

Analyze Your Outdoor Room

Whether you are considering building or redecorating a porch, patio, or deck, think of your space as an outdoor room. Analyze it as you would any room in your home.

Print off this sheet and fill it out at your leisure. Make yourself something to drink, take it out and sit in your outdoor room. Look around and try to see it with the eyes of a stranger. What changes would you make in your mind if you were seeing this for the first time? Here are some questions to get your creativity started.

Questions:	Answers:
What activities are conducted in this area? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entertaining • Reading • Barbecuing • Gardening • Swimming • General Relaxing 	
How many people generally use the outdoor room?	
Is there enough seating?	
Do you have enough tables conveniently arranged?	
Is the area convenient to the kitchen?	
Do you have enough storage for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbecue equipment • Pool toys and maintenance supplies • Gardening and potting tools • Table settings and utensils • Chair cushions in case of rain 	
Do you have to worry about mosquitoes and other insects? Do you have screening if needed?	
Is the hot sun a problem? Do you need awnings?	
Is the area private enough for you? Do you need to be thinking of installing some type of privacy screening?	
Do you have some type of border that separates and defines the area?	

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<p>Are you satisfied with the surrounding landscape? Does it add to the pleasure of your outdoor room? What changes would you make?</p>	
<p>Are there adequate outlets and hookups for your appliances and equipment?</p>	
<p>Do you have suitable lighting installed for night use?</p>	
<p>What do you like about your outdoor room?</p>	
<p>What do you dislike about your outdoor room?</p>	
<p>What is your vision for the room that you would like to create?</p>	

Once this is filled out, you will have a better idea of the ideal space you are trying to develop. Move on to decorating your porch, patio, or deck for some inspiration and ideas for creating your ideal outdoor room.