

## The Outsiders

*An inside look at luxurious outdoor living*

The arrival of pleasant weather brings with it a prize opportunity to experience the great outdoors as it was meant: in unparalleled exterior style. Now that yesteryear's version of backyard entertaining—tiki lights, paper lanterns and half-smoldering fire pits—have given way to a swank and natural extension of interior living, Atlantans can (and should) take advantage of the products that have made the idea of lounging on a high-end chaise inside a poolside cabana a living, breathing reality—one that feels like a dream of cinematic proportions. From plush furnishings and state-of-the-art outdoor kitchens to stone showers and elemental art gardens, JEZ gives you some guidance in creating your own space as well as a sneak peek at the latest innovations in outdoor living. By all means, kick off your shoes, pull up a chair and be our guest.



### Size things up

Before spending a small fortune at your favorite retail outlets, size up your home's exterior living space. Whether you have a large, un-landscaped backyard with room for a landing strip and an airplane hangar or a small sun porch and limited decking, you can, with a little effort and some ingenuity, pull off just about anything no matter how much (or how little) space is at your disposal. The key: foresight. The most common mistake people make before launching headlong into a renovation or custom-build project is not devising a solid blueprint for it prior to the outfitting or equipping process. But planning is absolutely requisite. Not having a concrete idea or design concept for an intended space, whether it is to be used for entertaining, meditation, gardening or something else entirely, will lead to a mish mash purchase of unused products that, while undeniably cool, are collectively nothing more than a clash of contrasting styles and, inevitably, junk. Contrary to what many homeowners may think, size really doesn't matter when you stick to the plan.

### Create functionality

Establishing aesthetic cachet is, of course, paramount. In the absence of usability, however, even exterior spaces of striking ornamental quality will be lost in a sea of arty dysfunction and, chances are, a mass of disorganized and incongruent clutter—the ultimate mood killer. Avoid this all-too-common mistake by taking a “purpose” inventory before you move forward with design. Realistically, what will you need and, more importantly, use? Home chefs with large circles of friends, for example, might consider investing in a sizable outdoor kitchen that encircles a large table with ample seating; large families with growing children and frequent guests will want furniture suitable for casual get-togethers, while singles seeking elemental respite from their busy professional lives should consider installing a peaceful slab of environmentally safe decking on which to throw a meditation mat and some pillows, surrounded by a calm-inducing water pond and a few pocket gardens.



### **Define your style**

Know who are you. Just like a home's interior should reflect the personality and characteristics of its owner, its exterior space also should speak to who we are as individuals. That said, define then redefine. Assessing one's style is essential to creating a cohesive look for outdoor living areas. After determining a plan, setting a budget and establishing functionality, proceed with a degree of flexibility that allows for spontaneity during the design process. If you are not confident with the implementation and execution of the details (a make-or-break component), consult with a reputable interior designer experienced in creating the envisioned outdoor living space or an architect/custom builder, depending upon the scope of the project.

### **Set it Up**

The product gallery for outdoor living is vast. A myriad of choices make it possible for people of all lifestyles and every conceivable living situation to personalize exterior spaces according to their individual tastes. The following products are some of the most popular and innovative. So before you go to market, take stock of JEZ's sure-fire shopping list—a luxurious inventory of world-class products available locally.

### **Spa**

Take a dip into paradise courtesy of a Dimension One spa. Arguably the most cutting-edge and revolutionized aquatic luxury in the world, each individual model serves a distinct purpose and offers spa enthusiasts a variety of amenities, catering to their every whim, whether it is a heightened state of romance or a recreational soother. Reputed spa innovators, Dimension One promises that its entire series of spas combines style and art with reliability, function and performance, and then delivers the goods! Customizing options are available so that every spa is guaranteed to complement all modes of outdoor living. Prices vary depending upon models. Dimension One spas are available at TLC Pool & Spa in Marietta, 770.926.2715, [tlcpoolandspa.com](http://tlcpoolandspa.com).