

## Outdoor Entertaining Spaces Made Simple

In Canada we know how important it is to make the most of our warmer weather. There is nothing quite like enjoying a summer evening outside around the fire, or hosting a barbecue for family and friends. Extending your living space to the great outdoors is no longer just a trend, but a lifestyle. Outdoor kitchens and entertaining spaces make hosting, cooking, and entertaining a dream, and can add considerable value to a home. Unfortunately, creating such a space can be significantly less pleasant.

Designing these unique areas can involve many days (if not weeks) of design, messy construction work, coordinating with contractors, and can generate a considerable amount of construction waste. Transforming this process entirely is a new line called Eldorado Outdoor, from the architectural stone manufacturer Eldorado Stone. Eldorado Outdoor is a large collection of strong, yet lightweight, glass fiber reinforced concrete building blocks. They can quickly be assembled into a virtually limitless number of combinations to design one-of-a-kind barbecue islands, kitchen counters, bars, fireplaces, fire pits, seating areas and more. Blocks can be cut to accommodate custom grills, sinks or other features.

This clever system can be installed instantly on any solid flooring surface and does not require concrete or rebar to secure it. Once placed, the units are simply bolted



to each other. The surface is the scratch coat, meaning once the blocks are in place, brick, natural stone, or architectural stone veneer can be applied directly to the surface immediately. The entire process takes a fraction of the time used in traditional methods for creating such spaces.

With significantly reduced construction waste, Eldorado Outdoor is the perfect solution for building in more remote areas or at the cabin. Design it yourself with the online design



tool ([www.eldoradostone.com/outdoor/design-tool](http://www.eldoradostone.com/outdoor/design-tool)), and get it up and running in less than one weekend. Final step? Invite the neighbors over and enjoy.

Eldorado Outdoor is available locally through I-XL Masonry Supplies.

## Perfect Addition to the Patio

Artistically designed to house a 4-foot flame, this 7-foot stainless steel Bellagio Torch is the latest addition to Napoleon's family of popular heaters for the patio. Exuding up to 31,000 BTUs of heat, the torch is ideal for extending those lingering conversations into the night. As the stars come out, the attractive glass-enclosed flame doubles as a beacon of light, seen from all four sides.

"And on a chilly day, it's very nice to warm up to," says Helen Peters of Classic Fireplaces. She adds that up to three shelves can be attached to the unit, providing a place for people to put their drinks down as they gather around the flame. "That's a fair bit of table space when you're entertaining," she notes.

The Bellagio is only one of several types of stand-up stainless steel patio heaters available at Classic Fireplaces, in either natural gas or propane. The stainless steel emitters on the more common round-capped models can radiate up to 25 feet of heat.

There are also a number of tabletop options available in various colours. One advantage of the Bellagio is the aesthetic appeal of its striking design.

"It's very elegant," agrees Peters. "It's a real eye-catcher."

