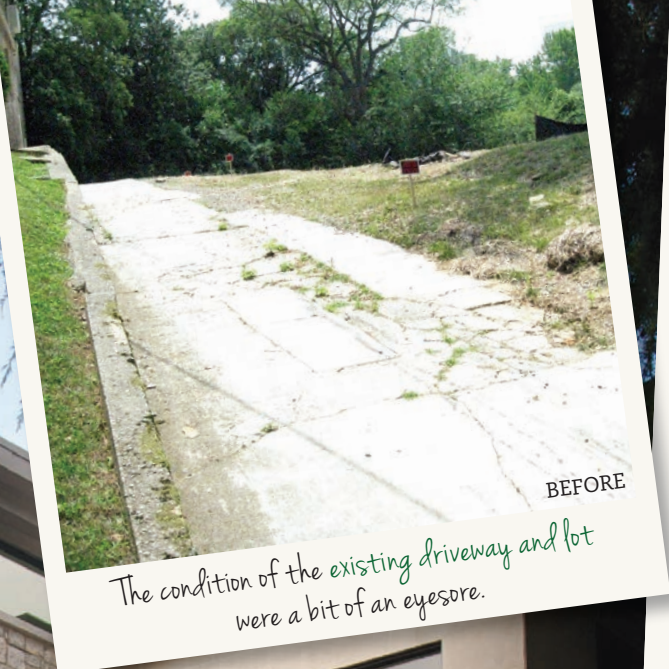
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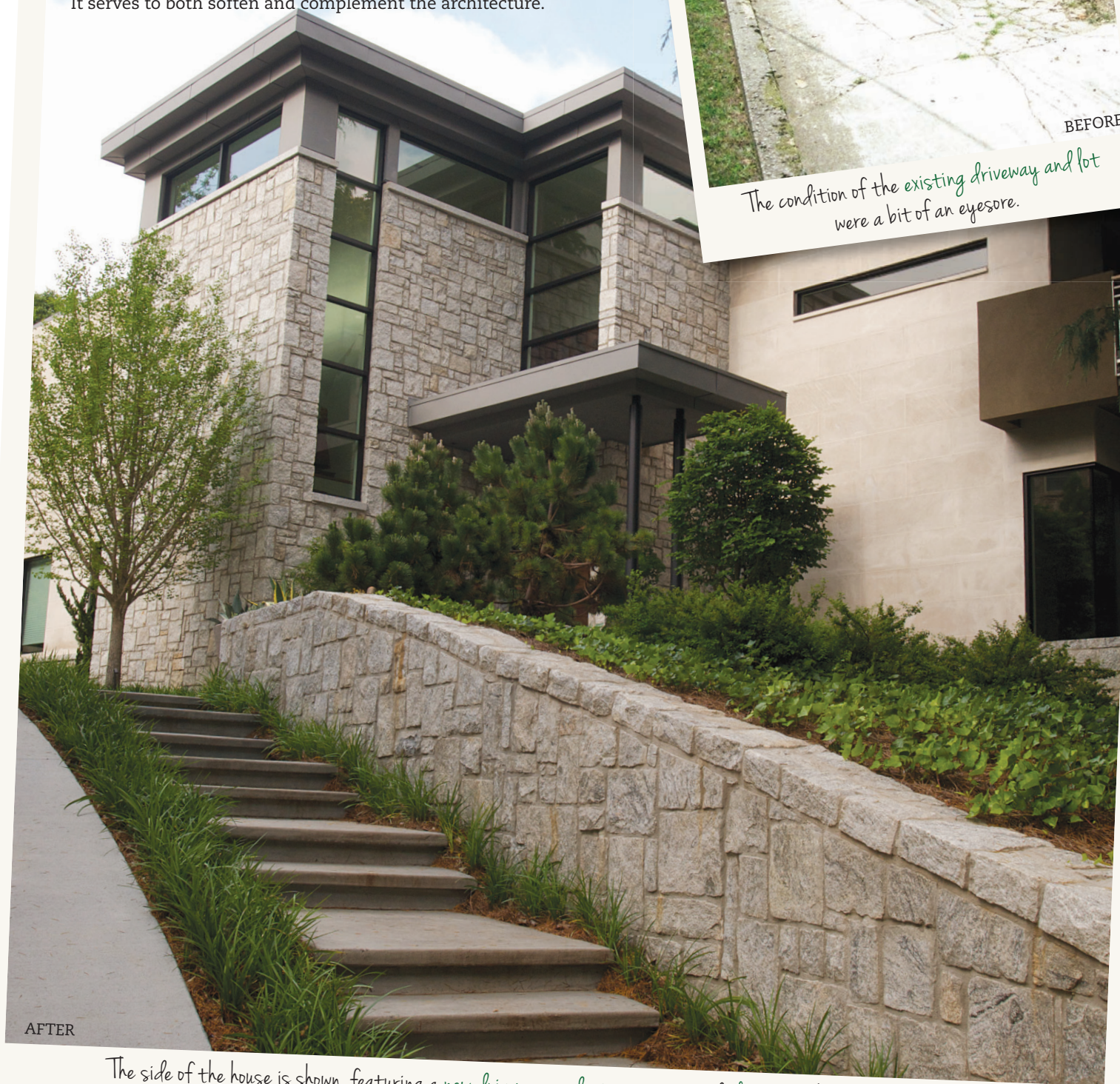
gardeninspiration

Stepping Up the Style

Given the limited in-ground space allowed, this small-scale intown project demonstrates a deliberate, careful choice of plant material. It serves to both soften and complement the architecture.



The condition of the existing driveway and lot were a bit of an eyesore.



The side of the house is shown, featuring a new driveway, pedestrian steps and plantings that soften the exterior. A specimen ginkgo breaks up the large facade on the left. A grouping of thunderhead pines emerges at the top of the steps and blends into the retaining wall. Liriope spicata carpets the strips beside the concrete steps.

Photos and Project by Planters, Inc., PlantersGarden.com.
To see more projects like this one, please visit UrbanAgCouncil.com.

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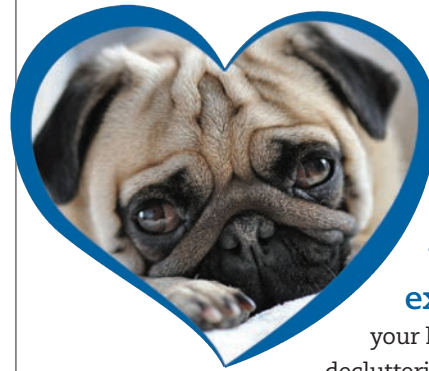


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1. **Take a good look at your home and make any repairs needed before listing.** Has your dog's scratching at the back door shredded the weather stripping or scratched the paint? Does your cat sharpen her claws at the edge of your bedroom carpet? Spend a little money and time to repair pet-related damage before you put your home on the market.
2. **Work with your realtor to have a "pet plan" for showings.** Is your dog aggressive toward strangers or territorial about his property? Does your cat try to escape every time the front door is opened? Having a frank discussion with your realtor about the logistics of showing your home and even consider putting your pet in daycare during showings.
3. **Not every potential buyer who tours your home is an animal person.** So the more conscientious you are, the better. Take steps to deodorize (but not over-perfume) the spaces that are frequented most often by your pets. Don't stop when you receive a contract on your home! The buyers will likely return again, so make sure they don't encounter pet-related issues during the contract period that could cause them to reconsider the purchase.

Selling your home when you have a pet doesn't have to be stressful. By having a plan – and a realtor who can help you to implement it – you and your pets can get through your sale and your move with ease. 🏠



Maura Neill is a second-generation REALTOR® who lives in Johns Creek, Georgia. She and her team are affiliated with RE/MAX Around Atlanta and are actively involved in supporting local charities, especially local animal rescues. Maura knows a little something about living with four-legged creatures; she and her husband are the proud parents to four rescued Beagles – Charlie, Maddie, Jarvis, and Bebe – and one cat, who wishes to remain anonymous. You can find Maura online at BuySellLiveAtlanta.com.

Photo courtesy of Maura Neill



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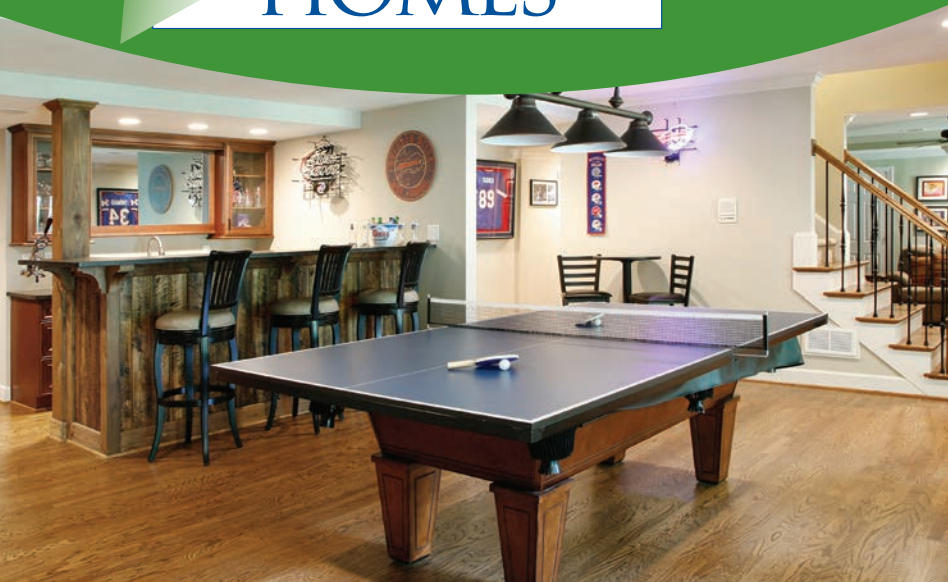




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Cabinetry Styles: What's Your Favorite?

Overhauling any space in any part of your home is exciting. But let's be honest, it can be quite scary. Especially when you're overhauling the heart of your home – the kitchen.

There are countertops, appliances, lighting and sinks to consider. Oh, and don't forget cabinetry! This dominating feature determines the overall look of your home's communal meeting place. It dictates how well it does (or doesn't) function. To help you decide what style best suits your taste, we put together this list of cabinet terms.

Contemporary

The modern kitchen design is defined by a more clean, sleek, smooth (and sometimes colorful) style. Flat panels and metals make for a minimalistic design scheme, while door styles rarely include any ornamentation or ornate details.



Transitional

Transitional kitchen cabinetry is a blend of old and new. A warming of the modern combined with a sleeker version of the traditional. Regardless of the home style, you can step outside strict stylistic guidelines and create a more individualized design.



Traditional

Traditional kitchen cabinetry provides a more formal (yet still inviting and warm) appeal. The classic raised panel door design most commonly seen in traditional is not only durable, but also timeless. Painted finishes are used more to contrast the formality.

Choosing your ideal cabinet style isn't difficult once you know all your terminology!

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Rick Spencer
General Manager



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The Cozy Outdoors

Creating Your Ideal Outdoor Living Space

While installing an expansive outdoor living space can seem like a daunting task for any homeowner, asking yourself the following questions can help you decide... “to build or not to build?”

Sink or Swim

As the focal point of any backyard retreat, your pool will make a statement about your family’s lifestyle. From the variety of pool sizes, surrounding landscapes, tile colors and patio textures, there are many ways to make your pool truly your own.

What best suits your family?



Best of Both Worlds

An outdoor fireplace allows for any homeowner – and their guests – to enjoy their outdoor living space even when the cooler temperatures hit.

What’s your favorite entertaining season?



Pergolas & Porches

The weather won’t always allow you to log a lot of outdoor time. But a pergola, covered patio or porch can give you a breath of fresh air while still protecting you from Mother Nature. Which would you use the most?

Curb Appeal

How would you rate your current curb appeal? Manicured lawns and colorful plants make for elegant landscaping that truly complements any outdoor living space seamlessly.

Whether you daydream of an infinity pool or are simply ready to streamline your overgrown backyard, it’s easier than you think to create a truly luxurious outdoor living space.

EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST

Boyce Design & Contracting, Atlanta’s premier outdoor design and build firm, prides itself on strong customer communication, a passion for quality and a relentless pursuit of excellence. In 2015, the design and build firm was named The National Association of Remodeling Industry’s (NARI) Contractor of the Year in the “Residential Exterior over \$200,000” project category. Boyce Design works hard to strategically develop their craft and to further refine their collaborative designing, planning and building process.

Specializing in pools and spas, decks, outdoor kitchens and fireplaces, the firm designs projects based on each client’s unique outdoor canvas and lifestyle preference. Though honored by the recognitions and awards they receive, members of the Boyce Design & Contracting team agree that the ultimate goal is always to exceed their customers’ expectations at the completion of their project.

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Residential Heating and Cooling

How Comfortable Are You In Your Home?

Did you know that the average household spends more than \$2,220 a year on energy bills? You can manage your own home's comfort level (as well as your budget!) with just a few simple tips:

Proper Insulation and Sealing

Are some of your rooms too hot or too cold? Inadequate air sealing or insufficient insulation could be the cause. If your home is not properly insulated, your heating and cooling system will have to work harder, causing your bills to skyrocket.

Age Matters

Over the years, it's unavoidable that your system will eventually diminish. That said, proper maintenance can do a lot to prolong the life of your system. It is advised that you maintain your system at least twice a year. If your equipment is more than 10 years old, consider replacing it with a newer, more efficient system.

Master Your Domain

Programmable thermostats can go a long way to ensure maximum comfort, convenience and energy savings throughout your home. Each zone in your home can be set to meet each room's specific needs.

Finding The Perfect Match

When looking for help maintaining, repairing or replacing your system, it's crucial you find a reputable full-service company.

A good one will ensure that all employees are licensed, bonded and insured with continuous training programs. Make sure that all employees have background checks and routine drug testing.



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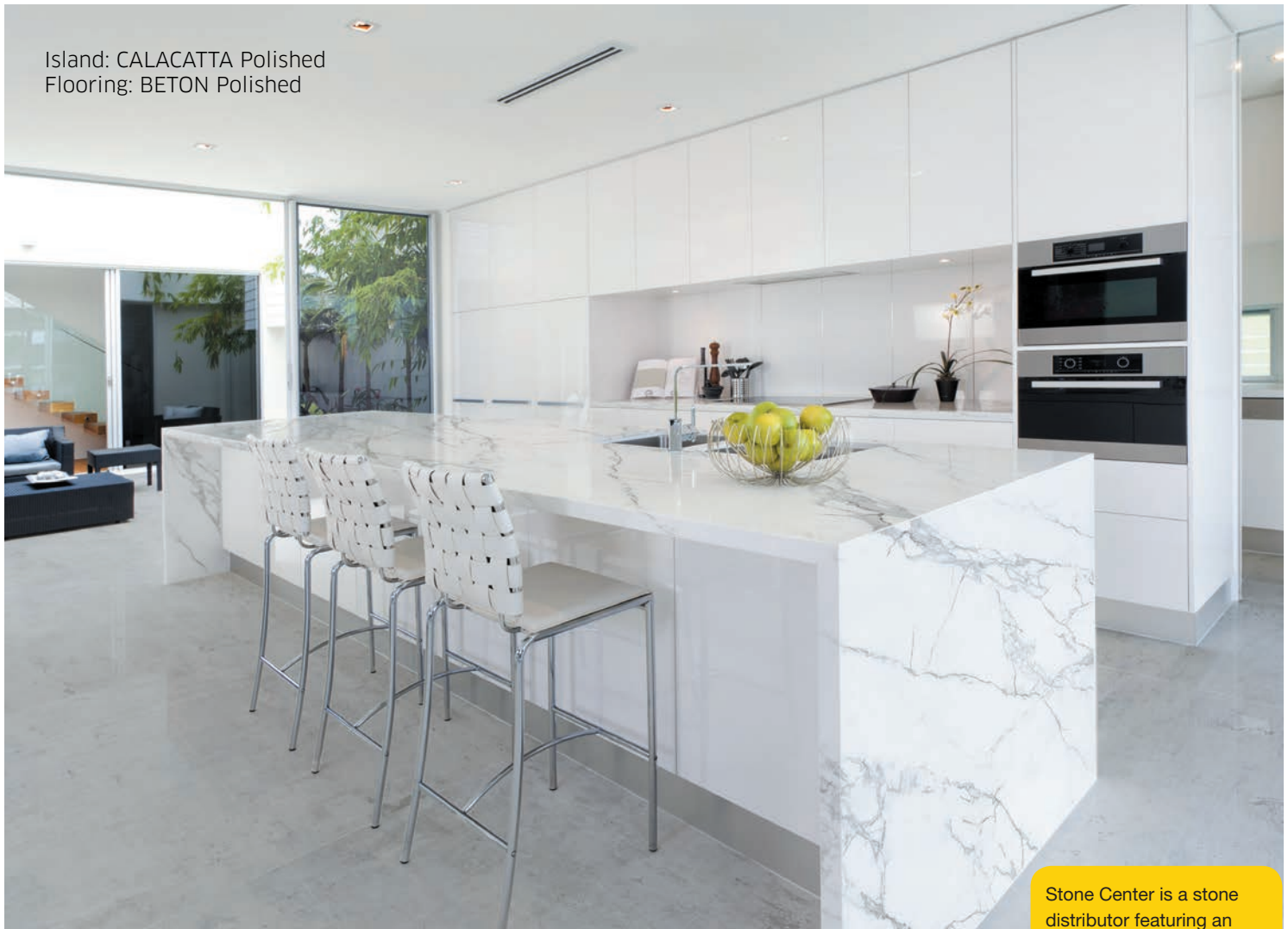
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Neolith: The Revolutionary Sintered Compact Surface

Q: What is Neolith?

A: A revolutionary sintered compact surface natural product made with clays, feldspar, quartz and other mineral oxides. The high-tech proprietary sintering process consists of exposing each raw material to extreme pressures and temperatures that resemble the same method used to create natural stones.

Q: What makes this product so revolutionary?

- **Design:** There are more than 40 available inspired designs in the most exquisite marbles and precious stones; metals; woods; textiles; industrial elements and solid colors.
- **Durability:** Neolith is resistant to scratches, stains, extreme temperatures, freeze, thaw, UV-rays, harsh chemicals and so much more.
- **Versatility:** Neolith varies in size and can be as thin or thick as 1/8", 1/4" or 1/2".

Sustainability: While Neolith is 100 percent natural, 52 percent of its contents come from recycled materials. This grants LEED points when used in construction.

Q: What are the benefits of installing Neolith? And what are its top 5 uses?

A: Neolith can be used as a countertop (indoor or outdoor) or over tile, floors, walls, wall cladding, flooring, furniture and exterior facades.

Q: What kind of care/maintenance does Neolith require?

A: Once installed, Neolith requires no special care or maintenance. It can be washed with warm water and detergent, although it is not required. Avoid products containing hydrofluoric acid.

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Up Close and Personal

The Mobile Kitchen Showroom Advantage

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- **Expert Advice** – Get an on-site consultation with a design expert. Enjoy design tips, customized advice and the ability to discuss and compare products side by side.



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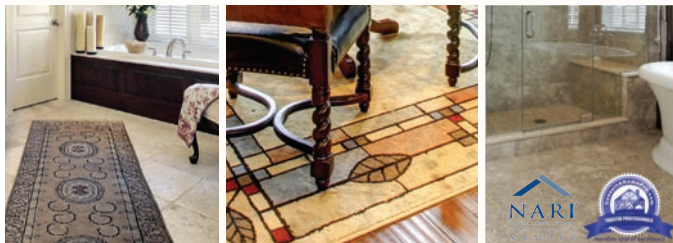
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DIY Crate Desk

Love the look of rustic DIY projects but can't find clean materials to work with? The unique craft site Crates and Pallet manufactures craft-ready crates and pallets, and they've even come up with some inspiring "Back to School" DIY projects! Take this fantastic crate desk project, which we thought was a perfect fit for this issue's Back to School theme. (Note: You can find Crates & Pallet products at Walmart, Home Depot and other big box stores!)



TOOLS USED

- ☐ 18 Volt One+™ Drill Kit
- ☐ 18V One+™ 5-1/2" Circular Saw with Laser
- ☐ 31 pc Drilling and Driving Accessory Kit

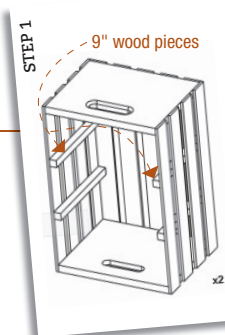
MATERIALS USED

- ☐ (8) 18" x 12.5" x 9.5" Large Wood Crates
- ☐ (6) 11.75" x 9.5" x 4.75" Small Wood Crates
- ☐ (4) Pieces of cut wood 9" x .75" x .75"
- ☐ (64) 1" Wood Screws
- ☐ (1) 4' x 2' Plywood board or other wood species for desktop
- ☐ (6) Drawer handles or drawer pulls
- ☐ (Optional) Paint or Stain; Varathane Kona Stain + Poly was used for this project
- ☐ (4) Pieces of cut wood 18.5" x 1.75" x 0.75"

Crates and Pallet is home to products and projects featuring a variety of crates and pallets. Crates & Pallet makes new crates and pallets in various sizes that are sold to major big box retailers. For more detailed information about this project, visit CratesAndPallet.com/crate-desk

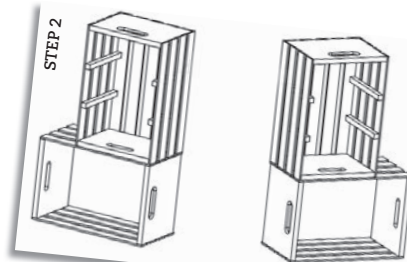
6 Steps

1 Using two large crates, attach (2) 9" wood pieces inside of each crate using wood screws.



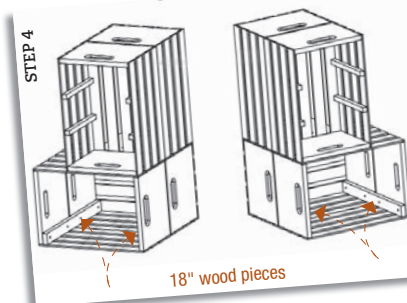
2 Remove bottom slats from two large crates.

Position horizontally, slats down. Attach the crates from Step 1 vertically to each, aligning one to left end and one to right end of the horizontal crates.

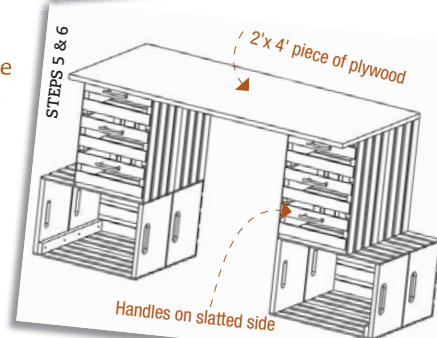


3 Without removing slats, repeat Step 2 with four additional large crates.

4 Using 18" wood pieces, align and attach two left base halves, then two right base halves, along the inside of the bottom horizontal crates.



5 Align and space the set of crate bases about 4 feet apart and attach a 2'x 4' piece of plywood to the top of the crate bases.



6 Install handles on the slatted side of the small crates. Slide the small crates into the desk using three on each side.



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