



WHERE THE LIVIN' IS EASY

SUMMER'S SUNNY DAYS AND COOL MOUNTAIN EVENINGS CALL FOR DIPS IN THE POOL, LAZING ON LOUNGE CHAIRS AND DINING AL FRESCO STORY **SUZANNE S. BROWN**

PHOTOS: JOEL RINER PHOTOGRAPHY

Sofas and chairs from Restoration Hardware provide spots for conversation and views of Lake Coeur d'Alene at this Black Rock vacation home. A custom fire pit helps take the chill off of cool evenings.

Homeowners used to want a simple deck or patio. "Now they want outdoor rooms, says architect John Galambos, based in Aspen, Colorado. He created multiple such spots at a residence for one family, including areas to sit by the fire, dine, swim and lounge, all connected by walkways and plant-laden paths. "We are designing a lot more for the summer," he says.

The key to making outdoor spaces livable is to think about their function and plan accordingly. The right mix of hardscape, furnishings, lighting and plants will smoothly connect the interior to the exterior of a residence. Places to cook and dine, have coffee or cocktails, watch the sunset and talk into the wee hours are all desirable amenities. Designers advise selecting furniture that is both durable and versatile so it can be moved around to accommodate different group sizes and purposes. Also consider sun exposure and add shade with umbrellas.

Here and on the next two pages is a home with patios designed to provide both privacy and togetherness in the Idaho outdoors. The two projects that follow celebrate exceptional views from a hilltop residence in Whitefish, Montana, and the natural beauty surrounding a family's Aspen getaway. >>

THIS PAGE: Lower level bedrooms feature walk-out patios with access to the putting green and lawn. Poured form concrete walls complement the home's modern design aesthetic. **OPPOSITE:** On a grassy site that slopes to the lake, the home's multiple patios are landscaped with columnar junipers, boxwood and barberry shrubs.



PHOTOS: JOEL RIVER PHOTOGRAPHY

LAKESIDE LUXE With its sloping lawn and idyllic lake views, this Northwest modern home in Coeur d'Alene offers a slice of summer paradise with multiple patios off living spaces and bedrooms. Architect Eric Hedlund made sure some of the outdoor spots have roofs for shelter, while others are open to the elements. Walkout bedrooms on the lower level have their own private patios with stairs connecting them to the other outdoor areas. In keeping with the project's contemporary aesthetic, flooring surfaces and stepping-stone paths are in acid-etched concrete and walls are poured-form concrete. Boxwoods add a structured feel to the landscaping while also softening and providing visual separation to the spaces. Comfortable cushioned seating in neutral colors was used on both the main patio and for the chaise lounges and benches. Custom fire pits off the main patio and master bedroom create cozy gathering spots when the weather cools. Finally, for the golf-loving residents, a putting green was added to the lower level.

ARCHITECTURE: ERIC HEDLUND DESIGN, eh-design.net.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: PLACE LANDSCAPE + ARCHITECTS, place-la.com >>