

Backyard Oasis

DESIGN | FURNISH | ENJOY



by Shay Geyer



Outdoor living is huge in Dallas-Fort Worth. Taking the time to design a thoughtful and beautiful space will pay off when it comes time to sell your home.



Color Palette

In North Texas, outdoor living areas are extensions of our homes. To create flow from the interior of your home to its exterior, tie the color palette together. You can opt to use one color from inside your home or continue the entire scheme.

If you love color, punch those hues up a bit in your backyard for brighter contrast with the natural elements and landscaping. If you prefer that your pool or landscaping take center stage, use a more neutral palette for your home's outdoor furnishings.

Furniture Layout

Many backyards are segmented into areas. Yours may have a cabana or lounging area, an outdoor kitchen and dining space, and seating near the pool. When designing your layout, think about how you will utilize each of these spaces.

Do you want chairs to swivel, providing multiple views of the yard, or change direction depending on TV viewing or conversation? Either way, be sure to provide plenty of space to maneuver around your furnishings so you and your guests may

Pool, cabana and landscape
design by AquaTerra Outdoors
AquaTerraOutdoors.com

Outdoor furnishings and
design by Shay Geyer
IBB Design Fine Furnishings
IBBDesign.com

Photography by Dan Piassick

easily transition from one area to another. Ask your landscape architect or pool builder for a set of plans in 1/4-inch scale so your designer can help you properly place the furnishings for your backyard resort. If possible, complete your furniture-space planning prior to construction so your designer can offer suggestions for tweaking your decking or sitting areas to accommodate the furnishings you want to include.

Form and Function

In addition to assisting with colors and layout, a designer can help you work through decisions and recommend brands that will withstand the Texas summer heat. It's imperative that you use outdoor fabrics and cushions. Woven fabrics are typically the most durable and will have less fading from the sun.

Your outdoor furnishings should not only look fabulous, but feel fabulous, too. Since you'll most likely be spending many hours on weekends and evenings sitting in these spaces, comfort should be a top priority. ■



Shay Geyer, partner and designer of IBB Design Fine Furnishings, has passion for interiors and interior products that makes creating beautiful spaces for clients a true dream job. Her vibrant personality and personal approach to design often land her high-profile and lifelong clients who trust her not only with their primary homes but also vacation homes across the country. Shay has served as the design expert for WFAA's "Good Morning Texas" since 2006. Her design segments may be seen on the show every Friday morning.

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