

# THE ELEGANT

# OUTDOORS

BY AMY HEMPE



San Francisco porcelain tile from Show Floors has the look of aged, reclaimed brick—perfect for patios and pathways.

New designs for outdoor spaces create a more social and personal way of life.



This Bi-Fold Moving Glass Wall System in aluminum dark anodized bronze offers a seamless transition to outdoor living.

**F**irst impressions can last a long time.

Catching someone's eye in such a way as to create a positive memory and association is important. Without dismissing the interior of a home, exterior design has taken on new popularity. Homebuyers and home renovators alike recognize the excitement in creating sophisticated, intimate spaces

outside. Whether it is landscaping, lighting or new windows and doors, homeowners can showcase their vision of the world by sculpting both the front and back spaces of a home. The area outside the home is a new world to explore, but it is not nearly as challenging as it may appear. It's fun once you realize all the options available.



Shade is a backyard necessity in sunny Colorado. Sunbrella fabrics are a **trendy way** to brighten the setting and protect furniture.

## Design Options: The Intimate Social Experience

**Homebuilders and designers are taking** customers' requests for refined outdoor spaces very seriously. It could be a patio or rooftop space. The bottom line is that customers crave cozy, elegant areas to socialize with family and friends. Outdoor

cooking and dining have proven to be the key elements here. David Jackson, president of Jackson Design Build in Centennial says, "People are most definitely looking for outdoor kitchens. Customers often ask for a space directly adjacent to the indoor kitchen or dining room. Having an easy circulation flow between the two areas offers the convenience of being able

Slate slab powder coated doors with paneled island by The Artisan Shop creates a full, working kitchen in the great outdoors.



to move back and forth. They are close by and adjacent so you can use the space and cook 12 months out of the year. Jackson goes on to clarify that "Outdoor entertainment is more social. There are not so many games or fancy audio/visual items. It becomes very personal."

**Part of the personal experience** with the outdoor kitchen includes fireplaces and pizza ovens. Jim Iversen, vice president at Rio Grande Fireplaces, says unequivocally that "Fireplaces in Colorado are hot!" They can be customized to the buyer's specifications, such as being round or square. Iversen says they have even installed

Multi-hued, octagonal tiles from Shaw Floors ground this elegant eating area. Outdoor rooms continue to be a very popular home design feature.



...into the softness of Sunbrella cushions when extra seating is required. Homeowners look for durable fabrics designed to last.

a firepit that was 20 feet long. Stand-alone, outdoor, wood-burning pizza ovens are also popular, and they add to the enjoyable experience of both cooking and devouring pizza.

Cody Kennedy, regional marketing specialist at Milgard Windows and Doors, agrees that the trend of using the outdoor space as an extension of the indoor space is incredibly popular. She stresses that patio doors need to provide a smooth visual transition between the outdoors and the indoors. Clean lines, generally associated with more modern and minimalist looks, draw attention to the patio and its design.

For the urban home with less outdoor space, Dana Keller and Peter Benson of Koelbel and Company in Denver emphasize the company's focus is on creating rooftop patios and treetop decks. Keller says, "We are about being efficient with space and providing good vistas for the customers." For people who prefer urban living, having this option has proven very popular, and people often design these spaces with kitchens and fireplaces. "We

Dressing up the outdoors is a fun trend. Sunbrella offers architecturally inspired fabrics that add comfort to exterior living spaces.

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don't have the large outdoor spaces, but we can still create a space that provides customers with the outdoor experience they desire." Benson, vice president of the Koelbel Urban Homes division, agrees. "A treetop deck just off the master suite can allow couples to have an intimate glass of wine while capturing a great vista."

## Shedding Light on the Whole Experience

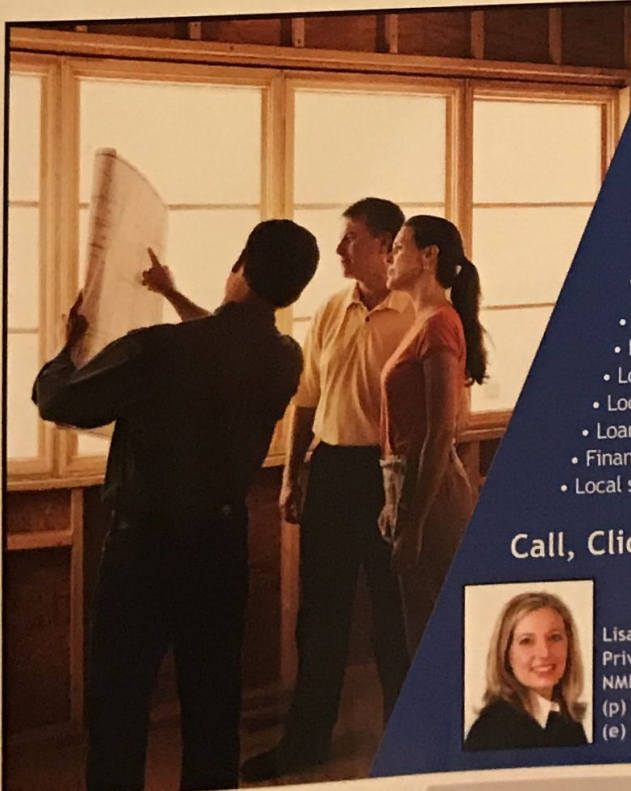
**David Nestor, is a man who loves his** job. Nestor is the owner of Denver's Urban Lights, and he speaks with excitement and passion about the ability to transform the outdoor experiences his

company offers customers. "We approach it philosophically," Nestor enthuses. "We take the daytime experience and transition that into a relaxing environment into the evening. It's all about being welcoming—an exterior feel that it is about warmth and security."

Nestor says that LED technology has motivated many of the current exterior lighting trends. "We find that with LED, we have a much more durable material. It is sleek and minimalistic, yet sturdy." This includes grazing textured surfaces and involves putting lights on brick walls, the sides of houses and rock walls. "It is essentially an 'invisible light,' and it is a part of our minimalistic dreams. It is felt but not necessarily seen."



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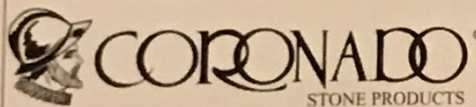


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**LED technology also allows designers** to bring new shapes and styles to the customers. Different geometric shapes exist, as well as different shades of white. "It gives a different feel and mood, and these lights can stand up to the Colorado weather." Nestor states that the lights offer about 50,000 hours of light that can translate to seven or eight years of life.

Enjoying the Colorado night sky is a part of the Western experience, but greater development means more city lights. To counter that effect, Dark Sky lighting is an exciting trend that has moved from the mountains into the city. The light source is an LED light recessed into the roof of the lantern. "All you get is a glow. It is confined to a limited space and produces less light pollution."



The Harbor exterior wall fixture from Hinckley, available at Urban Light provides long-lasting LED illumination.



**Front lighting is also important to customers.**

Jackson says customers want not only curb appeal but clean lines. Nestor also says that one of the biggest requests they get is to light the front of the home, particularly the walkways, pathways and even driveways.

"One of the most interesting pieces that we are seeing more and more is lighting driveways with lights that are recessed into the driveway. You can drive over them, and they offer a nice way to light up the path into the garage area."

Further, front lighting includes low lighting covering shrubs and trees. Recessed lighting offers both the atmospheric effect customers desire, as well as providing the security that they deserve.

## Smart Homes Provide Security and Convenience

**Brandon Donovan, owner of Colorado Security Company**, explains that his company stands out for all the choices it offers consumers. "People want control over different parts of their homes. We offer a product that can handle all of the smart home needs," he says. With his company's partnership with Alarm.com, they can set up systems for smart control. Only one app allows consumers to time their porch lights, their sprinkler systems and security. Many people buying homes these days ask for camera security systems, whether they are dome, bullet or doorbell camer-

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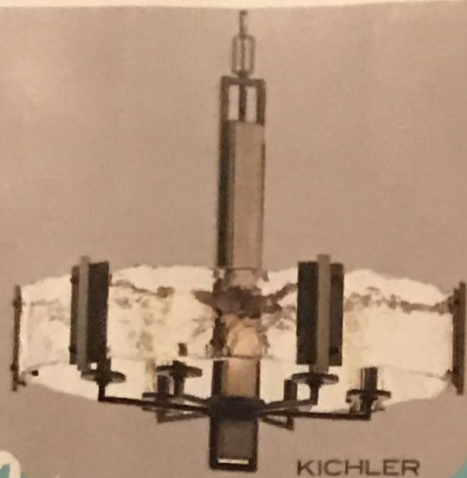
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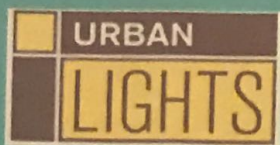
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as. These give homeowners the peace of mind of knowing that they can see people who come up to their homes when they may be miles away.

"Nobody wants to be that neighbor whose sprinklers go off during a storm," Donovan says with a laugh. "Our system can be connected to weather trackers." The sprinkler can be set up so that in the event of a rain forecast, it will shut off. Watering certain zones of the yard while leaving other areas temporarily dry is another option.

Donovan notes the crossover appeal between interior and exterior design. "With our product, you can adjust all the lights in the house, or just the porch lights if you want to stagger shut-off times. You can decide to have certain lights come on during your commute home. People can even control their shades on different sides of the house remotely."

**There is little doubt that this is a** thrilling time to be a homeowner in Colorado. With innovations in technology, homebuyers and renovators can create the home of their dreams. They have the ability to create an outdoor space with an indoor/outdoor flow, as well as the necessary security. Exterior design has evolved from having the standard backyard barbecue and wading pool to a more refined space. Customers are in control and can make their exterior spaces—rooftops, decks and patios—a more complete extension of their lives, as well as share it with others. Ultimately, that is what the homeownership experience is all about.

*Amy Hempe is a writer and educator in Denver. Find her at AmyHempeWriting.com.*

Photos: Artisan Outdoor Kitchens Co. 380, Millard Co. 34, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000