

# Outdoor refresh

Impress with these fresh new design styles for outdoors

by Vicki Payne

Designers deliver exciting, clean, tailored looks for outdoor living spaces. Styles have changed dramatically this season. The biggest change is "less is more." Spaces have been decluttered, texture replaces color and even container plantings are low and compact.

Furniture features crisp lines and broad beveled planes that create a pure, geometric composition. The modern, minimalist aesthetic is rendered in solid teak as well as aluminum. Sofas, chairs and coffee tables are lower and close to the ground delivering a dynamic sense of balance and movement.

Top designers like Mario Ruiz (Barcelona), Nicholas and Harrison Condos (Sydney), Toan Nguyen (Milan) and David Sutherland (Dallas) brought their interior design style to outdoor furniture collections. The look is stupendous.

Outdoor rugs have taken on the look of high-end interior carpets. Fourth-generation rug artisan Ben Soleimani's high-

performance outdoor rugs are meticulously woven from the finest handspun, all-weather fibers to achieve the rich texture and natural feel of wool.

They are equally suitable for the indoors and look spectacular while resisting stains, spills and moisture. These rugs are ideal in high-traffic areas, or wherever dining and entertaining take place. Rugs are available from Restoration Hardware.

More exciting textile changes are new outdoor accent pillows. No more palm leaves, fish or boring solid earth-tone fabrics. Today's pillows offer a distinct global perspective, all in high-performance fabrics. Sunbrella's Hanbel collection evokes the rustic beauty of authentic Hanbel textiles from the Atlas Mountains. The Kuba Cloth grouping celebrates the graphic appeal of traditional African ceremonial designs.

If your collection of planters is an eclectic grouping consisting of all

colors, sizes and shapes, it's time to declutter your patios and porches. This season's planter styles consist of faux-cement, casted lightweight planters. Colors are muted in putty, natural cement and darker blackish shades.

This trend carries over to fire pits and tables. You have the look of cement without the weight. They are more portable and less bulky than fire pits out of stone or bricks. The lines are cleaner and in geometric shapes and circles.

Even the plants that go into those planters have been updated and reflect a more sustainable attitude. The biggest trend are succulents, moss and cactus plants. The compact structure and soft muted green, gray and rose shades complete the minimalist look for outdoor spaces.

Once a trend, lanterns are now a classic—and they are here to stay. Their minimalistic lines pair beautifully with all the latest outdoor styles. Just remember to replace droopy candles and keep the glass clean when expecting guests.

If your budget doesn't allow for a complete patio makeover, consider incorporating some of the new trends like soft tone rugs, global patterned and textured pillows or lanterns. Easier yet, plant a succulent garden in a new stylish container.



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