

LAKE *of* THE OZARKS[®]

SECOND HOME LIVING

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SMOOTH SAILING!

Mid-Missouri Wind & Water make
for another kind of Power-Boating
at the Lake of the Ozarks.

Inside this Issue:

Your Sunny Season Lake Calendar

Viva Vino! Exciting Wine Cellars

An Artists Love of Wine & Life

Cozy & Classic - North Shore Living

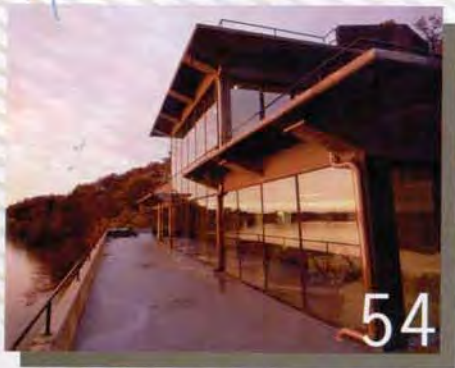
Plus Much, Much More!

Loving Life
**AT THE
LAKE!**



CONTENTS

LAKE of THE OZARKS
SECOND HOME LIVING



27 | Message from the Publisher *by Dave Leathers*
"The Concrete Home" gives us a glimpse into the Past and the Future!

34 | Lake Calendar of Events *by Alisha Beffa*
Exciting happenings at the Lake of the Ozarks and Mid-Missouri for this Summer and Fall!

42 | Cozy and Classic *by Joanna Schneider*
Delightful Country Cabin Living on the Lake's North Shore.

54 | Concrete Integration *by Joanna Schneider*
Avante Garde style is melded with the timeless natural beauty of the Lake to create a classic home for the ages.

74 | Form, Function & Fun! *by David Shear*
Bill Manion uses his love of fine wine, Mizzou and many other things as inspiration in pursuing his explosive passion for art at his Porto Cima Studio.

84 | Smooth Sailing *by Joanna Schneider*
Mid-Missouri wind and water make for another kind of power-boating at the Lake of the Ozarks.

94 | The Best of Family-Owned Resorts at the Lake *by Joanna Schneider*
Take a trip down Memory Lane and get reacquainted with your family and friends!

107 | Destination Columbia! *Stories by Alisha Beffa*
A Special Section: Excitement-filled Columbia, just an hour's drive north from the Lake, offers another avenue of entertainment for the growing year-round Lake second homeowner.

124 | Six Over 60 That You Need to Know *by Joanna Schneider*
Meet some local movers and shakers who make their mark and show their love for the Lake of the Ozarks.



134 | Outdoor Second Homes *by Leslie Kirk and Don Eberly*
Understanding fundamental design concepts for outdoor rooms and landscapes can help lake homeowners transform outdoor spaces into second homes, just steps from their doors.

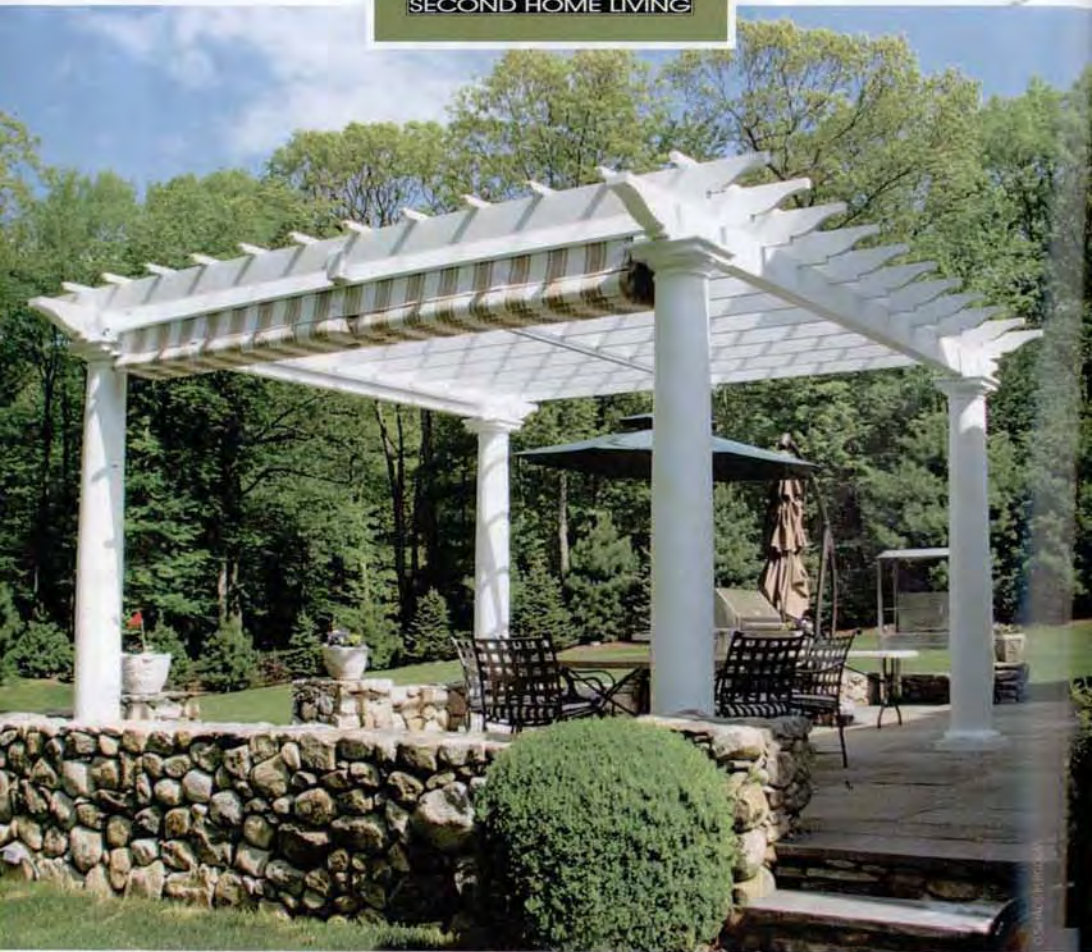
140 | Extreme Trends for Your Lake Toys *by Alisha Beffa*
Making waves this summer has never been easier!

142 | Tasteful Travels on the Hermann Wine Trail *by Sandy Watts*
Food and wine tasting events delight Wine Trail travelers in every season.

154 | One Face of Real Estate at the Lake of the Ozarks *provided by Van Anderson*
A Lake-Area Realtor gives insight on a changing nature of Real Estate nationally and in Mid-Missouri.

164 | Viva Vino! *by Erin Chamberlain*
Custom wine cellars move into Lake second home living spaces.





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OUTDOOR SECOND HOMES

Understanding fundamental design concepts for outdoor rooms and landscapes can help Lake homeowners transform outdoor spaces into second homes, just steps from their doors.

by Leslie Kirk and Don Eberly

One of the most desired second home improvement projects is creating outdoor entertaining and living areas. As Lake homeowners are looking to design beautiful outdoor spaces to serve their second home escapes, outdoor living is quickly transitioning from a popular trend to a coveted Midwestern lifestyle.

However, surmising how to accomplish such a large undertaking takes time and know-how in order to achieve satisfactory results and remain on budget. From furnishing an outdoor space to installing exterior flooring, modular design offers a phased approach. Breaking down the project into practical components provides homeowners the ability to set their own budgets and time frames, without having to skimp on the overall development of their outdoor dream spaces.

AT-HOME HAVENS

Two of the most important facets of outdoor rooms and exterior spaces are the overhead structure and patio floor or deck foundation, both sometimes overlooked during the design phase. These all-important elements give outdoor spaces their room-like feels and provide dimension. Without these "top" and "bottom" essentials, outdoor rooms are merely lounge chairs, grills, tables, and the like, but with no unifying factor.

By installing solid outdoor structures such as pergolas or arbors and integrating complementing decks or

patios, design spaces become cohesive units. Permanent outdoor structures and flooring can also enhance the value of a property, more so than nearly any other exterior addition.

The patio is more than simply a hard surface, as it can quickly become the outdoor room's focal point around which the other materials and features are styled. "Similar to a craftsman's work with a wooden floor or an artistic pattern in a carpet, outdoor stone pavers allow a designer or homeowner the unique ability to do more with an outdoor floor," says Ken O'Neill, vice president of Belgard Hardscapes.

The textures and shapes of paver flooring can bring a dimensional feel to the patio, while the colors allow it to contrast or blend with the environment, tying the entire area together with a sense of place.

When planning the flooring, spacing is the most important component to consider. "Homeowners need to make sure they understand the proper spacing for their patios," says O'Neill. "They should consider the number of people they entertain, and if they are planning on a large or small table." O'Neill also recommends determining upfront if a fire pit and outdoor kitchen are desired. Each piece needs its own space, and the patio or flooring must be planned to accommodate these installations.

Versatility is especially important when selecting outdoor structures. Structures such as shade pergolas offer homeowners architectural style

with a water-resistant, integrated and retractable canopy system, making the overall space both functional and attractive.

"As a design element, shade pergolas do an excellent job moderating the transition from indoors to outdoors," explains Steve Ostrowski, president of ShadeFX Canopies and co-founder of shade pergolas. "The structure defines the space and provides a sense of privacy that makes accessories such as dining tables and cushioned furniture feel more appropriate in outdoor areas."

When considering adding an outdoor structure to the exterior design, a homeowner should first decide where in the landscape to place the structure, keeping in mind views from interior windows, sunlight, and proximity to the home. "Shade pergolas can be used to cover larger areas, since typical retractable awnings extend less than 16 feet," says Ostrowski. "With a permanent pergola structure and the option of a retractable waterproof canopy, homeowners can have the utility of a fixed roof with the benefits of sun when desired."

The key sequence for planning is to begin with the foundational patio or decking followed by the installation of an outdoor structure. Then, furnishings, accessories and plants can play their roles.

PLEASE TAKE A SEAT

Just as with interior design, accessorizing the exterior

» turn page »

with outdoor furniture, lighting, and accessories can bring the outdoor living area full-circle. The style needs to reflect the homeowner's personality along with design elements such as repetition, balance and sequence.

"Appropriate furniture and accessories in an outdoor room extends the indoor living space," says Peyton King, owner of Elegant Earth, a company specializing in furnishings and decorative accoutrements for the outdoors. "Properly done, homeowners can literally add square footage to their homes."

Applying interior design principles to exterior rooms, with color-matching, juxtaposed style, and similar furniture and accessories is a means to catch the eye but without overwhelming the space. At the same time, homeowners who want expenses to stretch as far as possible should purchase furniture that can stand up against outdoor conditions.

"I recommend homeowners who are designing outdoor spaces should purchase the highest quality, durable

furniture pieces they can afford," recommends King. He also suggests purchasing with a sense of style that complements the interior feel of the home.

Like any functional living area, furniture pieces supply livability in outdoor spaces. According to a recent study by the American Home Furnishings Alliance, the biggest priorities for homeowners in furniture emphasize comfort, versatility and gathering places. Deep cushion seating and spa-like colors are also extremely popular in 2010, to emanate soothing atmospheres.

LANDSCAPES AND GARDENS

Last, outdoor rooms are considered escapes, in part, since owners and guests can enjoy the surrounding nature. Establishing beds and borders with plants that have improved hardiness and year-round interest will both create sustainable landscapes and stretch the budget further.

"Four-season varieties are an excellent way to maximize appeal and minimize long-term spending," says Dan Heims, president of Terra Nova Nurseries. "Varieties such as Heuchera 'Berry Smoothie' and 'Midas Touch' provide hardy yet stunning color all year long, so planning seasonal alternatives is not necessary." Using plants that offer interest all four seasons also expands the life of the outdoor room, keeping it desirable for entertaining and al fresco dining.

Many plant experts like Heims suggest pairing plants with harmonizing characteristics such as combining the trailing four-inch habit of *Tiarella* 'Cascade Creeper' with a burst of contrasting blooms in *Coreopsis* 'Rum Punch'. This will create fabulous color and textural interest to maximize landscape design, while establishing a layered effect.

To round-out garden design, homeowners will want to establish beds and borders that draw the eye upward in a cohesive line towards a focal point, whether it is a pond, striking tree, or the outdoor room itself. ■

