

Create an inviting outdoor space



EVELYN ESHUN

DESIGNING WITH STYLE

While kitchen and bathroom remodeling projects are the most popular in Canadian homes, outdoor spaces are becoming more of a priority.

According to a recent survey, more than 31 per cent of people are considering outside projects for the coming year.

From complete outdoor kitchens with all the conveniences of an indoor kitchen to updating of furnishings, Canadians are using their outdoor spaces more than ever and with

of your home.

The key to maximizing your enjoyment is to create protection from the sun and rain.

Options range from structures which require an architect to large umbrellas over 12 feet in diameter with pricing as varied as the options available.

While on the topic of umbrellas, you can most certainly benefit from functionality as well as dramatic style by purchasing an umbrella such as the Manta from Tucci, a high quality parasol which adds a sculptural ele-



Sofas that are as comfortable as those indoors are now standard issue on the average porch. Seen here: From Union Lighting and Furnishings.

are growing in popularity.

Once only a luxury seen in beautiful homes in the warm southern hemisphere, Canadians are venturing outdoors for

ingredients which create a fabulous indoor kitchen, appliances, counters, prep areas, sink and lighting, all are critical to making that outdoor cookout a spectacular success.

Lighting is critical to the ultimate enjoyment factor of the outdoor space. Much of our time spent out there is after work in the evenings, so take the time to create the proper mood and atmosphere in order to fully exploit the outdoor experience.

the average porch.

There is no question that expectations for our outdoor spaces has exploded to match that of our indoor environments blurring the lines between where the interior begins and where it ends.

Stylishly speaking, interior design is continuing to influence and impact outdoor design and why not, in a country where we enjoy just a few months of great weather, we should enjoy

the quality, not the quantity of outdoor living experiences as much as we can.

— *Recognized for her classic taste and eclectic style, Evelyn Eshun is a Toronto-based interior designer and TV personality with close to two decades of experience creating custom design projects. For more information, visit www.evelyneshun.com.*



The Manta from Tucci is a high-quality parasol which adds a sculptural element to an outdoor space.

a winter like the one we just had, warm weather entertaining can't get here fast enough for all of us.

Creating an outdoor space expands the functionality of your space, and quite obviously the total useable square footage

ment to the outdoor space.

Most households have a barbeque in the backyard and I'm no exception. In fact, we barbeque year round, enjoying the flavors which outdoor cooking provide to our meals. So it is no surprise that outdoor kitchens

their cooking needs and that is a great thing because the value of your home will definitely increase with an outdoor living space which is complete with a kitchen.

When planning an outdoor kitchen consider the same



Canadians are using their outdoor space more than ever and with the winter we had, warm weather entertaining can't get here fast enough.

Ambient lighting, task lighting and general lighting are terms used for interior design solutions and the same principles apply outside. In fact, you can have more fun outdoors with lights which emphasize the texture and shapes of the materials and plants outside.

Besides items such as firepits, heaters, pizza ovens, bars and other fabulous luxuries, perhaps the simplest change we can all create is by purchasing furnishings for our outdoor spaces.

According to the American Home Furnishings Alliance survey for 2015, 84% of households plan to add outdoor furnishings to their homes. Sofas, chairs and dining tables are essential pieces in creating an outdoor room for your enjoyment.

The recent technology high grade upholstered furnishings has given 'patio furniture' a much more sophisticated look that anything our parents purchased years ago. Sofas that are as comfortable as those indoors are standard issue on



Outdoor rugs are a simple and inexpensive way to dress up an outdoor space.

Evelyn Eshun will be giving a talk on outdoor lighting Tuesday, April 28 at the Erin Mills Paint and Design Centre (5636 Glen Erin Dr, Mississauga) from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Register by calling 905-858-1708.