

SPACES

KANSAS CITY

Backyard Bliss

*Poolside, portico or porch—
in the summertime, it's just
another room in your home*

BY DAVID JIMENEZ

Hot weather has hit and the fireflies and cicadas are here in full force. It's deep summer in Kansas City. And as long as it's not too hot, what better way to enjoy it than outdoors?

Few things deliver the true pleasure of coming home after a long day of work and enjoying a beautiful summer evening in your own backyard. For me, it's an opportunity to unwind in the shade of the portico with a stack of design books or to entertain a group of friends over cocktails.

Whether it's a deck, backyard, portico or porch, creating a space that has all of the warmth and comfort of your home will make your guests feel welcome and go far in creating your own backyard escape.

Get INSPIRED

You may already own an outdoor furniture collection that may simply be in need of some fresh inspiration to reinvent your deck. A great way to update the look and feel of your patio furniture is to move the furniture pieces to a different location or place them in an alternate arrangement. For placement ideas, browse through home design magazines, catalogs or take a walk through the collection of outdoor furniture at specialty stores. When positioning the conversation area, take advantage of views and, if possible, keep the dining table and chairs in close proximity of the kitchen or grill.



*The "Shady lace parasol"
from Droog Design
is available at*

www.allmodern.com for \$355.

Sometimes something as simple as the addition of a new market umbrella is all you need to take your outdoor furniture collection from tired to inspired. Consider an umbrella in a new shape, size or color to make it pop. There are so many terrific styles to choose from (my favorites are edged with contrast piping) at a variety of price points to fit your budget.