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EXPANDED
OUTDOOR
COVERAGE

HOMES

& LIFESTYLES

+

BEST OF HOME
BALLOT RESULTS

GORGEOUS
GUEST HOUSES

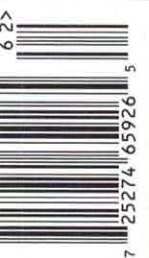
HOSTING A
SUMMER BRUNCH

UPDATING A
CRAFTSMAN HOME

REFRESHING A CLASSIC

DARRYL WILLIS'
UPTOWN COTTAGE

SUMMER 2016
on display until 8/31/2016
\$4.95





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Katie Koch Home



Nordic Kitchen and Bath



shades. She recently completed a job in which she hung white ripple-fold panels of an easily washable acrylic casement fabric outdoors. Installed on outdoor-friendly, stainless steel tracks, the drapes bring a soft, indoor feel to the poolside porch.

An outdoor gathering isn't complete without food and drink, and outdoor kitchens have been on the rise as homeowners incorporate grills, ovens, cooktops, refrigeration, and even dishwashers to their outdoor space. Nordic Kitchen & Baths helps clients create wish lists and plan their space accordingly. The company carries a variety of outdoor kitchen products including high-end Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet grills and pizza ovens as well as all-weather cabinets and countertops.

"We take into consideration location – for instance, how we have to position a grill as we're building it in," says Randy Shaw, owner/president, emphasizing that little-known considerations such as wind direction can affect the lifetime and function of a grill.

Outdoor cabinetry and weather-resistant countertops are a new trend, and Nordic supplies three lines of cabinets that come in a variety of styles and colors, including a natural-looking wood grain. The UV-resistant Dekton countertops provide a non-porous, fade-proof, modern and sleek surface for food prep and serving.

Whether you're hosting a large or small event, the caliber of the gathering may call for a little more pizzazz than your daily décor, and companies such as Royal Event Rental can help

give the event its own luster through full-service design and décor. Royal Event Rental has helped stage everything from private dinners to weddings and corporate events.

"For outdoor entertaining, the important thing is to give the environment the 'wow' factor and really set the tone of the event," says owner Maitee Gomez. From an initial showroom consultation, Gomez and her team help from start to finish – assisting with design, seating and placement, lighting, décor, and setup and pickup. The biggest mistake an outdoor host can make, according to Gomez, is not consider the time, look, and weather. Knowing where the sun will be and out it affects the space in light and temperature is key in planning and setting the tone.

And what can you do if rain has recently soaked your outdoor landscape? Pine straw can provide a layer of "carpet" in places where you fear mud will reign. Gomez Pine Straw provides the multipurpose, natural ground cover for events, as well as for garden mulch and landscaping. A natural and environmentally friendly alternative to cedar mulch, pine straw breaks down naturally and can even be "crushed" or cut to short lengths for a cleaner look and easy placement around smaller annual plants.

From mulch to kitchens to candelabras, each consideration will add to the feeling of home, but no space is complete until you add the warmth and fellowship of friends and family. Customize your outdoor space and enjoy a summer full of fun. ■