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BOWLING GREEN Home Lifestyle

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My tactics for going green — and a bit crazy

BY BERNIE ERICKSON

Lately I have been reevaluating how I do just about everything. Maybe it had something to do with having a birthday number that ended in a zero and the first number was not a three or a four.

This spring I decided maybe it was time to try a different approach to cultivating a perfect lawn.

The first clue things were starting to get out of hand was that my eyes would sting if I went outside after the sprinklers had run. There was always a vapor cloud rising from the mass quantities of weed and feed I used on the lawn. Then there was concern that any time I walked barefoot in the grass, my feet would get a horrible rash.

Another clue was that the water bill in the summer was significantly higher than the gas bill in the winter.

It was time to change strategies.

Maybe it was time to take a green approach to creating a lush lawn.

First thing to do was figure out a way to get a handle on that water bill. Must implement rain barrels.

Because I have a compulsion disorder in regard to washing my car, I am a friend with every car wash attendant in the Fargo-Moorhead area. My first step was to convince them to give me some of the empty plastic drums the soap comes in.

My buddies at the car wash never let me down, and before I knew it, there were three dozen 55-gallon plastic drums lined up six wide and six deep behind my garage.

Now it was time to devise a complicated hose-and-check valve system linking all the barrels to each other and to the rain gutters on the house. The goal was to harvest all the rainwater coming off the roof and catch whatever might fall directly into the barrels.

Brilliant!

Now I must devise a completely green form of lawn fertilizer.

I called up an old pal from high school who raises exotic goats, llamas and sheep and sells the wool to some uppity East Coast apparel manufacturers.

I inquired if perhaps he might be willing to give me some of the “by-product” he cleans out of his barns in the spring after housing and feeding the herd of pricey sweater-growers all winter long.

My plan was to use his “by-product” to fertilize my lawn, thereby yielding bushels of grass clippings that could be fed to his goats, llamas and sheep, and in turn, they would generate more “by-product” to fertilize my lawn.

My insanely green lawn and I were going to be a part of the fashion/flora circle of life!

We have the best neighbors in the world.

They never complain that I turn on my backyard radio Memorial Day weekend and don't turn it off until Labor Day.

They don't complain that we have outrageously loud pool parties with lots of screaming and commotion that sometimes even include children.

They don't complain that my three-times-a-week lawn-mowing obsession indirectly forces them to mow their lawns

more often than they would like.

However, I was nervous that my plan for a green lawn that included fertilizing with the sweater-grower "by-product" might be a bit too much for them.

As it turned out, their reaction was the least of my concerns.

The "by-product" directly from the exotic animal source does not come in granulated form neatly contained in 35-pound bags delivered on pallets from the garden center.

It comes in a giant truck that dumps a giant pile in the driveway in the pouring rain while you're at work.

And when you come home from work, you turn the corner on your street to see a trail of "by-product" that clearly originates from your driveway. The tracks are there because the neighbors have driven through the river of "by-product" slime that's now oozing out of the driveway in the pouring rain.

The "by-product" fertilizer does not disburse in the hand-held spinner, which is probably for the best, nor in the push-type dump spreader.

It must be disbursed by hand throughout the yard with a giant salad fork in giant clumps that must be broken apart with a giant potato masher.

The fumes rising from the weed and feed and underground sprinklers were bad, but imagine the toxic cloud that rose when I saturated the "by-product" with the swampy rainwater now teeming with percolating organic matter in my overly elaborate rainwater collection system.

And then, of course, there was the unfortunate issue of walking barefoot in the grass.

Between running my sprinklers 24/7 for four weeks trying to de-clump the "by-product" and paying the fire department \$150 to flush a hydrant into the street to wash the slime into the storm sewer, my foray into organic gardening was neither cost effective nor especially rewarding.

But not all was lost.

I did end up with the lushest green lawn ever, and I may end up with a really hot sweater from one of those uppity East Coast apparel manufacturers at Christmastime. ✱

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Gardening, a Labor of Love

Couple Transforms
Backyard While Building
a Community

BY GRACE CARLSON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ECONOMONS

For some of us, cabin fever was a reality this past winter. As kids cheered during the multiple snow days, the majority of us grumbled in disbelief, asking ourselves, "Why do we live here?" Luckily, the worst is behind us, and this time of year Mother Nature is in full reveal of her splendor and natural beauty.

For George and Pauline Economon of Fargo, North Dakota spring couldn't come fast enough. And now that summer is in full bloom, cabin fever has long been buried deep into their garden.

George and Pauline's love for gardening started at an early age. George worked with his dad in the family garden while Pauline worked on her family's ranch. With both of their families living on farms in North

1. "Winnipeg Parks" rose
2. Echinops, commonly known as "Globe Thistle," is a perennial that is irresistible to butterflies, gold finches and honey bees.
3. George and Pauline Economon
4. Pauline stands proudly with their Kalamazoo grill in their new outdoor kitchen designed by Brian Reinarts of Land Elements.
5. In quiet repose stands a Cardinal bird feeder, hardy perennial Annabelle hydrangea, mandevilla vines, purple and red "wave" petunias.
6. A colorful hanging basket of Calibrachoa and pergola add an area of quaintness.
7. The Economons' raised gardens are filled with artichokes, eggplant and swiss chard. Pictured: Artichokes

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Dakota, they were taught the importance of land and how to be stewards of the earth. "Gardening was part of my life and still is today," says George.

When the Economons moved to their new home in 1997, their backyard was far from garden worthy. Dead trees were too common, weeds ran aimlessly, and a white, rotted fence enclosed their yard. This severely neglected backyard needed improvement, and the Economons were up for the challenge. "We were trying to cover the eyesore," says Pauline.

To begin the transformation, the Economons contacted a local garden center for guidance to put together a plan. With a plan in one hand and pitchfork in the other, they dug their way through the mess. With a solid foundation and a clean workspace, the real gardening began. Perennials and annuals were added first to bring some much-needed color. When color wasn't enough, the Economons incorporated herbs and vegetables, and their garden flourished.

Today, the garden contains nearly everything under the sun. Magnolias, roses, strawberries, mojito mint, eggplant, kale, sweet potatoes, basil, red cabbage—the list goes on. "We really didn't plan all of this. Our garden is always evolving and every year is a change," adds Pauline.

The couple's garden also produces such a bounty of fresh, homegrown produce that they love sharing it with others. They especially enjoy sharing kale, which hasn't quite made it to the top of George's "favorites" list.

The Economons favorite part about gardening is the connection it creates with nature. "It is a physical, healthy and spiritual way to connect with nature and God," says George. In their backyard, migrating birds such as Baltimore orioles and indigo buntings visit from time to time. Mother ducks give birth to ducklings, and deer move elegantly through the majestic works of their garden.

When the Economons are not busy gardening, they enjoy entertaining and visiting with friends and neighbors. "Gardening is a great community builder," says Pauline. ✿



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OUTDOORS

Illuminating Outdoor Spaces

BY WANDA PERKINS | PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY HINKLEY LIGHTING

You have meticulously designed every detail of your newly built home. Or maybe you have recently remodeled a home to add an inviting outdoor space. But if you haven't considered the importance of implementing an outdoor lighting plan, your home may end up resembling a blinding runway the neighbors will surely not appreciate instead of the welcoming space that you envisioned. By planning an effective, well-designed outdoor lighting scheme, you will illuminate your landscapes, brighten entertainment areas and provide additional security and safety for family and guests.

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Outdoor lighting designs encompass one area of design available at Hinkley Lighting. "Outdoor lighting is a combination of both function and style. It is helpful to think about outdoor living areas as continuations of indoor spaces," notes Kim Mager, director of marketing at Hinkley Lighting. "Layering lighting with spotlights, pathway lights and lanterns can create magical settings for relaxation and entertaining while enticing guests outdoors."

With an increase in popularity of outdoor living areas that include kitchens, entertaining areas, fire pits, hot tubs, water features, fireplaces and more, selecting a variety of lighting options can make all the difference in artistically emphasizing and complementing your space. "Outdoor lighting lends extra attention to details like uplights on trees to create dramatic shadows, spotlights on sculptures or other architectural features or strategically placed lights that emphasize textured surfaces," Mager adds. "Lighting also adds a sophistication factor and increases your home's curb appeal and value."

Today's outdoor lighting includes energy-efficient lighting that is more cost effective than in previous years. In addition, outdoor lighting also features a host of durable weatherproof design materials that are UV resistant and noncorrosive.

"Outdoor living spaces should be fun destinations, and lighting is a crucial part of that," Mager concludes. "They need to look good during the day and night to showcase your personal design flair. I think homeowners are excited about utilizing outdoor lighting as a design

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← The Shelter Path Light is shown in Buckeye Bronze finish with Clear Seedy glass and a richly designed back plate.



→ For a European preference, Ledgewood Path Lights (shown in Museum Bronze) feature Champagne inside Etched Glass.



← A Harbor Path Light is shown in Anchor Bronze finish with Etched Amber Seedy Glass.



→ The Saturn Path Light is featured in a classic and popular Metro Bronze finish.



← It's all about the details with Palm Path Lights shown in a Sienna Bronze finish.

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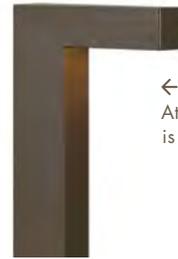
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statement as well as providing safety and security at night.”

Why not enhance your home’s outdoor living spaces with the welcoming glow of beautiful lighting? By implementing a functional lighting plan, selecting an interesting variety of designs and considering the creation of an aesthetically pleasing space, your home’s greatest attributes will be highlighted and decorated in the best possible light. ✿



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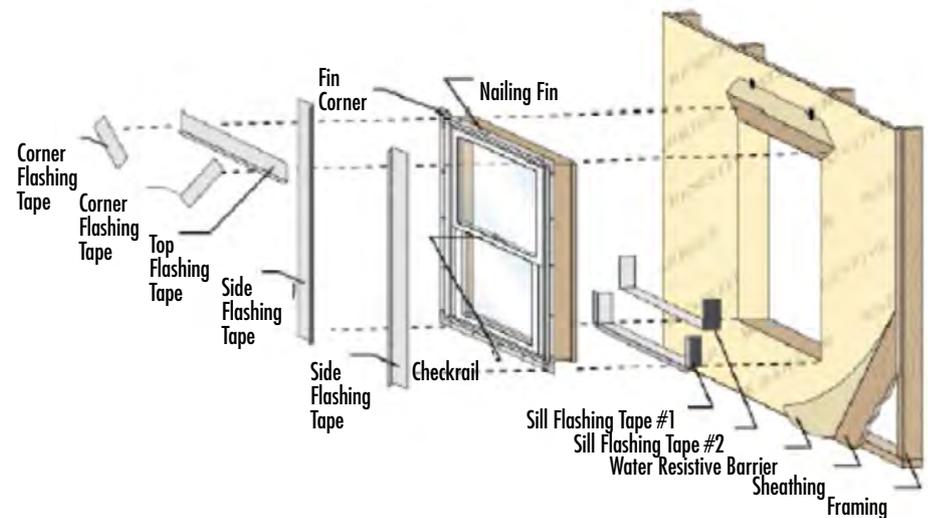
A: The issue you are experiencing is well-known among professionals in the building industry and is commonly referred to as “water infiltration.” Water infiltration has been around since the building industry began, but only in the past decade has it become such an acute issue in the residential industry.

Most people mistakenly attribute this issue to faulty windows, because this is where the water enters the home. But in most instances, the water is not coming around the window glass but around the window itself.

Essentially, water infiltration happens when water gets past a home’s first line of defense—exterior cladding. While the types of cladding are seemingly endless, most common in the residential industry are vinyl, brick, stone, fiber cement board, etc.

These exterior products are the first line of defense against the elements. And while many of these products are beautiful and remarkably durable, they don’t protect against water intrusion. In fact, even some of the best and most durable masonry products, such as brick and stone, allow moisture through at an alarming rate in a wind-driven rain.

Once rain is behind the exterior cladding, it drains down the exterior wall to the first opening it encounters, typically a window or door. If the window or door opening has not been properly



installed, rainwater pours into the home rather than being channeled outside, causing mold, mildew and structural rotting.

A fatal mistake of many novice home builders is assuming that these cladding products are waterproof; therefore, they don’t take the necessary steps to ensure proper sealing at window and door openings. The fact that all cladding materials leak will come as no surprise to well-trained building professionals. Most cladding manufacturers readily acknowledge that cladding products leak and instruct architects and builders to design their homes to protect them against water infiltration.

For this reason, highly skilled

professional builders will insist that their homes be watertight before the exterior cladding is installed. Some in the building industry may not see the value in devoting time, energy and financial resources to such a seemingly trivial issue. After all, no one will ever see these efforts once the home is complete. But true professionals will not only insist on products that make their homes watertight, but they will also demand that these products be properly installed and that their homes perform well even in the most difficult conditions. Water is a very unforgiving element, and even the slightest deviation from the proper installation techniques can have devastating consequences a few short years after construction.

If you have a home with the malady described above, the only surefire method of correcting this issue is removing the exterior cladding and starting over with the correct products properly installed. As one may imagine, this remedy is expensive and time-consuming, but it is nearly 100 percent effective.

Due to the expense of removing cladding such as brick or stone, new products have come to market that attempt to minimize the effects of leaking masonry, such as professional brick sealers. While these solutions can be lifesavers for homeowners who have homes with water leaking in at window and door openings, they should not be confused with a true solution that starts from the beginning.

Some of the best surface-sealing products I've encountered are Siloxane® and Professional®-brand clear masonry sealers. These products go on clear and when properly installed last three to five years. Products that seal masonry and repel water at the surface can be an effective solution to water infiltration, but they must be properly applied in order to increase opportunities for success.

If your home has water infiltration issues, seek professional help as soon as possible. Problems such as these almost never go away on their own, but with professional help, you can keep rainwater outside where it belongs and stay warm and dry inside your home for many years to come. ✨



Tim Graham has been building homes in South Central, KY for over 20 years. He is a Master Builder, a Registered Builder and a Certified Green Professional.

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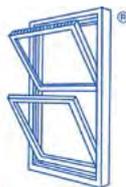




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Designing Women: Three generations of women give Creative Interiors a broad perspective of design ideas. From left is owner, Gina Graham; founder, Rhonda Harrod; and the newest member of the team, Kristen Graham, Gina's daughter and Regina's granddaughter.



Fabric panels, an upholstered rope swing, and durable outdoor rugs transform an ordinary porch into a private retreat.

From the Foot Pedal to the Driver's Seat

Following a Passion for Fabric

WRITTEN BY **MARIKA KUTCHINS**
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JOE IMEL**
 LAYOUT BY **M. SCHOFDING**



↑ Below the porch, Sunbrella® fabrics on the exterior drapes form a flexible wall that disguises and protects the outdoor storage space.

When she was 7 years old, Rhonda Harrod was taught to sew on a treadle machine. She had to stand up to do it because she wasn't yet tall enough to pedal *and* guide the fabric through the presser foot. From those humble beginnings, Rhonda has become the matriarch of a Bowling Green institution.

Located on Scottsville Road, across from Greenwood High School, Creative Interiors combines three generations of family and a handful of lifelong friends who share a



↑ Rhonda Harrod started her business with \$275 and a smile. She invested every penny back into growing the business, but she shares the smile wherever she goes.

passion for interior decorating.

Rhonda's daughter-in-law Gina Graham is now the owner, and granddaughter Kristen Graham, at age 22, studies business at Western while getting hands-on experience as a buyer for the store.

Their commercial space is devoted almost entirely to thousands of swatches and hundreds of bolts of fabrics from silk to leather, velvet to faux fur. In back, there are two workrooms where the team creates cornices, headboards, drapes, curtains, throw pillows, quilts and just about any other fabric-inspired home improvement.

But it wasn't always such a diverse offering.

When Rhonda first launched the enterprise it was called: Creative Interiors ~ A Touch of Country.

She chuckles at the reminder and Gina gets the joke. "It wasn't really a touch of country," says Gina. "It was whole lotta country."

That's because when Rhonda started her business, Southern-style ruffled window treatments were the rage—giant ruffles, ruffles in triplicate, ruffles in two-tone, ruffles on ruffles on ruffles. They were intricate and detailed and Gina admits she did not share Rhonda's skill with the sewing machine. She would come to work every morning with her fingertips already wrapped up in Band-Aids ready to do battle with bobbins.

"We established fairly early on that sewing was not my strong point," she remembers.

Fortunately, with her background in purchasing for a multinational company, Gina quickly applied her business skill to negotiating with vendors and managing the supply chain. And under Rhonda's tutelage, she also came to appreciate the process of working directly with customers to bring their projects to life.

"That became part of my driving force," she says. "Learning to help customers."

Eventually those ruffled window treatments were replaced by more variety—straight panels, swags, cascades and jabots in stripes, solids, waverly, tribal, chevron and metallic. Creative Interiors continued to grow. "I started this business on \$275," explains Rhonda. "I never asked



↑ Kristen Graham represents the third generation of business women who make Creative Interiors a go-to for designers and home decorators throughout the region.



Gina Graham may be out of place in the workshop, but her background in corporate purchasing and her passion for building client relationships has helped make Creative Interiors a success.

for (financial) help. I just put everything I earned back into the business.”

Today, in addition to window treatments, they offer custom quilting on bedding, as well as upholstered headboards and cornices made in-house. A client can come into the store and select from actual bolts of fabric and design a one-of-a-kind accent piece or transform an entire room.

And curtains don't necessarily require windows. Heavy fabric panels are an ideal way to enclose an outdoor space and create privacy. Creative Interiors carries Sunbrella® brand fabrics that hold-up to years of sun exposure and can help extend the living space beyond the home's footprint.

Part of the process of working with their clients is uncovering their sense of style.

Fortunately for these designing women, Kristen has embraced the family business. She brings a fresh perspective, according to Gina, because she likes a more modern aesthetic and because she embodies the lifestyle of a younger generation. Her sense of style is more adventurous and she is quicker to change even when it comes to the large pieces.

Mother and daughter enjoy traveling to fabric markets—most recently in Atlanta—where Gina proudly stands back and lets her daughter negotiate with the vendors on everything from shipping times to cost, while inspecting the quality and credibility of the product offering. “She’s a good student,” Gina says.

Thanks in part to Kristen’s involvement

Creative Interiors has expanded to offer plush area rugs, contemporary accessories, furniture and lighting. “We are a little bit different than just a decorator because we’ve got a whole retail store,” says Gina. She says this not only means a diverse offering, but also means her price points are often lower than her competitors.

And since staying relevant means being able to spot the next big thing without betting the store on a fly-by-night fad, Gina appreciates being able to navigate the intersection of traditional and contemporary where Kristen’s fresh perspective intersects Rhonda’s years of hands-on decorating experience. ✨



↑ Lifelong employees become part of the family. Pictured is Anthanette Sears (left) who gets a hug from her "boss" Rhonda Harrod.



Plenty of walking space flows around this hexagonal white vinyl pergola. A welcoming gathering area underneath is great for guests. Design by Todd Funfar. Photography courtesy Deckmasters.

LIVING LARGE OUTDOORS

Gaining Outdoor Peace and Relaxation
with Pergolas and Ramadas

BY WANDA PERKINS



↑ Reflecting the home's Spanish Mediterranean style, this ramada's roof extends over the pool, allowing two water scuppers and a rain shower to be incorporated into the structure while using the pool as a basin. This creates a swim-up space that connects the active pool area to the relaxing seating area. (Design and photography courtesy Exteriors By Chad Robert, Inc.)

Today's outdoor living spaces encompass more than a few comfortable lounge chairs and a table to dine at. Homeowners desire to enjoy the outdoors with a variety of indoor amenities and visual architectural landscape designs. One way to enhance your outdoor space is by incorporating a pergola or a ramada.

Licensed landscape architect Chad Robert, Exteriors By Chad Robert Inc. of Phoenix, Arizona, defines a ramada as a structure with a solid roof that is often tied to the style

of the house. "It's an extension of indoor space, which is set up to be an outdoor room," Robert explains. "Ramadas often have fireplaces, furniture and a rug, and they're usually far enough from the main structure to encourage people to venture into the garden. Sometimes they're connected to an outdoor pool for relief from the sun. In contrast, a pergola is typically an open-air structure."

Climate, location and history are all factors to consider prior to selecting and constructing a pergola or ramada. Materials that work in one location may not be functional in others. "In Arizona, we don't use much wood, because of extreme heat. Stucco and clay-tile roofs used by early Spanish settlers are still used here," notes Robert. "If wood is used, we try to protect it from the elements. There's also an increase in using rusted metal."

With new construction on the rise, many areas lack developed shade trees. Pergolas can also provide a function of shade during hot and sunny days. Homeowners who put substantial investment into their backyard want the option to comfortably sit outside and enjoy their space. Adding a pergola is a simple solution, and with unlimited designs and artistic talents of designers and craftsmen, you can create a truly unique structure to admire.

When using a pergola or ramada within your outside space, it's important to decide on the main purpose for its use. Homeowners should consider whether they are looking at adding a pergola for shade, looks or both. If your location is in direct sunlight, you'll probably prefer something that provides more shade. Material is an important factor as well. Cedar is less expensive, but there is more maintenance involved. Painting or staining the wood can be tedious. Low-maintenance materials such as vinyl, aluminum or fiberglass are great options. Fiberglass has a very wide range of colors. It is also a bit stronger compared to other material.

A variety of architectural landscape designs offer interest and beauty, which also function in providing a relaxing, peaceful and protected space. "Outdoor spaces and gardens are always connected to a client and the programming of



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Pergolas can create an intimate sitting area while providing another outdoor living and entertaining space.



↑ This gazebo-like pergola is constructed of durable fiberglass for years of carefree enjoyment. Design by Deckmasters and Natural Environments Landscaping. Photography courtesy Natural Environments Landscaping.

↓ Constructed of western red cedar, this rustic pergola definitely makes an appealing backyard statement! Design and photography by Premium Decks. Landscape design by Valley Landscaping.



the house,” Robert explains. “When designing, it’s important to consider the homeowner’s lifestyle. A family with children is more active and needs outdoor places to explore, whereas older clients prefer retreats, reading and quiet spaces. Those with teens often incorporate a pool with a diving board or cooking areas. When you consider how homeowners live, then everything else with the design falls into place. Hiring a professional



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Pergolas can create an intimate sitting area while providing another outdoor living and entertaining space. You also gain a bit of privacy from the posts, and you gain more shade by planting climbing plants along the sides and the top.

There’s a growing trend toward incorporating plans that include comfortable outdoor living spaces. New and exciting products in today’s market are more durable and long lasting. Modern advances in building and installation techniques have greatly improved. Outdoor spaces can be a substantial investment, but these investments increase home values. My advice is simple: Know your installer. Seek professional advice and design service, and then create a master plan where outdoor rooms and landscapes flow together.

Go ahead! Plan your dream outdoor living space. Ponder ... design ... build – and enjoy! Everyone deserves a little peace and relaxation. Why not make the outdoors your oasis? ✿



AL FRESCO



Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet's versatile Hybrid Fire Built-in Grill burns any combination of charcoal, wood or gas. A 24-inch Double Cooktop Cabinet allows easy preparation cooking space for additional favorite entrées.

Photographer: Anthony Tahlier. Designer: Frank Mariani, Mariani Landscape.

Outdoor Kitchen Renovations

Cook. Eat. Relax. Enjoy!

BY WANDA PERKINS

It doesn't take much hint of spring's warming temperatures for homeowners to come out of hibernation and begin their fascination with outdoor cooking. More than ever, homeowners are seeking the same luxuries and amenities associated with their indoor kitchens as they are in aesthetically pleasing, architecturally designed outdoor kitchen spaces.

With busy lifestyles and a need to connect and relax, professional-quality outdoor kitchens are becoming increasingly more popular. "Outdoor kitchens offer enjoyment and relaxation

for a homeowner's lifestyle," notes Russ Faulk, vice president of design at Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet. "Clients are choosing to build professional-quality kitchens outdoors because they want to cook outdoors and take advantage of authentic outdoor flavors you can only achieve with charcoal and wood. Even cooking everyday meals outside creates a sense of occasion, diminishing the drudgery of cooking."

Additionally, today's access to technology, websites and popular TV design shows that offer entertainment

and education also fuel a demand for magnificent outdoor kitchens. Homeowners desire to expand interior spaces outside with similar design inspirations. They see a financial and personal investment associated with the addition of an outdoor kitchen by creating a space that will be enjoyed with family and friends for years to come.

In essence, outdoor spaces complement homes by becoming extensions of interior living space. This is one reason it is crucial to consider a home's existing architectural design prior to planning an outdoor

kitchen area. "The outdoor kitchen adds the most value to a home when it is not designed as an afterthought. Outdoor kitchens can be treated as a destination on the property or as an extension of the indoor kitchen," adds Faulk. "A 'destination' kitchen needs to be more complete, more self-sufficient. If designed adjacent to the indoor kitchen, there is less need for refrigeration, storage and prep areas. Some of the best outdoor kitchen designs are integrated with the structure of the home and a beautiful garden landscape, so there is clear advantage to incorporate an outdoor kitchen plan in the initial home design."

Visual presentation of your outdoor space is essential. If not designed correctly, the space will not be used. Not all designs fit all spaces and needs. Likewise, if the space has a visual connection to the homeowner's personal lifestyle and home, it will work well. It's important to have an understanding of how the homeowner interacts between the interior and exterior spaces and then work to create a clean and efficient flow. Also, by establishing a budget—with potential and opportunity to phase the project over time—homeowners can achieve their dream outdoor kitchen.

Imagine how the space might work for your family and for entertaining. What features encompass your dream outdoor kitchen? How much counter space do you require for prepping and cooking? Are you a gourmet chef, or do you stick to cooking wieners with toasted buns? What about serving and cleanup space? Why



↑ Under-counter freezer drawers and outdoor refrigerators by Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet keep food and beverages at perfectly chilled temperatures—even when temperatures soar! Photography courtesy Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet. Photographer: Anthony Tahlier. Designer: Frank Mariani, Mariani Landscape.

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not incorporate a few additional luxury additions and appliances?

Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet offers a range of distinctive outdoor kitchen products. "We are best known for our Hybrid Fire Grills, the only grills on the market that enable homeowners to cook with any combination of gas, charcoal and wood," Faulk explains. "Our Artisan Fire Pizza Oven is very popular, and we offer a full range of outdoor refrigeration units. Cabinetry features include weather-tight designs that keep out the elements. And for those clients who want complete kitchen freedom, there's an outdoor



← This outdoor kitchen and year-round entertaining space boasts private rooftop views with an urban flair. Backlit LED lights made of recycled glass create screens for privacy and wind protection.
 Photographer: Scott Amundson.
 Designer: Brian Reinarts, Land Elements.

↓ This u-shaped, deluxe kitchen features a Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet's Hybrid Fire Grill, weather-tight storage cabinets and an earlier version of their Artisan Fire Pizza Oven.
 Photography courtesy Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet. Designer: Kris Horiuchi, Horiuchi Solien, Inc.



dishwasher." On the horizon for 2014, Kalamazoo will introduce a wood-fired Argentinean-style grill, the Kalamazoo K750 Gaucho.

Yes, today's outdoor kitchens are more than a grill and a cart to hold the fixings. By choosing complementing architectural elements, design materials and appliances, your dream outdoor kitchen will operate as effectively and efficiently as firing up a grill and cooking your favorite entrée. Add the blessing of family and friends for a truly memorable time. So get outside! Cook, eat, relax and enjoy. Your outdoor kitchen awaits! ✿

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Wild rice and smoky cheese perfectly balance the natural sweetness of bison.

- 1 pound ground bison
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- ½ cup shredded smoked cheddar or smoked provolone cheese
- 1 tablespoon barbecue sauce
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- ½ teaspoon ground pepper
- ¼ teaspoon salt



In a large bowl, combine all ingredients, mixing gently until evenly incorporated. Form into 4 patties.

Grill or pan-fry patties 4 to 5 minutes per side or to desired doneness. Serve on toasted buns with tomato and onion slices.



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FAMILY FUN for the FOURTH OF JULY

A good old-fashioned block party is planned for Friday, July 4, downtown at Circus Square Park, 601 State Street in Bowling Green.

Families are encouraged to come and take advantage of a day of fun sponsored by BB&T Bank with help from SKyPAC and Hitcents.

The downtown merchants and members of The District have organized the event to help kick off their 2014 Summer Concert Series. Soul House band is the featured performer, and WOVO radio will be broadcasting remotely from the park.

SKyPAC is sponsoring children's and family-friendly events, including a water balloon toss, sidewalk chalk art, three-legged races and other games for kids. Those events begin around 2 p.m.

Cool off with fruit juices and shaved ice but save your appetite for dinner because the restaurants at Hitcents Park Plaza will offer vouchers for discounts so diners can sample the fare from the new downtown restaurants.

Adjacent to the ballfield, Hitcents Park Plaza features 6-4-3 Sports Bar and Grill, as well as fast-casual offerings. Pagoda Restaurant has fresh Asian, and Tres Molinos has a south-of-the-border menu that includes tacos, burritos, and even tres leches

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cupcakes for dessert. Brick & Basil features al fresco Italian including pizzas baked in a brick oven.

After dinner, head over to the baseball stadium where the Hot Rods will take on the Dayton Dragons. The game begins at 7:05, and it ain't over til the fat lady lights the fuse on Friday-night fireworks.

The Summer Concert Series continues every Friday night through August. There are two concerts scheduled back to back beginning at 6 pm at Fountain Square Park and moving to Circus Square from 8 to 10:30 pm.

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July 5th The Landsharks Beach Boys Tribute	Aug 2nd A-Town A-List Pop / Dance
July 12th Motown Sounds of Touch Motown Oldies / Twilight Cruise In (Finalists NBC's "The Winner Is")	Aug 9th The Akins Gospel
July 19th Home Free Country A Capella (Winners 2013 NBC's "The Sing Off")	Aug 16th "Who's Bad" The Ultimate Michael Jackson Tribute Band

*Concerts contingent upon weather. Follow us on Facebook

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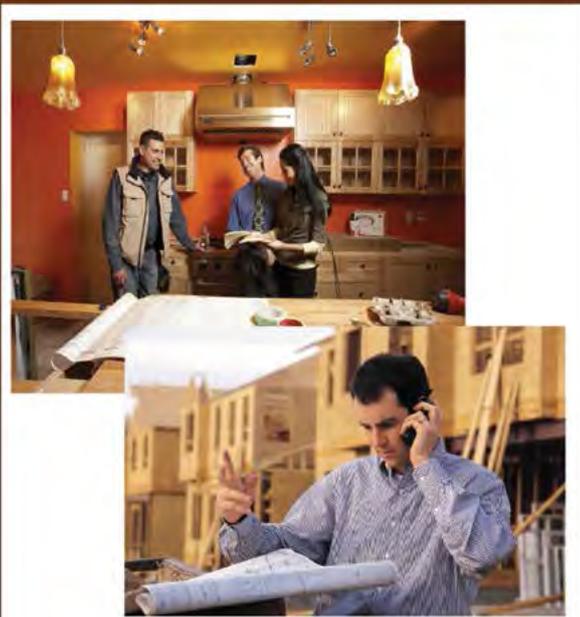


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