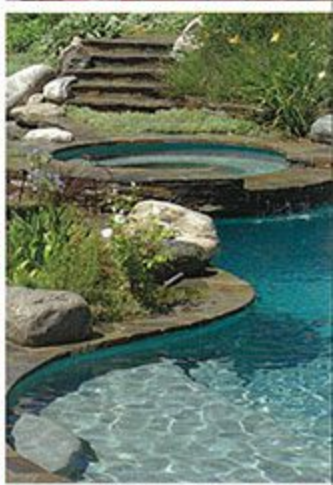


Outdoor Entertaining

I D E A B O O K



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Adding a feature like a pool or a garden room creates even more of a draw for friends and family. Pools, for example, scream fun for children and provide some much-needed relief from the summer heat for everyone else. They come in myriad shapes and sizes, and can be tailored to fit the parameters of your property. They are an invitation for your guests to be active as they enjoy living outdoors.

A garden room, on the other hand, is a blissfully peaceful destination. It often emphasizes relaxation and serves as a place where people can sit and visit with each

other, the only distractions being the chirping of birds or rustling of squirrels.

Throughout this book, you'll discover just how many options there are when it comes to outdoor entertaining. As you explore, pull the ideas that appeal to you. Then synthesize them into a cohesive plan, and make your outdoor space uniquely—and enjoyably—yours.

RIGHT
Brick coping with a blue tile wall between the spa and pool is in keeping with the rustic elegance of this Mediterranean-style home.



More about... POOL ACCESSORIES

With great pool fun comes basic maintenance. The water pH must be balanced, and the pool must be cleared of debris. You'll need to consider automated pool cleaners, which essentially vacuum the water; pool pumps and filters, which circulate and clean the water; chemicals, which are used to keep bacteria out; and pool heaters, which make that morning swim a lovely way to wake up. One note on heating systems: Solar pool heaters allow you to heat the pool without using any additional energy, since they are powered by the sun.



LEFT This pool deck takes on a modern, minimalist aesthetic, with large concrete slabs separated by joints of smooth gray stones. The light color means it won't heat up in the sun, and the stones allow for drainage when it rains.



ABOVE Install your own teak deck, using these 18-inch square panels that snap together with stainless-steel hardware. They can be put on top of almost any material (even crushed stone). Keep in mind that because they're teak, they will age to a weathered gray color.



• designing a path

A path is about more than just getting from one place to another. It's about the journey, which should be as beautiful, fragrant, and full of life as any other part of your garden.

How you approach creating the path depends on how you intend to use it, and

who will use it. For example, making it narrow and curvy with bends will slow down traffic, which is a great tool if you have children who you don't want tearing through the area. Or perhaps you want a wide path so you can stroll with your loved one, side by side.