

PATIO *perfection*

by **AMANDA SWANLUND**



For smaller plants, it's a good idea to display them on a side table or coffee table. Topiaries are very popular and add a touch of sophistication to any patio.

ACCESSORIES

The perfect patio would not be complete without accessories! A great tray will provide double duty as a hard surface when set on an ottoman for guests to put down their drinks as well as serving to them. Lanterns, candles and tiki torches are crucial for providing some ambience and a bit of lighting after the sun goes down. A large basket stuffed with cozy blankets in an accent colour will provide warmth for watching the sunset. Vases, art and knick knacks make the space feel like home, just remember to bring all of your valuables inside when it rains!

Here's to barbeque chicken, the smell of the grill, ice cold lemonade, orange sunsets, Bocci ball and endless nights with friends all on your beautifully decorated patio! Happy Spring and Summer!



SPRING IS UPON US! WHICH MEANS PATIO SEASON IS RIGHT AROUND THE corner. It's time to pull out the loungers, dust off your table and chairs and get your outdoor space set up for dinner parties, soirees and relaxing nights enjoying the summer sunset. When it comes to trends and must-haves this season, here are a few simple, yet effective tips to get your patio looking superb!

PATIO FURNITURE

More and more, lounge furniture is becoming the must have of all outdoor spaces. Slowly replacing the standard table and chairs, a sofa or sectional is a great alternative because it provides comfort and versatility. Lounge seating will commonly have an all-weather or resin wicker, metal or wood base with plush cushions to maximize comfort. This furniture is great for gatherings, a casual barbeque and relaxing in the sun. It is truly like having a living room on your deck.

FABRICS & PILLOWS

Decorative pillows are not just for your living room anymore! Toss cushions bring the comfort of the indoors outside. Many companies like Sunbrella are producing stunning high performance fabrics that are safe both indoors and out. The fabric is dyed throughout the yarn meaning it is resistant to fading. Most fabrics nowadays can stand up to the environmental elements; however I do recommend taking them into storage when you know the forecast is not in your favour. These fabrics are designed to resist mildew, staining and fading and usually wipe clean with a damp cloth.

Bold stripes, playful ikats and strong geometric patterns in bright colours are on trend for 2012. Keep in mind the décor style and colours of the indoor room of which the patio or outdoor space is directly adjacent. Pull inspiration from your indoor space to get a colour scheme going for the outdoors. In the summer when your patio doors are wide open, the decor will flow harmoniously.

GREENERY

Depending on the lush outdoors around you, it is ideal to have a bit of greenery on the patio with your furniture. Over scale planters are a beautiful way to display large plants or even small trees which can be found at local stores or online at retailers like Home Sense and Restoration Hardware. Try to keep the plant pots matching or similar in style and colour for a streamlined, clean look.



AMANDA SWANLUND

Interior Designer, Amanda Swanlund, credits her creative flair to an early exposure to the design world. Growing up, she had a passion for all things of beauty and inspirational spaces. In addition to receiving a Diploma of Interior Design from BCIT, she continually enrolls in decorating courses to keep up to date with current trends and ideas.

Principal designer and head of Twenty One Two Designs Inc., Amanda develops each project by taking a multi-sensory approach to the space, and creates environments that are classic with a modern twist, inviting, inspiring and most of all, personal. Her ability to bring freshness and vibrancy while paying close attention to detail ensures that she achieves exceptional spaces tailored to the client's lifestyle. She believes that what makes a home truly divine is the resulting pride and enjoyment of the owner. www.twentyonetwo.ca