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Jessica Klewicki Glynn

The Outdoor Lookbook 2014

A NEW CULTURE + STYLE OF OPEN-AIR DESIGN



Dominique Vorillon

Outdoor living has undergone a revolution; blurred are the lines between indoors and out. Today's al fresco environments incorporate kitchens, dining areas, gathering spaces, fireplaces, fire pits and entertainment areas, complemented by architectural lighting and sliding glass-walled doors. As a response to the new open-air ethos—or perhaps the catalysts for this invigorating design movement—leading purveyors and manufacturers of outdoor products are creating not only with aesthetics in mind, but also with durability, functionality and environmental consciousness.



Tony Solari



COMPOUND INTEREST

SOFT FURNISHINGS AND A SOOTHING NEUTRAL PALETTE BRING WARMTH AND BALANCE TO A MODERN HOUSTON HOME'S SLEEK CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE.

WRITTEN BY KAREN WERNER PHOTOGRAPHY BY TRIA GIOVAN

When Houston homeowners Sally and David Kerr decided to trade their 1950s bungalow for something a little more contemporary, they wanted it done swiftly. Enter designer Chandos Dodson Epley, a longtime family friend. The Kerrs presented Epley with a challenge: Take the home they had recently purchased (in its drywall state) and transform the dwelling into a modern yet inviting space—in just six months. “We wanted something cleaner and more open so we could easily entertain,” Sally explains. “We were ready for the change.” Adds Epley: “They’d been in their previous house for 30 years and sought out something new and different.”

Undaunted by the timeframe, Epley dived in. “There wasn’t much holding us back,” she says. “Their old house had 8-foot-high ceilings and smaller rooms, so none of their existing furniture worked in the new space.” Therefore, Epley selected new furnishings to play off the home’s sleek architecture, opting for soft contemporary pieces with pops of color and visual appeal. “Texture plays a big role in this house,” says the designer. “Fabrics needed to have presence, like the cotton velvet on the living room sofa and

INTERIOR DESIGN Chandos Dodson Epley, Chandos Interiors
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE Lawrence Estes and Richard Dawson,
Dawson Estes, Inc. Landscape Architecture
BEDROOMS 4 | BATHROOMS 5 | SQUARE FEET 6,000



Because it acts as the focal point of the home's lower level, the kitchen and breakfast area had to be both beautiful and functional. Custom barstools by The Joseph Company feature a woven nylon by Brentano, purchased at Donghia. Janus et Cie's Vitali chairs join a Lucite-and-glass table by Spectrum West Collection from ID Collection.