



**Best Pools**

# Backyard Living Remodel Design Trends



# Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Pool: Transforming Your Pool.....	4
Deck: Take Your Patio from Boring to Beautiful.....	6
Landscape: Growing Gorgeous Gardens & Green Spaces.....	8
Outdoor Entertainment: Building a Cozy Spot for Food, Family & Friends.....	10



# Introduction

If you can appreciate the tranquility and splendor of lounging in a beautiful backyard, but know that your backyard is in need of some work before it can truly get there, we've got some great ideas that'll turn your backyard into the welcoming oasis you've always envisioned.

Today's beautiful backyards encompass more than just a pretty view. They also serve as functional retreats that not only meet your needs, but also create a seamless transition between your house and the backyard, creating a gorgeous aesthetic where you can relax, entertain, make memories and have fun.

While a backyard remodel can be overwhelming, it's also an exciting time to see the transition from before to after. The backyard living remodel design trends below are just a few suggestions in which you can update your pool, deck, landscaping and outdoor entertaining area.



# Transforming Your Pool

The majority of remodel design trends for pools are all about adding value to your pool while also changing its aesthetic appeal and efficiency. Whether the look and materials are out of date or it's in constant need of repair, renovating your existing pool is a great way to give your backyard an overhaul. So what are some ways to transform your poolscape?

One fun and functional renovation idea is swapping out your old pool coping or water line tile for brilliant glass tiling. Glass tiles produce a dazzling shimmer that will enhance the appearance of your pool while also increasing its value.

Another top trend is having a tanning ledge built into your existing poolscape. These ledges are only 2 to 4 inches deep and allow bathers to cool off without having to fully submerge themselves in the water. They can also double as a splash pad for youngsters or those who are water-wary, giving them a safe and fun place to play and splash around.

Water features have also been a top renovation for pool owners. Bubbly waterfalls are still a leading choice for many, while sheer cascades are perfect for more contemporary pools. Laminar deck jets are the ideal accompaniment for any pool, adding height and excitement to your poolscape.





Another great way to remodel your pool that not only helps your pool operate more efficiently and effectively, but also saves you money long term, is by retrofitting it with energy-efficient equipment and automated pool operating system. Variable-speed pumps, gas heaters, high capacity filters and a pool automation system will help you reduce energy, save money, save time and allow you to operate your pool whenever and wherever you are.

You should also consider swapping out your bland in-pool lighting for colorful, energy saving LEDs. LED lighting not only enhance the safety of your pool with brighter, whiter lights, but they can be used to create a stunning backdrop for nighttime entertaining.





# Take Your Patio From Boring to Beautiful

If you are tired of looking out over your boring gray concrete decking, you are not alone. One of the leading trends in backyard renovations over the past several years has been reworking the traditional patio into something more contemporary and exciting.

You have one of two main options available when it comes to refreshing the appearance of your decking — resurfacing your deck or replacing it.

Resurfacing your deck may be a possibility if you have an existing concrete pool deck which is in good shape. The resurfacing process involves having a concrete overlay sprayed or trowel applied over your deck. Many of the leading systems can be stamped or stenciled to match your preferred deck style, producing the same effect as if you replaced the deck completely.

This process is less of a hassle than completely replacing the deck, and it is an easy way to add color, texture and additional slip resistance to your patio. Many new resurfacing products are also designed to be resistant to salt, chemicals, sun and freeze-thaw damage, making them that much more effective.





Replacing a cracked concrete and rotting wooden deck is even more common than resurfacing it. As more backyards turn into extra living areas, homeowners choose to replace their existing decking with other decking materials, colors and designs so that it matches the architecture of both the inside and outside of the home.

A little design tip? When planning your new deck, consider mixing and matching different materials. Using a variety of materials can add visual interest and style to your outdoor living area.

Incorporating railings and pool fencing into your patio is also a popular trend among remodel options. As more homeowners focus on singular deck designs, railing gives homeowners the opportunity to customize the appearance of their deck so that it does not look identical to anyone else's in the neighborhood. For outdoor living areas, a sleek cable railing is a top choice. For around the pool and patio, many are replacing their safety fencing with glass fencing for improved safety and appearance.

If your deck is not covered, consider ways to provide yourself and guests with shade. Pergolas are a leading choice as they can also frame features of your backyard, enhance your privacy and they can act as a focal point. Automated shading options are also on the rise and many systems can be quickly and easily installed. Large umbrellas are a more economical choice for those on a tighter budget. Whether choosing an automated shading option or a large umbrella, have fun with the colors and patterns, and choose a complementary pop of color.





## Growing Gorgeous Gardens & Green Spaces

Backyards and gardens have drastically changed over the years. While the traditional luscious green yard will always be sought after, many homeowners are beginning to explore different and unique garden ideas that are sure to bring attention (in a good way) to your backyard.

- **Naturescaping:** This process involves choosing and growing plants that are native to your geographic location. Not only are these environmentally-conscious landscapes easy to maintain, but they help attract local insects, birds and other wildlife.
- **Edible Landscaping:** Another low maintenance garden option is to create an edible landscape. You can easily grow fresh herbs, vegetables and fruits in your garden, which are not only healthier for you, but also add color and texture to your backyard. These can be planted directly into the soil or they can be planted in decorative containers, creating a vivacious, and sustainable, aesthetic.
- **Rain Gardens:** Rain gardens allow homeowners to divert gutter water into a beautiful planting bed that naturally filters the water and allows it to slowly seep into the surrounding soil. These gardens are typically built in three zones of varying heights: zone 1 includes plants that can tolerate wetter conditions, zone 2 features plants that can tolerate occasional standing water, and zone 3 is reserved for plants which thrive in drier conditions.



Building detached seating areas into your landscaping, away from the outdoor kitchen and living area, is also gaining popularity. Gazebos, pavilions and pergolas with comfortably plush seating offer a cozy and cool area to enjoy private conversations, or to read and relax outside. Planting local climbing and creeping plants next to the structure will create additional shading and privacy options. For those who enjoy the idea of edible landscaping, beans and peas can be grown seasonally, and are a great climbing option to integrate. Other options will depend on your geographic location and what colors and textures you find beautiful and intriguing.

With the increase in concerns over water shortages over the past decade or so, there has been an upswing in demand for freshwater features. These features, such as rain barrels and stone retaining walls, not only add additional dimension to your lush landscape, but also collect and hold water that can be later used to nourish and sustain your plants. An added bonus? You can save on your utility bills.

Finally, consider your own interests when plotting out your green space. Themed outdoor retreat spaces such as a bocce field, a canopy bedroom, a golf putting green and a serene yoga garden are creative options for those looking to integrate permanent fun into the backyard.





## Building a Cozy Spot for Food, Family & Friends

Nothing will allow you to maximize your backyard more than having an outdoor kitchen. Bringing the indoors out is one of hottest backyard design trends, as it creates a functional, and enjoyable, space. The best outdoor kitchens operate exactly like the kitchen inside your home, and will often include features and appliances such as a grill, stove top, refrigerator, sink, storage space and counter space.

Depending on your preferences and how much space you have to work with, you may want to add additional features like a wood burning pizza oven, an outdoor vent hood, a warming drawer and an ice maker.

Creating an outdoor living room also allows you to get the most out of your beautiful backyard. These spaces offer a serene place where you can relax alone or hang out with friends and family. Outdoor living rooms can be as elaborate or simple as you'd like. Whether you're just looking to have a nicely constructed fire pit surrounded by cozy deep seated furniture or are looking for more of a living space complete with TV and lots of seating, your outdoor living space should reflect your personality and meet your needs.





Another top consideration is adding a fire element to your living area. Fire elements not only create a sense of warmth, but they also serve as a natural focal point. Fireplaces have always been popular, but a growing number of homeowners are choosing to incorporate fire pits and tables with fire elements (such as a bar table) into their outdoor living room.

Lighting throughout your kitchen and living area is important. Task lighting should be set above the grill, and lighting that is usable in wet or damp locations should be carefully considered. Under cabinet lighting increases visibility and visual appeal, while light dimmers are perfect for your outdoor living room.

Outdoor living spaces are also becoming increasingly high tech. You can create the ultimate outdoor living room by installing a flat-screen satellite television with surround sound in the seating area and make sure that WiFi is accessible from all areas of the backyard. You can also choose to incorporate a tablet and smartphone docking station, a motorized rear-projection screen and sensor lighting that will turn on when someone is in your designated living area and turn off when they leave.

You can tie together the entire look with your outdoor furniture. Today's selection of furniture is not only durable and well made, it also resembles furniture that you would find inside your home. Updating your outdoor sets and seating are a great way to freshen things up in the backyard. You can really amp up the personality when choosing fabric colors and patterns. Bold colors with patterned accent pillows add a personal, yet vibrant, touch to any backyard.





If you feel like your backyard area is losing its luster and is need of a good pick me up, it may be time for a remodel. But don't get overwhelmed with where to start. Depending on your backyard living space, as well as your budget, we can help you determine where to start with your backyard living renovation. Whether you're looking to give your pool facelift, update your landscaping and decking, or create a serene outdoor living room and kitchen, we can help.

# Contact Us Today

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