

Easy Alfresco Living

BY LISA STEN, CID, CGBP

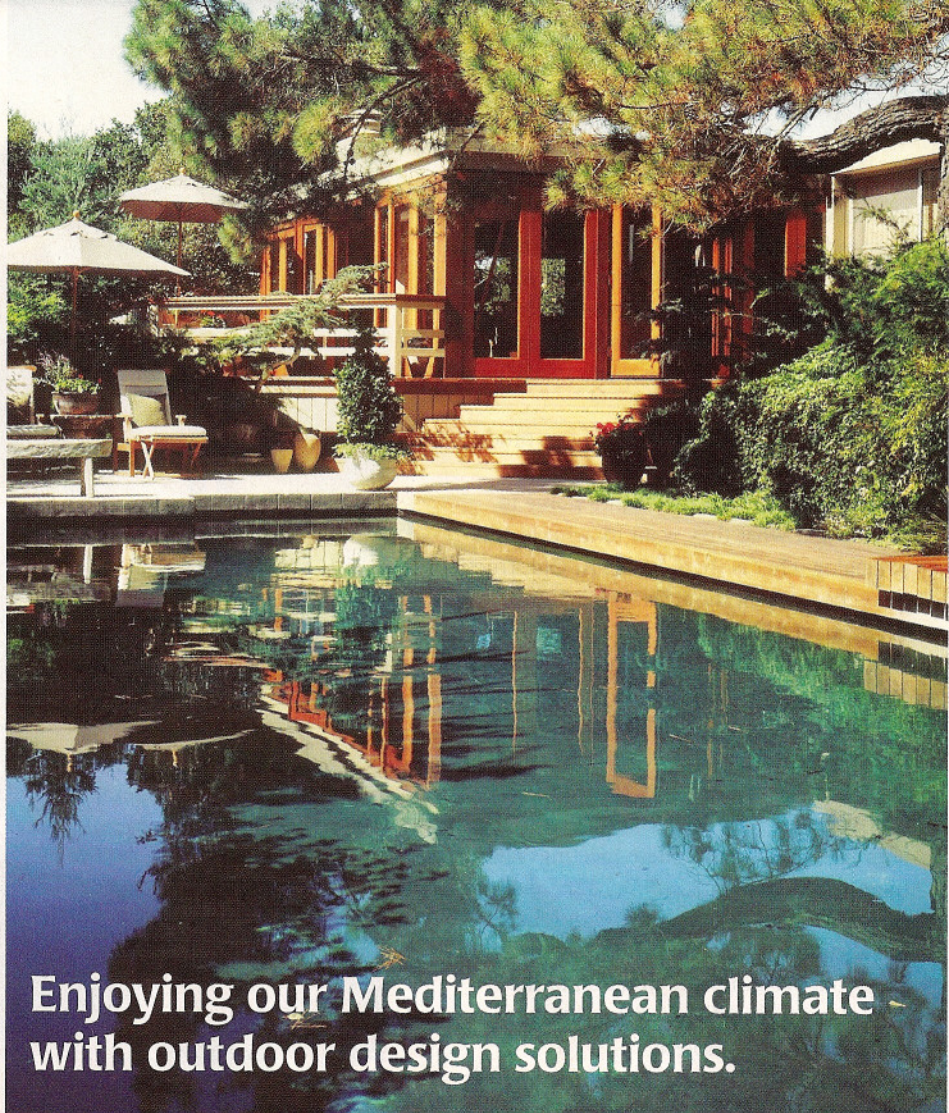
THE MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE WE ENJOY IN NORTHERN California is characterized by hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. The temperature range is comparatively small between the winter low and the summer high. For that reason, we benefit from several good months to enjoy California's natural beauty and outdoor living—making the most of our extended summer season is a high priority for our quality of life.

Like most homeowners, you're probably looking for innovative ways to enjoy outdoor living areas that will add to your home's usable square footage. Remodeling projects such as installing full-height, folding glass doors that open onto a deck or patio can also visually expand your indoor living space.

Creating an environment that seamlessly flows from interior to exterior begins with an outdoor floor plan showing the seating, dining, and conversation areas, and the functional areas for gardening and the outdoor kitchen. Furniture selections can complement the look and feel of your home or you may opt to change the décor entirely. Whatever your choices are, have fun establishing a great atmosphere.

Theme: Express your style with a nautical, island, Asian-inspired, British Colonial, Italian, or cottage theme. This is your chance to create an area that feels like a vacation in your own backyard.

Furniture: Choices include wrought iron, maintenance-free cast aluminum, teak, pine, cedar, and all-weather wicker built on an aluminum frame and wrapped with variegated polyester strands (which replicates rattan). Remember that storage can be an issue for some of the bulkier items.



Enjoying our Mediterranean climate with outdoor design solutions.

The exterior of this house was designed by architect Linder Jones, AIA, of Harrell Remodeling (www.harrell-remodeling.com).

C C I D C California Council for Interior Design Certification



The interior of this house was designed by architect Linder Jones, AIA, of Harrell Remodeling (www.harrell-remodeling.com).

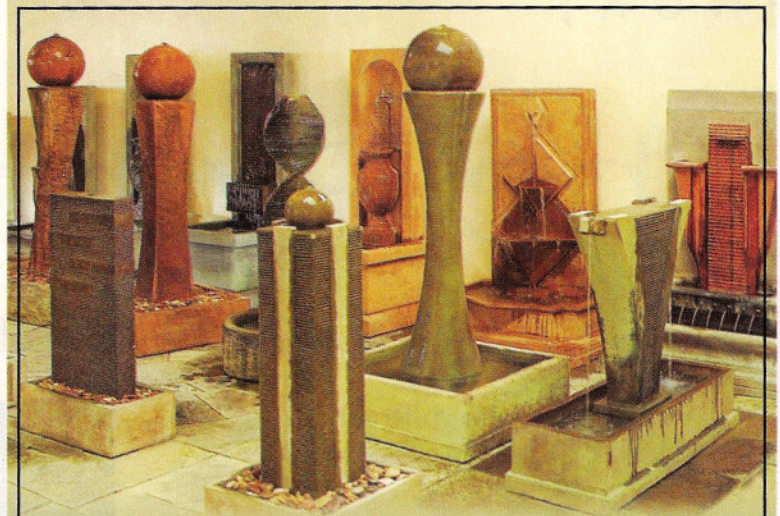
Fabric: Whether you choose garden prints, bold stripes, madras plaids, natural fibers, or vintage patterns, verify that your fabric will withstand the summer sun and heat. Look for a high-performance fabric like Sunbrella that resists damage from chlorine, soil, and stains.

Rugs: Several companies produce all-weather area rugs in a polypropylene material with a latex backing so they are fade and mildew resistant. Great textures can be found in a jute or sisal rug.

Awnings and Umbrellas: Install an electric or manual retractable awning (supported by freestanding arms without a post) or a patio umbrella. This is an easy way to define space and block harmful UV sunlight damage. Choose a fabric that exemplifies summer's casual elegance in a fresh color.

Enhance your design with a variety of lighting, accessories, pillows, candles, and pottery and you'll never want to leave home.

Lisa Sten, CID, CGBP, is a senior designer at Harrell Remodeling, Inc, in Mountain View (www.harrell-remodeling.com). For a list of Certified Interior Designers in your area or to view the CID Pages (a visual directory of CIDs), visit www.ccidc.org/cidpages. **THM**



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