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THE ART OF OUTDOOR LIVING

Canada has two seasons: winter and “outdoor season.” In my work, I’m seeing an increased amount of investment in people maximizing those outdoor spaces, which have undergone an aesthetic and functional evolution over the last decade.

Indeed, the allure of alfresco living lies not only in their potential for relaxation and entertainment but also in their ability to serve as extensions of our indoors.

Balconies, decks and yards are making way for full-fledged outdoor living and dining rooms that echo the comfort and style of interiors while celebrating the beauty of the great outdoors.

Styling an outdoor area isn’t that different from a traditional interior space. The area should have a defined function — for example, cooking, dining, lounging, a space for intimate conversation or group entertaining — as well as dedicated furnishings to meet those needs, such as seating, or side tables, a bar, appliances and so on.

Don’t forget about outfitting each zone with appropriate flooring, like tiles or an outdoor area rug, lighting and accessories.

While echoing our exteriors to our interiors is a great decorating approach that ensures each “zone” is thoughtfully, functional and beautifully arranged, remember that outdoor environments possess unique temperatures, necessitating adaptation in our design process; bringing into consideration UV exposure, wind, rain, chlorine (if you have a pool or hot tub), and if it’s an all-season space, you’ll also have freezing temperatures to contend with. Be sure to factor these details into your decisions.

Your furnishings can make or break the space, and given this is an investment, choose pieces that will age gracefully in the face of harsh outdoors conditions and the equally harsh, fast-changing trends of the design world.

Natural materials are always a go-to, not just for their aesthetic appeal but their easy-going adaptability and strong connection with the surrounding environment. Materials such as wood, stone, rattan and wicker are warm, textural and timeless choices that’ll stand the test of time.

In recent years, there has been a notable shift toward adaptable and interchangeable pieces within outdoor furniture collections. This growing trend reflects a desire for versatility and flexibility in design, allowing homeowners to effortlessly tailor their outdoor spaces to suit their evolving needs and preferences.



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Designer Find: Somos is a new outdoor furniture collection that delivers thoughtful design, quality natural materials, at an affordable price. And yes, these modular pieces

can be effortlessly mixed and matched to create custom configurations suited to any sized space and application.

The beauty of this trend lies in its



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adaptability, with each piece designed to complement a variety of furniture styles and aesthetics. Unlike traditional outdoor sets that are bound by a uniform aesthetic,

these collections invite exploration and creativity, allowing individuals to curate unique outdoor environments that reflect their personal style and vision.

Moreover, these collections embrace the enduring allure of natural materials, incorporating sustainable teak, weather-resistant wicker, and durable aluminum into their designs.

This commitment to quality ensures that each piece not only withstands the elements but also retains its beauty and integrity for years to come. By embracing the inherent beauty of these materials, these collections celebrate the timeless allure of outdoor living.

When furnishing your outdoor space, consider integrating textiles as a means of blurring the boundaries between the indoors and outdoors.

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Designer Eugenia Triandos is the Principal Designer for Montreal based Hibou Design & Co.

Opt for weather-resistant fabrics that can withstand sun exposure and moisture, ensuring longevity and durability without compromising on aesthetics.

One might think that our indoor and outdoor environments are opposites, but from a design perspective, the two have a lot in common — especially when viewed through the lens of comfort and style.

When planning your outdoors, reflect on your lifestyle and your aesthetic preferences, then put them through the wringer of the spring’s rain, the summer sun and autumn’s gusts.

There’s an art to creating a great outdoor living area, but with the right planning and products, you can have a backyard oasis that you’ll dream about all winter long.

Designer Eugenia Triandos is principal designer for Hibou Design & Co., a design firm known for creating interiors that are both uniquely reflective and functional to their clients. Visit hiboudesignco.com