

# Home & Garden Television

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## Turn Your Home into a Summer Retreat

By Jennifer Haupt



Choose outdoor furniture that blurs the line between in and out. Designer: Pamela Berstler

The sun is shining, the garden's in full bloom and the grill is beckoning you from the patio. Even if you can't get away for vacation until August, you can turn your home into a summer retreat that's perfect for long, languid summer nights and playful weekends. Here's how:

### Indoor/Outdoor Furniture

When the warm weather comes, entertaining friends and family naturally follows. You can extend your entertaining space — and your living space — by blurring the line between the indoors and the outdoors. Furniture is a great place to begin creating this seamless indoor/outdoor look and feel.

Wicker is an old standard, but you may be surprised by some of the other options. "Just in the past few years, furniture manufacturers have introduced outdoor lines with fabrics and designs that you would traditionally see indoors," says Felicia Bushman, a Los Angeles interior designer with high-profile clients such as Jenna Elfman and John

McEnroe ([www.feliciabushman.com](http://www.feliciabushman.com)). "People are creating patios that look like an extension of their indoor living room."

While patio furniture used to be restricted to plain colors and simple stripes, now you can find everything from embroidered fabrics to floral chintzes. For example, Sunbrella, a popular manufacturer of outdoor fabrics, offers over 100 striking and vibrant solids, stripes, linens, textures and jacquards to choose from. These acrylic fabrics have a soil- and stain-resistant finish that also resists sunlight, mildew, rot and atmospheric chemicals.

Design options are broadening as well. Moderately priced lines of outdoor furniture that include everything from sectional sofas to ottomans to big comfy armchairs are available from Crate & Barrel, Restoration Hardware and even Target.



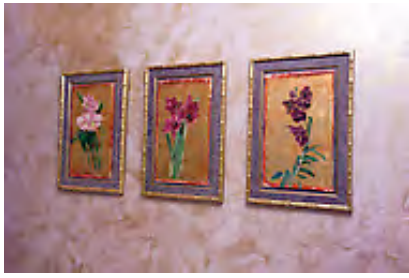
Four layers of lighting create drama in this space designed by Randall

### Layers of Lighting

"During the summer season, it's important to make both the interior and exterior spaces feel inviting, as well as create the sense of a larger entertainment space," explains Randall Whitehead, a lighting designer in San Francisco and author of *Residential Lighting, A Practical Guide* ([www.randallwhitehead.com](http://www.randallwhitehead.com)). "Light layering, combining levels of lighting that have different decorative and functional qualities, helps this to occur."

Whitehead designed four layers of lighting for this elegant and understated dining room that is seamlessly integrated with the outdoor patio. "A dramatic over-scale crystal chandelier is the decorative lighting source and the centerpiece of the room," the designer explains. "It adds visual sparkle without overpowering the rest of the elements in the space."

Two uplights at the base of the columns that flank the French doors add ambient light, while candles help soften the shadows on people's faces and create a warm glow in the room. A pair of recessed fixtures acts as task lights to cross-illuminate the tabletop, allowing people to see what's on their plates. And low-voltage, outside accent lights create a living tapestry of greenery to invite people onto the deck.



Start accessorizing by picking a theme, like the flower theme here. Photo: Alison Duke

## Artwork and Accessories

Artwork and accessories are key to turning your home into a summer retreat — and easy to switch out with the turning seasons. Start by picking a theme; give yourself a budget; then the fun really begins!

"Make a statement about who you are with the accessories you choose," advises Nancy Satterberg, a designer in Seattle ([www.satterbergdesign.com](http://www.satterbergdesign.com)). "You can go eclectic or choose one simple theme to carry throughout your home." Maybe you care about nature, or animals. Maybe there's a summer hobby such as sailing or beach combing that you can play around with. The possibilities are limitless.

When it comes to setting a budget, start by deciding which rooms you want to transform; then make a wish list. "Have some fun going window shopping at Crate & Barrel, Pier 1, Target — places where you can get the most bang for your buck," says Satterberg. "You can spend five dollars on a series of five postcards, invest in some simple silver frames and you have 'artwork' for a hallway."

Other inexpensive ideas for your summer retreat include: brightly colored throw pillows for the living room; a Caribbean print bedspread and bright sheets in a guest room; a bamboo bathmat and matching fans to hang on the walls in a powder room; even a sunshine yellow teapot and oven mitts for the kitchen. It's the little touches that create a relaxed and playful atmosphere.



Jamie Drake designed this sunny dining room. Photo: Wouter Vandertol

## A Splash of Summer Colors

The theme you choose for your summer retreat goes hand-in-hand with your color choices. If you go for a Caribbean kitchen, choose vibrant yellows and oranges with accents of red, bright green and purple. Or, you may choose the subdued tones of nature — soft greens, blues and browns. "There are so many wonderful colors in the garden — from violet, to russet and pumpkin — that make great accents for a chenille throw and pillows in the living room, or a rug and towels in the powder room," says Satterberg.

Satterberg also suggests a splash of cool and juicy fruit colors like lemon, lime, strawberry and cantaloupe. "Vivid hues that are deeper and more saturated are very popular in warm climates," she says. "Be sure to use them sparingly,

though, so that they don't overpower."

In this dining room, Jamie Drake ([www.drakedesignassociates.com](http://www.drakedesignassociates.com)), an interior designer in New York whose celebrity clients include Madonna and Mayor Michael Bloomberg, uses a brilliant yellow-striped wallpaper and citrus-colored artwork to stir up some vibrant energy. He balances these high-octane colors with a subdued blush wall and window treatment. The wood furniture and floors also create a warm and cozy feel for this bright and sunny room.



Bring your garden into the house. Designer: Dave Stimmel

## Bring Your Garden Indoors

One of the easiest ways to create a summer retreat atmosphere is by bringing your garden indoors. In this kitchen, bright yellow flowers, textured greens and even a row of red apples all contribute to a seasonal effect.

Like lighting and furniture, flowers can also help to blur the lines between your indoor and outdoor spaces. "You can use the colors of the flowers and the pots to create continuity between the outdoors and indoors," says Cheryl Wilson, owner of Creative Garden Designers in Redmond, Wash. ([www.creativegardendesigners.com](http://www.creativegardendesigners.com)). "Be careful that the colors don't conflict with each other, though."

If you have lots of natural wood floors and furniture, Wilson suggests using neutral pots packed with colors that pick up an accent color in your indoor decor. For example, mix and match jewel petunias in a window flower box, with throw pillows on a couch from which the blooms can be viewed.