

# LIFE IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

## 2011 HOUSE REVIEW THEMES

- AUGUST Single-family detached housing
- SEPTEMBER Green homes
- OCTOBER Cottage homes
- NOVEMBER Live/work houses

Professional Builder's House Review design team presents five innovative concepts for bringing the inside out.

By Larry W. Garnett, FAIBD, House Review Lead Designer

Creating an indoor-outdoor relationship is nothing new. But as the home-building industry continues to decrease the size of homes and searches for ways to add value to designs, extending living space outdoors becomes a critical design component.

The design of outdoor space is every bit as important as a home's interior layout. Just as walls, ceilings, and flooring define indoor spaces, outdoor living areas also require similar definitions. The use of various surface textures, such as decking, pavers, crushed granite, and concrete, can begin to define outdoor functions. Structures, whether covered or open, create zones for recreation, cooking, and visiting.

As homebuyers are faced with increasing transportation costs, functional and appealing outdoor entertaining areas are moving higher up the request list. The ability for buyers to spend weekends and vacations in their own "mini-resort" adds value to new homes and offers endless possibilities for upgrading existing homes.

The House Review design team has responded this month with outdoor living concepts that include pool houses, outdoor kitchens, and even small vegetable gardens. Each of these designs offers intriguing ways to extend living space into the outdoors.

For previous House Review reports, visit [www.HousingZone.com/HouseReview](http://www.HousingZone.com/HouseReview).



DESIGN NO. 56541

### DESIGNER

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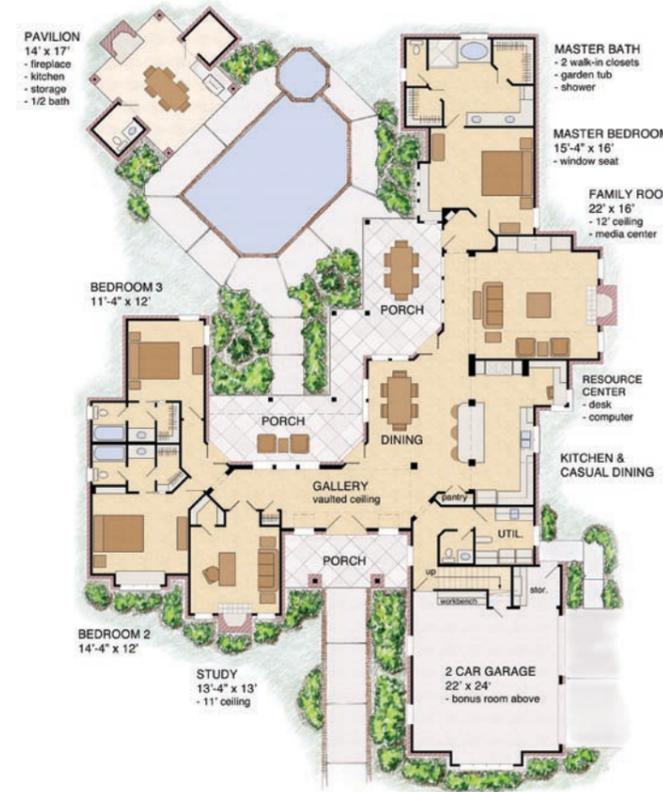
### PLAN SIZE

#### House

Living area: 2,975 sf  
Porches: 617 sf  
Width: 79 feet, 4 inches  
Depth: 111 feet

#### Pavilion

Covered area: 335 sf  
Width: 26 feet, 3 inches  
Depth: 19 feet, 7 inches



### DESIGNER'S ESSAY

This courtyard home encourages enjoyment of the outdoor spaces by creating a series of connections between the inside and outside living areas. From the gallery entryway, there is an immediate view toward the covered porches and pool area. Expansive windows offer unobstructed views as people walk through the house. The angled walls throughout the home form an axis that aligns with the pool pavilion.

While this outdoor structure defines the far edge of the courtyard, it also offers additional covered living and dining space. With a kitchen and fireplace, this area is perfect for entertaining. The half-bath and storage area prove to be essential components for the pool house.

The view from the courtyard and pool area back toward the main house reveals large glass panels and multiple French doors that erase the boundaries between indoor and outdoor spaces. From inside the home, these same doors and windows extend the visual dimensions of the rooms and provide a combination of light and shadows that change as the day progresses. The courtyard provides an enormous amount of natural light into the home, while offering a sense of privacy to the outdoor living space.

[OUTDOOR LIVING]

THE POOL HOUSE

ARCHITECT

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PLAN SIZE

Pool house: 657 sf  
Height: 14 feet  
Width: 59 feet, 8 inches  
Depth: 16 feet, 1 inch



ARCHITECT'S ESSAY

This pool house design is a unique addition to any outdoor pool area and is designed to give a home its own "resort getaway" space. In this version, two pool houses are connected by an outdoor fireplace and sitting area.

The exterior of the pool houses can be modified to feature the same architectural or masonry details as the main house, including windows.

The first pool house encloses a full-service kitchen for cooking, barbecuing, and entertaining. The second unit has a bathroom, shower, and changing room inside.



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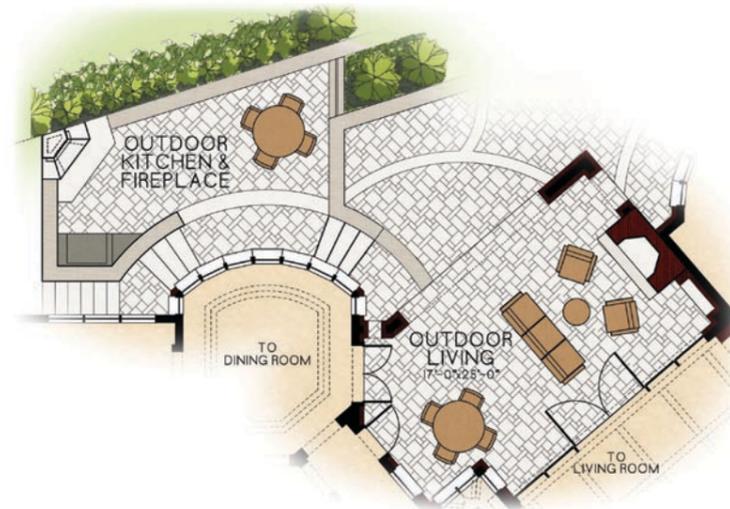
SHADY OAKS

ARCHITECT

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PLAN SIZE

First floor: 3,671 sf  
Second floor: 1,176 sf  
Basement: 220 sf  
Covered porches: 721 sf  
Garage/storage: 1,837 sf  
Terrace: 980 sf  
Width: 75 feet, 7 inches  
Depth: 119 feet, 4 inches



ARCHITECT'S ESSAY

Today's "outdoor room" has evolved from the traditional porch, rear terrace, or back-door stoop into a significant space that essentially functions as an outdoor family room, dining room, and sitting area. This whole notion extends the living area of the home and creates nicely articulated, designed spaces for enjoying the outdoors.

In many cases, the outdoor room is sheltered with a roof and provides amenities, such as televisions, fireplaces, and ceiling fans, to make the space feel right at home as if it were indoors. These outdoor rooms are often positioned to capture views while also viewable from key indoor spaces of the home.

One such outdoor room is Shady Oaks. The main living room and outdoor room were positioned to take advantage of the property's downtown view. The outdoor room transitions from the interior of the home to the covered, outdoor

room and beyond with an open-air terrace. The design also accommodates a fireplace, family room area, and dining area, which can be viewed from the interior dining room, family room, and bar area. The space is meticulously designed with smooth-cut Leuders stone flooring, split-face Leuders stone walls, and a wood ceiling.

Measuring approximately 17 feet wide and 25 feet long, the Shady Oaks outdoor room is robust in space and comfort. Additionally, the space flows outward to the open-air terrace and down a few steps to an outdoor kitchen and a freestanding fireplace with a built-in hearth bench for entertaining by the fire.

[OUTDOOR LIVING]



LC-33A

**DESIGNER**

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**DESIGNER'S ESSAY**

As our lots and homes continue to trend smaller, there is renewed interest in the art and wonder of gardens and courtyards. Well-crafted outdoor spaces can serve to increase the livable area, enhance quality of experience, and entice natural ventilation — all of which add tremendous value to our homes. Key, however, is considering the scale, proportion, and sequence of these outdoor rooms as carefully as those of the building.

The LC-33A design from our Traditional Neighborhood Home collection orientates to a courtyard, which is defined by a fence and terminated by the master bedroom cottage. This closure allows the courtyard to be refined into a series of outdoor rooms. The entry garden is a gift to the street and the arrival point of the courtyard, with more formal plantings and a sneak view through the center axis for the passerby. Beyond is the entertaining garden. Aligned with the primary living area of the residence, it serves to extend the space, enticing the homeowners to throw open the doors and live in season. The private garden is a quiet place, great for meditating, reading, or enjoying a cup of coffee. This design also incorporates a food-production garden near the rear lane.

Gardens can be funky or refined, edible or ornamental, sculpted or wild. They offer a great way to express who we are and a compelling invitation to smell the roses.



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THE LEXINGTON

**ARCHITECT**

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**PLAN SIZE**

First floor: 1,551 sf  
 Second floor: 1,607 sf  
 Height: 30 feet, 2 inches  
 Width: 50 feet  
 Depth: 75 feet, 10 inches

**ARCHITECT'S ESSAY**

The Lexington is a home centered around indoor-outdoor interaction. This plan is designed for families who want to experience outdoor living at its finest. A brick retaining wall circles the right side of the home, with a brick-paver patio covered by a wood trellis. This wall creates a private outdoor courtyard that is accessible from all major living spaces within the home.

The large courtyard patio, adjacent to the kitchen/nook/family room space, features a water fountain built into the retaining wall. The patio wraps around to the rear of the home and surrounds the outdoor loggia, which is designed for outdoor cooking and food preparation, as well as dining and entertaining.

The kitchen and family room open up to the loggia through large door-walls that help blend the indoor and outdoor spaces.

