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**SUNNY
SUMMER
ACCENTS**

**TAKE IT
OUTSIDE**

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Take a Seat

Longer days and warm summer nights have us all heading outdoors to enjoy the summer season. Instead of dragging out the folding chairs or pulling up a lounger, consider building seating options right into your patio landscape with hardscape materials such as concrete, pavers, brick and stone. Built-in seating not only serves as a place to sit, but the design element can define the space whether it be a fire pit or conversation area.

By Melissa Mauzy



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Photography by Andria Graeler.

Above: Outdoor fire pit, by Belgard. Warm hues and stonelike textures create a welcoming atmosphere for this stunning fire pit outdoor living room. Rich, variegated colors and textures allow the Verona™ porcelain pavers (in yukon) to closely mimic quarried stone with superior durability. A soldier course of Origins™ pavers (in midnight) borders the paver field to create an area rug aesthetic. The chiseled stone appearance of Tandem™ Wall (in Bella color blend) provides an elegant backdrop and the versatility to construct multiple features to complete the space.

Left: By Chesterfield Valley Nursery. Complete with a patio fireplace, fire pit, bubbler rock and outdoor kitchen, this space is a perfect example of how you can transform your back yard into an outdoor living space you can enjoy spring through fall!



Photography by Edmunds Studios.



Photography by Jeri Keogel.



Photography by Joe Traina Photography.



Photography by Ryan Garvin.

1. By Ginkgo Leaf Studio. A patterned bluestone circular landing with concave and convex Waukesha Gray stone steps, along with bluestone medallions emphasizes the visual axis to the fire bowl and seat wall. The cast iron sugar kettle is lit from below with lights recessed into the beach pebble surround.

2. By Brandon Architects. This Orange County porch was designed for entertaining under the beautiful California sunsets. Brandon Architects designed a patio with a fire pit and no cover to help bring warmth to the lounging space and the added hot tub is decorated with the beautiful wood details.

3. By Ryan Hughes Design Build. In the Woodlands Refuge project a custom sunken fire pit seating area delivers intimacy, comfort and warmth with its surrounding cushioned bench adorned with performance fabric cushions and pillows. The bespoke fire pit and seating are constructed of stone and tile within an enclosed outdoor living area. The backyard space is a welcome retreat featuring a pool, spa, television lounge, outdoor kitchen, and this hardscape fire lounge.

4. By Garden Studio. Interior design by Molly Britt Home. This space was designed to effortlessly meld functional planning and all the perks of alfresco entertaining into one. The open-concept dining table and deep BBQ counter space fit with state-of-the-art appliances (including a wood-burning pizza oven) is a hostess' paradise, while the built-in benches embracing both sides of the grand fireplace ushers guests to get cozy and enjoy a night under the stars. We truly could not think of a better place to spend a summer evening soiree than here.