

Outdoor Living Spaces

It is important to consider what activities make up your unique lifestyle. Do you like to entertain? If so, you may wish to install an outdoor kitchen. Your outdoor kitchen can be as simple as a grill island and as elaborate as a full setup with sink, refrigerator, wine or beer cooler, ice machine, microwave, stove top, grill, storage, pizza oven, etc. Is your life centered around family and enjoying time together? A large patio beside a shining pool could be enjoyed by all. Do you need a peaceful space away from the rest of the world? A combination of water and stone elements can create a peaceful retreat. All of the above? There is an endless combination of design elements that can be chosen to enhance both your outdoor living space and your life. We have included only a few that could be considered in your design.

Walls and Fences

Not only are fences and walls ideal for creating privacy, defining the boundaries of your landscape, and providing safety for insurance purposes, they can be beautiful assets to your outside space. There are many different styles and materials to choose from. There is the traditional white picket fence all the way to impactful stone walls.

For fencing, there are multiple factors to consider when selecting material. Vinyl fencing is likely your best choice when wanting a bright, white appearance. Though vinyl will not need to be repainted to maintain its color, regular cleaning is necessary in order to remove dirt and buildup. Another drawback is the synthetic appearance if using low-quality material. For modern design and simplicity, consider the straight lines of black metal fencing. A living fence is an option for creating privacy with a hedge of densely planted shrubs or a screen of narrow, tall trees in a row.

If wanting something outside of white fencing, wood offers the most flexibility as it can be both stained or painted in a kaleidoscope of colors. While providing a more natural appearance that is more likely to blend in with its natural surroundings, wood also demands more frequent maintenance.

Beyond fencing, natural or man-made stone can be used to build striking walls for your outdoor spaces. Retaining or tiered walls help deal with elevation



changes, provide extra seating, and make that most of a graded space. Walls also provide a range of options that homeowners can choose from to achieve a desired look or feel. Want to:

- Make a dramatic statement? Larger stones give an appearance of strength.
- A style that is more Old World? Select stones weathered by years in the elements.
- Uniformity and orderliness? Use concrete stones.
- An eclectic look? Use mixed stones.

To maximize the function and flow to your outdoor space, note areas to include gates. With or without electronic access systems and locks, gates can be erected on driveways or walkways to provide convenient access for both you and any maintenance equipment such as mowers, etc.

No matter the material choice, keep in mind the architectural style of the house when considering fence or wall style. With so many styles and materials available, the possibilities are endless!

Patios & Decks

In the world of outdoor design, both patios and decks are used to define outside spaces and areas for activity and can often be confused with one another.

Patios, from the Spanish word for “yard”, are paved areas that are used for a variety of outdoor activities including entertaining, relaxing, and dining. Left covered or uncovered, patios can extend a home’s living space and provide a seamless transition into the outdoors. Here again, the decision on what materials

will be used can have a significant effect on the look and feel this feature will create in your outdoor space:

- Wanting a more uniform and formal design? Use bricks or tile that are all the same size and shape.
- Trying to achieve an aesthetic that blends in more naturally with your environment? The shape and size irregularity of flagstone can offer a more organic appearance.
- Seeking durability? Concrete can be an option and staining makes this material an even more versatile option.

Like patios, decks can either be built attached to a home or freestanding. In contrast to patios, decks can be built at different levels to highlight certain views. In contrast, decks are made of vinyl, wood, or a wood composite. Synthetic materials have their advantage in that they are resistant to deterioration, warping, and insects. Natural wood offers a warm and beauty unlike any other material.

Many homeowners decide that incorporating both a patio and a deck is necessary to create the style and functionality they require in an outdoor space. Beyond aesthetics, there are important considerations such as drainage and obtaining proper permits. The team at Pipeline understand the structural requirements and can walk you through the various types of materials available.

Walkways

Walkways help direct both physical and visual direction in your outdoor space. On their own, walkways offer their own visual value and set a mood in your outside space through color, texture, and path. Consider the difference between a walkway which creates an efficient and direct path from one area to another and a walkway that turns and curves along landscape features.

In addition to aesthetics, walkways also serve a utilitarian function by providing you (and your shoes) with the ability to move about your outside space mess-free.

When considering materials, consider your style and the function of your outside space.

- Wanting a more formal and direct path to connect your indoor and outside cooking areas? A brick path can create easy access and direct a natural flow between these two spaces.

- Seeking to create an Old World aesthetic? Cobblestones can charm with the idea of another time. Consider, however, that cobblestone pathways can be more difficult to walk on.
- Does your outside space feel disjointed? Consider an informal path that curves and draws traffic from one area to another. Place a stepping stone path between these destination zones.

Arbors and pergolas

Considering adding an additional structure to your outdoor space? There are several options and with each providing its own function and style.

Arbors have both functional and decorative qualities. Built from wrought iron or wood, arbors are constructed of simple slatted roofs which are supported by two or four posts. Positioned over a path, they direct traffic. By supporting vining plants through an open framework, they provide shade and privacy.

By contrast, a pergola is typically larger and may include more elaborate architecture such as masonry columns though the term also includes wooden structures. Sometimes freestanding, pergolas are often attached to homes and serve as outdoor extensions to indoor spaces. Its flat roof is typically created with a grid of rafters and beams which can either be left open or covered to provide additional shelter. If desired, solid roofs can also be constructed using shingles, tile, or metal - how elaborate it entirely dependent on your desired aesthetic.

- Wanting to create a grand entrance into your outdoor space? Consider an arched entry arbor and establish climbing roses for extra impact.
- Does your outdoor space require a touch of romance? Drape fabric through the rafters of your pergola to create shade and a dreamy look.

Always consider your home's architectural details when designing any outdoor structure to ensure that all elements are tied together.

Fire Pits and Fireplaces

Throughout history, a fire has been at the center of gathering and fellowship. As both a source of light and warmth, bring a fire into a space creates evening appeal and a way to stay outside during colder evenings. A permanently structured pit of brick, stone, or concrete can blend in seamlessly with other elements.

In comparison, fireplaces are more permanent and larger sources of fire in an outdoor space. A fireplace purpose is multifunctional and can turn an outdoor space into a second kitchen - a sure investment which only increases the value of your home. With the right additions, your fireplace can become a brick pizza oven. Materials can be selected which allow the space to become a harmonious element with the surrounding area or a focal point for evening gatherings.

In addition to materials, there is the decision between wood burning or gas:

- Will your fire pit/fireplace be placed in an area with overhead beams? A gas fire feature will provide an authentic experience without the increased risk or clean up of ash. There are many options here as well from logs to glass for a more modern look.
- Seeking the nostalgia of campfire? The smell and sounds of a crackling fire will mean that wood will be the choice for you as you and your guests make smores over an open fire.

Water Features

Another element to consider including in your outdoor space: water. When seeking to create an area conducive to meditation and relaxation, a water feature is an almost essential that can add both ambiance and help block busy street noise. With this feature, there are many options to choose from.

Fountains are the easiest and most space efficient ways to add a water element; from the natural look of stone fountains to the statement piece of an eye-catching ceramic fountain.

Seeking something more dramatic? Make use of an existing slope or create your own height in order to bring a waterfall to life.

Ponds are a surprisingly easy addition to an existing landscape. Beyond the traditional circular or oval shape, moat-like, long ponds can serve as unique borders to your outdoor space. To match the lines of a more contemporary home, consider the simplicity of a square or rectangular pond.

You are not limited to just one of these options. Consider a combination of two or more. Introducing fish to any pond is an added bonus. And remember, the larger the feature, the more complicated the project. Much of the work is done underground to ensure that pipes are leak-free and well-insulated. Excavation and hauling large rocks and materials can make this a labor-

intensive project. If you have any questions or concerns about taking on this kind of project, Pipeline would welcome the opportunity to talk you through both your options as well as challenges.

Pools

With our hot spring and summers, our climate gives us every reason to install a pool. While a pool can be refreshing on a hot summer day, a spa or hot tub can warm winter nights. Not only can a pool set a mood and become the focal point in a yard, it can enhance your existing lifestyle. If you enjoy entertaining, a pool will give you a reason to do it more and is a sure way to draw in people to your space, especially when temperatures soar. Some smaller pool models are simply built to be enjoyed and looked at.

- Is maintaining a healthy lifestyle one of your key daily goals? With a pool, you have access to one of the best types of exercise - swimming. A great exercise for all ages, swimming as a low-impact workout is part of a prescription to good health and maintaining fitness. A variable-speed current system creates a flow of water that enables you to swim in place.
- Do you have visions of entertaining guests in and around your pool? For an all-ages appeal, consider including awe-inspiring water features, elaborate slides, caves, tunnels, and boulders. If you like to entertain, noise, activity, and excitement, this may be the pool of your dreams.
- Wanting something truly unique? An infinity pool gives the illusion of a sheet of water dropping off over the edge of the property, like a waterfall. This is one of the most luxurious features you can add to your home.

Landscaping

Any beautifully designed hardscape can still appear stark without including plants as living elements. Following the completion of your hardscaping elements, you can add color, texture, shape, and fragrance with an endless combination of trees, shrubs, and blossoming flowers. The options can be endless so deciding which plants to use can be a challenge. Beyond what plants you consider to be the most attractive, there are a number of factors to take into consideration.

First, be honest about the amount of time you are willing to devote to maintenance. Your selection will

also need to be appropriate for hot, humid summers and the level of sun or shade in your space. Also, what do you want your plants to achieve - shade, privacy, style, etc?

Deciding on your plant palette will help you translate your style into your outdoor space as blossoms and foliage have a significant impact on atmosphere.

- Creating a modern vibe? Use plants with more dramatic forms such as the sculptural leaves of canna and philodendron as well as adding texture with ornamental grasses.
- Is your aesthetic more traditional? Create a cottage garden that showcases blossoms such as the hardy coneflower or phlox as well as southern classics such as hydrangea or peony.
- Do you want something fragrant and colorful that will attract birds, butterflies, and other wildlife? Select plants which provide both food and shelter requirements. Plants with distinctive berries bring interest and have the added benefit of attracting birds. This can include dense holly shrubs which provide both shelter and bright, red berries.

Your outdoor space can still be a showcase even during the winter months. Plants with evergreen foliage, colored bark and stems, and distinctive shapes ensure color in your outdoor space year round. Evergreen shrubbery, a backbone of any garden, can ensure color year round as well as be planted in fascinating patterns to add a classic element.

Outdoor spaces should bring pleasure even when you are inside. Consider your view from main windows that you tend to spend more time looking out of and assess if what you will see becomes art for your windows. The professionals at Pipeline can walk you through these considerations as you join these design elements together.

FINAL TOUCHES AND CHECKLIST

After the creation of hardscapes and landscaping, final touches can be added with dining tables and chairs, bar stools, café sets, lounge chairs, rockers, umbrellas, couches, etc.

As part of your planning, be sure to look into your local laws, HOA rules and other regulations before you undertake any major changes to your property. You may need to get approval for certain types of structures, like a pergola or fence. You will also want

Lighting

To prevent your well-planned outdoor space from disappearing when night falls, lighting your newly designed space is a must. Consider how lighting will affect your view from both inside and outside your home.

- Do you have large trees or architectural elements that you want to stand out even at night? highlight these important fixtures using an accent or spot lighting.
- Needing to add both curb appeal and safety? Use in ground lights to illuminate paths and provide a pleasing glow.
- Unsure about how to light your area of entertainment? Avoid harsh, direct light by using warmer colored lights with a dimmer to create ambience for your guest.

Going even further - consider layers. First, light the perimeter and define boundaries. Next, highlight paths and follow this with accenting outdoor features.

For lighting, seek a cohesiveness and avoid an eclectic look that can distract from the other featured our your outdoor space. Like other elements presented here, lighting comes in a variety of styles that can match you and your home's individual style.

to check with your utility provider to determine if there are any power or gas lines running under your property prior to any digging.

An outdoor design project can be both time-consuming and a big investment. Often, the best projects are the result of a team effort between a contractor and home designer. The professionals at Pipeline can act as a resource to help your vision become a reality.

Below you will find a simple checklist to begin your planning as well as some questions to ask yourself.

Please check off any outdoor activity or function you would like incorporated into your outdoor space. Select as many as you wish.

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- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHELTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> SPORTS | <input type="checkbox"/> OUTDOOR DINING | <input type="checkbox"/> EXERCISE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RELAXING | <input type="checkbox"/> SUNBATHING | <input type="checkbox"/> GARDENING | <input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MEDITATION | <input type="checkbox"/> PETS | | |

Please think over your design mood and select all that apply.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHELTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> NATURAL/WILD | <input type="checkbox"/> EXOTIC | <input type="checkbox"/> PLAYFUL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RELAXING | <input type="checkbox"/> UPLIFTING | <input type="checkbox"/> VERDANT/LUSH | <input type="checkbox"/> LUXURIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> SPIRITUAL | <input type="checkbox"/> CASUAL/INFORMAL | <input type="checkbox"/> FUN/WHIMSICAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL | <input type="checkbox"/> WOODLAND | <input type="checkbox"/> EXCITING | <input type="checkbox"/> PRACTICAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ENERGIZING | <input type="checkbox"/> SOOTHING | <input type="checkbox"/> SERENE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOLD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMFORTABLE | | | |

What building materials appeal to you?

- | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONCRETE | <input type="checkbox"/> SLATE | <input type="checkbox"/> WROUGHT IRON | <input type="checkbox"/> ROCKS/BOULDERS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FLAGSTONE | <input type="checkbox"/> MARBLE/LIMESTONE | <input type="checkbox"/> COPPER | <input type="checkbox"/> GLASS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STEEL | <input type="checkbox"/> GRAVEL | <input type="checkbox"/> WOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> ROCKS/BUILDERS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (DESCRIBE) | | | |

Considering your goals, what function would you like plants to provide?

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|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> GROW VEGETABLES OR FRUITS | <input type="checkbox"/> CREATE A SANCTUARY SPACE | <input type="checkbox"/> ATTRACT WILDLIFE | <input type="checkbox"/> LOW MAINTENANCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> REDUCE WIND | <input type="checkbox"/> REDUCE UNDESIRABLE NOISE | <input type="checkbox"/> PROVIDE CUT FLOWERS | <input type="checkbox"/> LOW WATER USE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PROVIDE FOR EXERCISE | <input type="checkbox"/> CREATE PRIVACY | <input type="checkbox"/> ADD FRAGRANCE | <input type="checkbox"/> ADD SOFT SOUNDS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADD TEXTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (DESCRIBE) | | |

Please check off next to any landscape feature you would like to incorporate into your outdoor space. Select as many as you wish.

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> FOUNTAIN | <input type="checkbox"/> OUTDOOR SHOWER | <input type="checkbox"/> WALKWAY | <input type="checkbox"/> HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WATERFALL | <input type="checkbox"/> FIREPLACE/FIRE PIT | <input type="checkbox"/> KOI/GOLDFISH POND | <input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NIGHT LIGHTING | <input type="checkbox"/> POOL | <input type="checkbox"/> ARBOR | <input type="checkbox"/> PERIMETER WALL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SEATWALLS | <input type="checkbox"/> IRRIGATION | <input type="checkbox"/> PERGOLA | <input type="checkbox"/> PET AREA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PATIO | <input type="checkbox"/> DECK | <input type="checkbox"/> GREENHOUSE | <input type="checkbox"/> OUTDOOR KITCHEN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STEPPING STONE | | | |

Keeping in mind the architecture of your home, what are your design theme preferences? Select one or more.

<input type="checkbox"/>	ASIAN	Simplicity, more green than flower colors, use of stone.
<input type="checkbox"/>	MODERN	Dramatic foliage, strong color contrasts, mass plantings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	COTTAGE	Colorful mixed borders, perennials, winding paths, eclectic.
<input type="checkbox"/>	FORMAL	Symmetry, clipped hedges, topiary, classical architecture.
<input type="checkbox"/>	TRADITIONAL	Softer than modern and more following than formal; more casual.
<input type="checkbox"/>	TROPICAL	Strong colors, bold foliage, jungle-like abundance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	MEDITERRANEAN	Drought tolerant plantings, grasses, flagstone/limestone, stone or stucco walls.
<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER (PLEASE DESCRIBE)	

Are there any areas of your yard that you would like to improve privacy?

Are there any areas of your yard that you would like to reduce sun exposure?

Are there any views you will want to preserve?

Select the amount of time per month you will have for yard maintenance:

- NONE/HIRE OUT 4 HOURS OR LESS 4-8 HOURS 8 HOURS OR MORE

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THE PIPELINE PROCESS

Step 1: Meet and Discuss Project

1

During this step, the Pipeline team will meet with you to review any plans that may already exist, look at the site and note any likes, dislikes, wants, etc. This will be time to address any initial concerns such as the amount of time and money that will be invested in the project. This site visit and consultation are absolutely free.

Step 3: Finalize Details

3

At this stage, we make any adjustments to the design and estimate based on your feedback. If a more formal plan is needed, a design fee may be charged but waived if moving forward with the project and deposit. If the estimate and plan look good, it's time to sign! A project timeline and plan will be provided to you.

Step 5: Begin Installation

5

On the date scheduled, our project manager will arrive with the Pipeline crew to layout and oversee the installation. Our project manager will be onsite daily to answer any questions, make sure everything is going according to plan and make any necessary adjustments based on client feedback. Whether the project is for one day or multiple months, our team will make sure that the construction phases are as seamless as possible with little disruption to your daily routine.

Step 2: Put a Plan Together

2

We will develop a rough design and cost estimate for you to review. It will be based on our professional opinion as well as a few ideas that may help you gain insight into your landscaping possibilities.

Step 4: Behind the Scenes

4

The Pipeline team will work to gather all the necessary permits needed to begin the job on the designated start date and to complete within the specified timeframe. If needed, you may be asked for your input in selecting your favorite materials that will be used in the project.

Step 6: Project View

6

Upon completion, we will walk the site with you and check off that everything has been completed to your satisfaction. We will demo any equipment - irrigation, lighting, kitchen, firepit/fireplace, pool, etc. necessary. We will also provide you with all the information and recommendations you need to take care of your investment. Depending on the size and length of the project, progress payments may be requested upon significant completion of portions of the design. Otherwise, final payment will be due upon completion of the entire project.