

33 Beautiful Outdoor Kitchen Ideas

Summer is in the air

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Are you currently in search of outdoor kitchen ideas? There's nothing quite like embracing outdoor living, whether it's firing up the [grilling station](#) or hosting a party under a [pergola](#) in your backyard. Maybe you crave a sleek [pizza oven](#) or marble countertops, or just want to host a casual backyard barbecue surrounded by family and friends. No matter your style, an outdoor kitchen and cooking area is an opportunity to see outdoor space in a new light. "An outdoor kitchen is not only a natural extension of indoor living, but it also allows for hosting a larger gathering," says Rhode Island-based interior designer [Lindy Lowney](#). However, setting one up can also be an overwhelming project, filled with questions you need to answer about everything from materials to price points.

A modern outdoor kitchen can serve as a place to host and connect with family and friends while also enjoying the beauty of the outdoors. It's a treasured option that many families are seeking out. "Many homeowners are opting to create outdoor living environments conducive to easier entertaining and simple cleanup," says Lowney.

With that ethos in mind, we spoke with more than 30 designers who have created unique outdoor dining areas for inspiration. Maybe you're just looking for design ideas for an outdoor kitchen, or you want something new to complement your [backyard landscaping](#). Perhaps you're considering hiring a design professional to set it up for you or you want to do it yourself. Below are plenty of outdoor kitchen designs to spark your imagination...and your appetite. But first, make sure you know what you need to know about outdoor kitchen spaces.

What are the best materials to use for an outdoor kitchen?

“Stainless steel is very durable and easy to clean,” says Lowney. “It withstands moisture and heat and holds up well to the outdoor elements.” When it comes to the countertops, Lowney suggests granite because of its strength and durability with minimal maintenance. “With a strong commercial sealer, it will resist staining and moisture. Porcelain is also becoming popular due its ease of maintenance and attractive price point,” she adds.

How much does it cost to build an outdoor kitchen?

Certainly, building a full-size outdoor kitchen with a prep area, stainless-steel appliances, and a kegerator is a pricey option. Lowney says that it’s “really difficult to put a number on” outdoor kitchens, since “cost can vary greatly depending on the design, size, labor required, and materials you use.” However, many people choose to DIY their own outdoor kitchen, working to plan and build the space with a strict budget.

Remember, even a humble mini fridge next to a wisely designed counter space can be the foundation of your outdoor kitchen design. When you’re dining al fresco, having your own outdoor kitchen can be enjoyable with just a pair of comfortable bar stools at a high-top table.

What do I do about my outdoor patio kitchen during the winter?

There are so many variables that go into designing an outdoor entertainment space, with one of the most important ones being the environment you live in. Folks who live in dry areas with little precipitation don’t have to worry as much about the threat of snow or hurricanes. By building a covered patio kitchen, you aren’t as limited to when you can use the space. Lowney, who based in New England, recommends building a covered kitchen area to ensure it lasts longer. “It extends the longevity of the investment,” she notes. Below, browse a range of backyard kitchen ideas to get you started on your outdoor kitchen journey.

17. Fireside comfort



Firepits are great at defining hangout zones. Photo: Binyan

Cozy up by the outdoor fireplace and enjoy the views around you. At The Parker, a new building in Boston, Linda Zarifi of Linda Zarifi Design created an elegant firepit area that’s ideal for outdoor entertaining.