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## DESIGN TRENDS

Who needs to be inside a kitchen to cook an amazing dish? The latest home design trend is the outdoor kitchen. Nowadays, items that were once considered for indoor use only are making their debut outside — especially when it comes to outdoor kitchens. This hot new trend has taken cooking on the grill from a summer activity to a year round thing.

If you're thinking of installing your own outdoor kitchen, selecting the right equipment and ensuring proper set-up for your home is important. Local companies not only sell outdoor kitchen units and other accessories, but can also offer some helpful pointers on selecting the right equipment and set-up for your space.

When it comes to choosing products to outfit your outdoor kitchen, consider the following:

- Opt for stainless steel gas or charcoal grills. Remember outdoor kitchens are located outside where they will be exposed to sun, rain and snow. Even covered, your grill will still be exposed to the elements to a certain degree and you'll want one made of material that will withstand bad weather and corrosion.
- Select a unit with infrared burners, which ensure the grill heats up faster.
- Go for ample storage choose a product with plenty of shelving and cabinets
- When it comes to refrigeration, freestanding or under the counter refrigerators help minimize trips to the "other" kitchen while providing a convenient place to store leftovers for the next cookout. Remember the beauty of the outdoor kitchen is that it reduces trips indoors to get supplies, allowing you to actually spend time with your guests while preparing meals.

For outdoor furnishings, check with local sources (there are so many to choose from) for the most weather resistant and durable outdoor products to furnish your new space.

