

all about **HOME**

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Get Out & Enjoy The Outdoors

Summer is finally here! During this time of the year, outdoor living is one of the most enjoyable activities. We love to experience this season around the house as we engage in entertainment and relaxation in the wonderful weather. Creating a comfortable oasis in your own outdoors allows you, along with family and friends, to enjoy the opportunity of leisure in the privacy of your own home.

As a designer dealing with my clients' different outdoor spaces, I strive to look beyond the living room and into the back-





yard in order to make the exterior spaces a true extension of the home. Bringing the indoors outside is becoming increasingly popular as outdoor furniture options have become limitless. We can now attain beautiful products for our clients regardless of whether they are on a budget or not.

Southport Outdoor Living is one of my favourite go-to shops for outdoor furniture located in Vaughan. They now have a new showroom location in design district on Castlefield Avenue in Toronto. This is the place where you will find a vast selection of colours, table finishes, lounge chairs, BBQ's, and colourful accessories that will no doubt make your neighbours look twice!

Regardless of the size of your yard or patio, it is important to create zones when designing the outdoor living space in order to ensure flow. Zones are easy to create using anything ranging from dining to entertaining, cooking, lounging, and even the creation of focal points.

Creating a clear path in your yard is key to defining separate areas. Furthermore, adding inexpensive trees is a great way to de-

fine distinct spaces. Furniture also plays an important role in outlining specific zones, from dining to lounge seating.

If you are a lover of entertainment and ample seating, consider incorporating benches, garden stools, or fun and portable pieces that are flexible and can double up as chairs or side tables for resting your drinks!

Much like decorating the indoors, layering accessories outdoors is vital in achieving a cozy and complete environment. A great way to introduce colour is with the use of outdoor rugs. They are exceptionally lightweight and surprisingly quite inexpensive. In addition, colourful fabrics, pillows, and cushions will truly make your outdoor living space feel bright and inviting. Incorporating drapery panels to control sunlight around your gazebo or sitting area creates the dreamy sensation of an outdoor retreat.

Using outdoor lanterns and even built in accent lighting is a great way to add the element of luxury to the privacy of your yard.

It is time to invest in your outdoors and turn your backyard into a hideaway retreat that you can enjoy this summer!

TIPS:

-Make sure your outdoor fabrics are Sunbrella fabrics or equivalent. This uniquely designed textile will not fade or wear under the harsh rays of the sun!

-Consider some outdoor lighting options or lanterns to complete the look.

-Create a focal point with a fire pit, an outdoor cooking station, or simply by planting some beautiful flowers and trees.



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