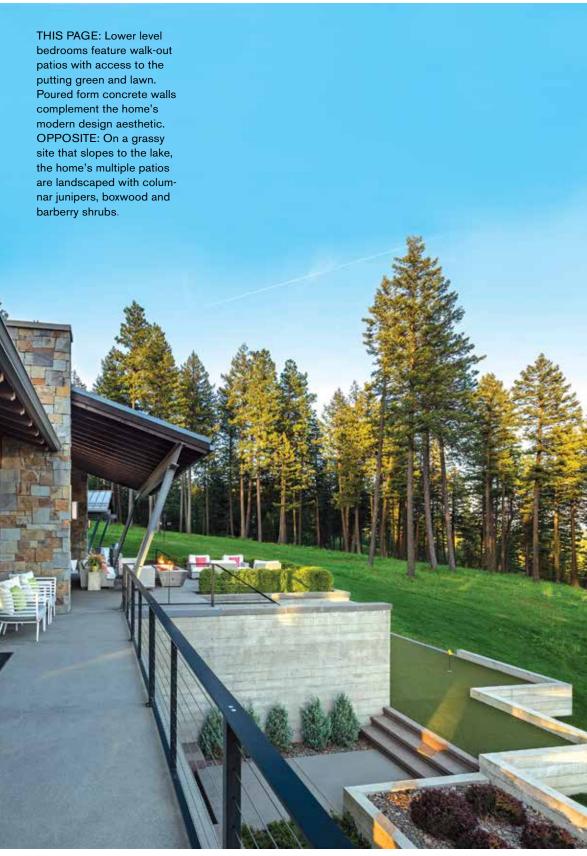


omeowners used to want a simple deck or patio. "Now they want outdoor rooms, says architect John Galambos, based in Aspen, Colorado. He created multiple such spots at a residence for one family, including areas to sit by the fire, dine, swim and lounge, all connected by walkways and plant-laden paths. "We are designing a lot more for the summer," he says.

The key to making outdoor spaces livable is to think about their function and plan accordingly. The right mix of hardscape, furnishings, lighting and plants will smoothly connect the interior to the exterior of a residence. Places to cook and dine, have coffee or cocktails, watch the sunset and talk into the wee hours are all desirable amenities. Designers advise selecting furniture that is both durable and versatile so it can be moved around to accommodate different group sizes and purposes. Also consider sun exposure and add shade with umbrellas.

Here and on the next two pages is a home with patios designed to provide both privacy and togetherness in the Idaho outdoors. The two projects that follow celebrate exceptional views from a hilltop residence in Whitefish, Montana, and the natural beauty surrounding a family's Aspen getaway. >>





ARCHITECTURE: ERIC HEDLUND DESIGN, eh-design.net.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: PLACE LANDSCAPE + ARCHITECTS, place-la.com >>

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