



Paradise Found

By The Editors | Photo: Daniel Driensky, Mike Turner | April 22, 2016

From pristine pools and glorious gardens to expert advice and hot new decor, we present the projects, products and pro tips you need to make your great outdoors even greater this season.



SOAK UP THE SUN

The pool and spa feature recycled glass tile from Materials Marketing and a substantial tanning ledge.

INSIDE OUT

For this [LaRue Architects](http://larue-architects.com) (http://larue-architects.com)-designed house in Austin's Barton Creek area, it was a group effort to create the property's grand outdoor living spaces. Along with the LaRue team, builder [Brian Long of Brian Long Custom Homes](http://brianlongcustomhomes.com) (http://brianlongcustomhomes.com), landscape architect Curt Arnette of [Sitio Design](http://sitiodesign.com) (http://sitiodesign.com) and Ebbn Milks, president and founder of [Aqua Builders](http://aquabuilders.com) (http://aquabuilders.com), lent their expertise to the outdoor environments. "The goal was to carry the elements of the indoor living areas to the outdoors seamlessly," says Milks, who designed the backyard's water features. For example, the Cor-Ten steel around the perimeter of the pool and the surrounding white limestone steps echo the color palette of the interior. Those design elements also carry over from the front of the house, creating a cohesive look throughout the contemporary-style property. And thanks to the design professionals' teamwork, the pool and spa, which are the backyard's crown jewels, offer spectacular views, whether you're looking toward the property's exquisitely landscaped grounds or its gracefully edgy architecture. [Aqua Builders](http://aquabuilders.com), 512.804.8361; [Brian Long Custom Homes](http://brianlongcustomhomes.com), 512.264.9095; [LaRue Architects](http://larue-architects.com), 512.347.1688; [Sitio Design](http://sitiodesign.com), 512.415.2097

What's trending in pool design?

"We have noticed a trend toward what we refer to as the 'cocktail pool.' Classic in shape, contemporary in material choice, the cocktail pool is an architecturally rich water feature boasting high-end finishes—focus is more on visual appeal and entertaining, less on sport. Current designs feature high-contrast materials, oversize coping, shallow areas, lawn in place of pool decking and dark interior finishes in lieu of the more traditional blues and greens of the past." [Matthew Murrey](http://matthemurray.com), principal and director of design, [Matthew Murrey Design](http://matthemurray.com) (http://matthemurray.com), 972.978.0565

FOLLOW THE LIGHTS

With [Gloster](http://gloster.com) (http://gloster.com)'s new Voyager LED lantern, the joy is in the journey. Part of the Voyager outdoor furniture collection, which was inspired by travel-ready campaign furnishings, the rechargeable, remote-controlled lantern features a light teak frame and carrying handle, creating stylish illumination wherever you need it. \$620. [Outside in Style](http://outsideinstyle.com) (http://outsideinstyle.com), 9900 N. FM 620, Austin, 512.387.8867; [Jacksons Home & Garden](http://jacksonshg.com) (http://jacksonshg.com), 6950 Lemmon Ave., Dallas, 214.350.9200; [Patio 1](http://patio1.com) (http://patio1.com), 5807 Richmond Ave., Houston, 713.977.4455

TEAK IT AWAY

For its new Ciel collection, [Restoration Hardware](http://rh.com) (http://rh.com) partnered with award-winning industrial designer Brad Ascalon. Comprising teak tables, chairs, a chaise and more, the collection, which debuted in March, blends clean lines with plush cushions, making each piece a modern and comfortable addition to any stylish outdoor space. Sofas from \$1,395, chaises from \$1,595, chairs from \$695, ottomans from \$495, tables from \$1,095, 10000 Research Blvd., Ste. 133, Austin, 512.342.0614; 3133 Knox St., Dallas, 214.520.7255; 4030 Westheimer Road, Houston, 713.328.3100; 6121 W. Park Blvd., Ste. D 108, Plano, 469.366.3474

TOP FLOOR

For [Perennials](http://perennialsrugs.com) (http://perennialsrugs.com)' latest rug collection, the luxury outdoor fabric manufacturer took a walk on the artistic side. Conceived by Porter Teleo, a Kansas City-based design team known for its fine art-inspired fabrics and wallpaper, the handmade, high-performance Tibetan knot rugs come in seven imaginative patterns. Price upon request, [David Sutherland Showroom](http://david-sutherland.com), 1025 N. Stemmons Freeway, Ste. 340, Dallas, 214.742.6501; 5120 Woodway Drive, Ste. 170, Houston, 713.961.7886

ALIVE AND WELL

[Articulture Designs](http://articulturedesigns.com) (http://articulturedesigns.com)' living furniture is part planter, part artful home decor. Pieces such as the Steel Life coffee table, cocktail table, end table and bench can be used inside or out and are completely customizable. Even better: Now shoppers can peruse the Austin firm's beautiful botanical creations in a new 2,200-square-foot boutique and gallery. *Steel Life series* from \$1,500, 6405 Manchaca Road, Austin, 512.762.5228

GATHER ROUND

Made from concrete, stainless steel, marine-grade rope and lava rock, Brown Jordan's Loop fire pit will lend a



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Now Playing



(/interiors-texas/videos/live-dine-2016)

chic, nautical feel to the patio on chilly evenings. Optional add-ons, including a sleek glass screen and matching drum stools, ensure the setup is as sophisticated as it is functional. *From \$4,796, Into the Garden, 3300 Knox St., Ste. 200, Dallas, 214.351.5125; [Patio 1 \(http://patio1.com\)](http://patio1.com), 5807 Richmond Ave., Houston, 713.977.4455*

What are the decorating essentials for creating a beautiful and comfortable outdoor living space?

"To curate the ultimate outdoor pad, invest in quality furnishings that will withstand the test of time and require little maintenance. Make your space more inviting by anchoring your seating and dining areas with outdoor rugs. Choose a simple design or go bold with color and pattern. Don't forget about the lighting! Outdoor floor and table lamps will keep the party going long into the night." **Pamela O'Brien, principal designer, [Pamela Hope Designs \(http://pamelahopedesigns.com\)](http://pamelahopedesigns.com), 713.880.1934**



SERENE SCENE

A wall of windows in the master bedroom allows views of the new and improved pool.

LUXE LAYERS

For years, San Francisco-based designer **Tina Frey** (<http://foundforthehome.com>) has wowed the design world with her luminous resin serveware. Now Frey has taken a shine to copper. Perfect for layering with the line's crisp white trays and bowls, the serving pieces add a touch of earthy glamour to alfresco entertaining. *From \$64, Found, 3433 W. Alabama St., Houston, 713.522.9191*

BACK SUPPORT

Designed by Sebastian Herkner, **Dedon** (<http://dedon.de>)'s latest, the MBrace chair, embraces a new silhouette with a wide back, which delivers comfort, bold style, a teak frame and mesh-like fibers synonymous with the brand. *Lounge chair from \$2,125, rocking chair from \$2,740, wing chair from \$2,625, [Anthony's Patio \(http://anthonyspatio.com\)](http://anthonyspatio.com), 6555 Burnet Road, Austin, 512.263.5115*

SHADES OF GRAY

Presented at this year's IMM Cologne fair in Germany, **B&B Italia** (<http://bebitalia.com>)'s new Gio outdoor series from Antonio Citterio is the Italian brand's latest example of blending style, quality and comfort. Including dining tables, armchairs and benches, among others, the series features solid teak construction with an antique gray finish, which adds a casual vibe to the contemporary furnishings. *Dining tables from \$5,395, benches from \$1,915, armchairs from \$1,794, 1009 W. Sixth St., Ste. 120, Austin, 512.617.7460; 1707 Oak Lawn Ave., Dallas (opening late spring); 3303 Kirby Drive, Houston, 832.242.9470*

GARDEN PARTY

With a backside made almost entirely of glass and a rippling lake just beyond the rear of the property, this north Houston house should have boasted enviable views. Unfortunately, years of plant growth, along with cluttered living spaces, were spoiling what was supposed to be sumptuous scenery. "The lake was almost secondary," says David Himel, landscape designer for **McDugald-Steele** (<http://mcdugaldsteele.com>), the firm responsible for the rear garden's recent dramatic makeover. "That was one of our agreed-upon ideas, to open the views to the lake, which was the beauty of the property. So we pushed a lot of the new spaces in our design toward the outer edges so that the interior views were primarily of the lake." Some of the McDugald-Steele team's other changes included simplifying the plant palette, which added to the property's new modern aesthetic, and replacing the 1970s kidney-shape pool with a linear one designed to align with the architecture. Another important addition was the new outdoor kitchen, complete with insulated stainless steel cabinetry topped with O-KERA ceramic surfaces. "The homeowners entertain quite a bit," Himel says, "so the garden is built around the entertaining and the grilling." Now guests at their regular crawfish boils get to enjoy the views too. *713.868.8060*

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

When the owners of a 1950s Terrell Hills house designed by legendary Texas architect Atlee B. Ayres purchased the 7-acre estate, they set about on a yearslong journey to restore the property to its original luster. For the backyard restoration, the homeowners hired San Antonio-based landscape architect **John Troy**, who in turn called in architect **Craig McMahon**, also of San Antonio, to help tackle the pool and pool house, both of which had fallen into an extreme state of disrepair. "At one moment I looked at the owners and said, 'Do you want to continue salvaging this?'" McMahon says. "And they were really adamant about salvaging the history of an Atlee B. Ayres project." Though respecting the property's heritage was highly important to the owners, they also wanted to modernize it. For the pool house, that included adding on an outdoor kitchen, opening up the lanai to make it more suitable for entertaining and transforming one side of the cabana into a guest bedroom and bath. The pool was in dire need of an upgrade too. Through careful excavation, the design team discovered that layers of concrete had been added to the pool's coping in order to contend with years of shifting soils. Once the concrete layers were removed, the team was able to rebuild the coping, preserving the spirit of the original pool structure and completing the masterful modernization of a historical estate. **Craig McMahon Architects** (<http://cmarchtx.com>), 210.710.3874; **John Troy Landscape Architects** (<http://johnstroylandarch.com>), 210.222.1355

MIX & MATCH

Danish designers Jonas Bjerre-Poulsen and Kasper Ronn of Norm Architects came up with the idea for the Wire Planter series for **Design Within Reach** (<http://dwr.com>) after visiting a Japanese garden, where plants were arranged at different heights to create a dynamic display. Made from powder-coated steel, the minimalist pieces include removable plugs for drainage. *From \$75, 200 W. Second St., Austin, 512.472.7200; 4524 McKinney Ave., Ste. 103, Dallas, 214.521.0100; 4066 Westheimer Road, Houston, 713.877.1555*

What's trending in luxury outdoor furniture and fabrics?

"It isn't about taking classic designs and reimagining them for outdoor use any longer. As the market and manufacturing capabilities have evolved, the idea of casual elegance has become a stronger theme—we're now bringing the outdoors in. Link's outdoor fabrics include dozens of luxury performance textiles, such as Pashmina, with the hand of cashmere; Ritz, woven using soft boucle; and Chenille—but all in 100 percent solution-dyed acrylic, making the fabric fade resistant and easy to clean." **Eugene Freeland, founder and president, [Link Outdoor \(http://linkoutdoor.com\)](http://linkoutdoor.com), 972.385.7380**

UPPER CRUST

Transport your backyard dinner party to Napoli with **Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet** (<http://kalamazooogourmet.com>)'s Artisan Fire Pizza Oven. The stainless steel hearth makes the flavor of Old World pies simple to achieve with an easy-to-regulate gas-fueled flame that mimics the cooking method and heat of a wood-fire oven. Plus, with just a 45-minute preheat time, you'll have perfect alfresco pizzas in a pinch. *\$6,895, [Pirch \(http://pirch.com\)](http://pirch.com), 8687 N. Central Expressway, Ste. 2172, Dallas, 469.250.9750*

INNER GLOW

Ora Ito's UFO collection for **Vondom** (<http://vondom.com>) embodies the designer's simplicity credo—the art of lending visible simplicity to complex functions. The range, characterized by sculptural lines and fluid form, comprises three new pieces: a bar stool, a chair and a table crafted from recyclable polyethylene resin, making them ideal for outdoor use. *Coffee table and lounge chair from \$765 each, sofa from \$1,530, [Anthony's Patio \(http://anthonyspatio.com\)](http://anthonyspatio.com), 6555 Burnet Road, Austin, 512.263.5115; [Internum \(http://internum.com\)](http://internum.com), 3303 Kirby Drive,*

Houston, 832.242.9470

FIELD DAY

As the latest luminary to design for [Moroso](http://moroso.it) (<http://moroso.it>), 's M'Afrique outdoor collection, designer Marc Thorpe took to the field for inspiration. Referencing corn husks with a woven metal design made in Dakar, the throne-like Husk chair by Moroso is the season's freshest pick for outdoor seating. \$1,190, 2800 Kirby Drive, Ste. B116, Houston, 713.630.6500