

Outdoor Living for the Elevated Lifestyle

By Amy Fischer | Image provided by Spectrum Interior Design

alifornia is famous for its beautiful weather, so as you are dreaming up your custom home design wish list, don't forget the outdoor area. Cabanas are growing in popularity and becoming staples for luxury property development. Detached from the main house, it creates another aspect for home entertaining or simply allows you your own private sanctuary.

It used to be the Cabana was a covered seating area adjoined to a Pool Bath. These days, "Pool Baths" are turning into elaborate home spas with features such as: His and Her changing rooms, social steam rooms, cold plunges, and dry or infrared saunas. Modern Cabanas are so much more

than just a sun shelter and can include comprehensive outdoor entertainment.

Typically open on one or more sides and facing the pool, the airy layout of the Cabana embraces the outdoors bringing it in. Breezy sheer drapes can create a tranquil mood while softly filtering sunlight. Oversized retractable glass door assemblies preserve your views while protecting the interior from any inclement weather. Depending upon the architecture, you can

keep cool by day with misters, fans or air conditioners and stay cozy at night with heat lamps and fireplaces.

As an interior designer, I study lifestyles to reveal ways that our customized homes could better serve us. In order to direct the design of the perfect Cabana for you, I recommend exploring your personal and entertaining needs. Some questions to ask yourself:

Who will use the space most often? A mix of adults and children or mainly one or the other? How do you want to feel in the space? How do you want your guests to feel? How many people do you need to seat comfortably for lounging and dining? How much of your time do you

anticipate relaxing, playing, entertaining, cooking and/or eating out here? What kind of amenities do you want to include?

The outdoor Kitchen has become much more than a simple grill. Barbeques with side burners and warming drawers are the baseline. Depending on chef and usage, there are a host of appliances to include. You could have a pizza oven, teppanyaki grill, and/or the Big Green Egg (grill, oven and smoker in one). To keep things cool,





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you could have wine chillers, beverage centers, ice makers and more.

Your Cabana area could extend even further. For sports enthusiasts, have multiple TVs and you don't have to pick just one game. Add a drop-down projector screen or large TV and you have your own alfresco screening room. Or bring the party straight into the pool with underwater barstools leading to a swim up bar.

There is no limit to the imagination, so as you prepare your Pinterest boards and Houzz inspiration files, think about what could be included in your ideal Cabana.

Dream BIG and happy planning!

To learn more or be further inspired, visit SpectrumInteriorDesign.com

Amy Fischer is the founder and principal interior designer of Spectrum Interior Design, and the mother to two active teenage children. The leading Silicon Valley firm specializes in full-service luxury design for newly constructed homes and speculative estates.



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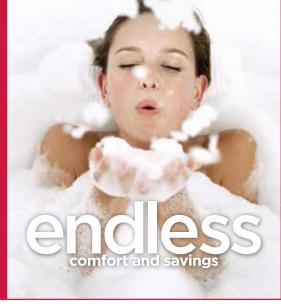
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