

DESIGN & DECORATING

A PRIMER FOR PATIOS



RANDOMIZED VERANDA Sydney design firm Penman Brown layered elements that are traditional (Cameroonian coffee table, reproduction rattan armchairs) and modern (cement planters, Kartell Masters dining chairs) on this East Brisbane, Australia, deck.

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 looks that withstand the vagaries of weather.

Consumers have responded to the increasing number of furnishings and accessories (everything from outdoor use—everything from daybeds to drapery). Sales of outdoor furnishings totaled an estimated \$4.38 billion in 2015, up from \$3.65 billion in 2013, according to the International Casual Furnishings Association—a nearly 8% increase.

Vintage goods, a key element in eclectic rooms, are popping up on

the patio as well. At e-commerce antique mecca 1stdibs, sales of exterior furnishings have risen 15% to 20% since 2013, reported Christine Miller, head of dealer relations. Demand for outdoor furnishings increases each spring, though this year, due to an unseasonably warm winter or a similar order for potting garden benches, sales started to climb in February, said Ms. Miller.

New York designer Doug Meyer, known for boldly idiosyncratic interiors, advocates the new pleasurable approach. “I am not a fan of

coordinating sets,” he said. “I love creating outdoor rooms using odd mixes of furniture that, through some small thread, work together.”

In the eclectic spaces of a Miami Beach home designed by Mr. Meyer, for example, a unifying palette of green, blue and pink evokes Southern Florida. He offset the home’s coastal punch with a powder-blue floor, then added a turquoise and pale-blue floral Moroccan floor mat and a mid-century sofa painted avocado green, among other pieces. A nearby patio features magenta

1970s-era molded-fiberglass Wendall Castle chairs.

Without a unifying idea, “ eclectic ends up looking unkempt or unimpaired,” said San Francisco designer Jessie Black. Though such a proclamation likely engenders anxiety in the average lounge chair designer, this wild new world of design aficionados need not be bewildering or daunting. Here’s an A-to-Z roundup of trends, materials and classics that can be mixed and mismatched with stylish results—plus more guidelines for making it look easy.



A IS FOR ARMCHAIR

The Duffley chair from Los Angeles designer Kerry Joyce offers comfortable proportions and soothing room-warming accents. The chair is available in a number of washable fabrics. Shown here, a cool, loopy acrylic textile that reads mildew and weed-wagner friendly. It wipes clean with a wet rag. Duffley Club Chair, from \$3,395, with Mesa Fabric in Stone, \$162 per yard. Kerry Joyce, 323-960-6662



F IS FOR FOLDABLE

“Buy! Japan’s streamlined lounge mode of oak and powder-coated aluminum, was inspired by traditional English folding card tables. Ideal for anywhere space is scarce and flexibility key, it lets you raise one leaf to seat three or add to six, six-and-a-half to under 7 inches wide. Models: De Fournier’s 1046 by Ross/Stein, \$3,375, 1-800-707-556-5045



K IS FOR KIRI WOOD

“Layered lighting is crucial,” says Los Angeles exterior specialist Judy Kameon, of Elysian Landscapes. “Add a mirror on a step edge or mirror on a dining table.” For the latter, by these functional-positive sandstone tiles, crafted in Thailand from recycled glass and pliftwood of the kiln-free pizza for its table, 11-ply wood from 315, Jessie Black, 415-737-0232



L IS FOR LASER-CUT

Laser cut into powder-coated steel, the geometrically generated patterns of Arkura’s Cora bench yield a couple dose of filigree: once in the piece, and once in its shadow. Available in a range of sizes and colors, the lacy bar to high seat a pair of an innovative new line by Chris Ashard, an architect by training whose company manufactures three-dimensional ceiling, wall and facade treatments as well. \$2,495, wayfair.com



M IS FOR MARINE GRADE

Designer Walter Lamb prototyped this choice outdoor furniture company Brown Jordan in the 1940s, using cotton marine rope and brass piping salvaged from naval ships sunk in Pearl Harbor. “This is a real, resupplied material: weatherproof brass fitting (which acquires a deep patina but can be polished back to a shine) and polyester cord. \$1,690, the.com



N IS FOR NICKEL

What’s when designers so long ago to be polished white metal outside? The glossy nickel finish of Williams Sonoma Home’s Revere dining chair, applied over a rustproof stainless-steel frame, is more often seen on kitchen and bath hardware but translates well to the backyard—and gives a weather-ready cast-iron-made steaks a hit of sparkle. \$685, williams-sonoma.com



S IS FOR STACKABILITY

Certainly, being able to store furniture vertically is practical. What it comes to the off-season, B.J. six chairs that use the floor space of only one also speed up post-party cleanup. (Just a tower of them, and sweep easy.) CE24 Lucinda M. Stoddy’s Chair, from \$100. A Perseus cafe bench is a walkable city seat up pair of the breed. \$90, cb2.com



T IS FOR TERRA-COTTA

“A few well-chosen, well-spaced pots make a space feel finished,” noted Ms. Kameon. “These geometric vessels nod modern, but their no-fuss, no-fuss look harkens to the traditional. I’ve had a lot of people ask for a soft-focus finish. Geo-Earth Pottery, from \$23, tanhousonickpottery.com



U IS FOR UMBRELLA

Though I’ve started my career in a Miami backyard and now runs Toot, which borrows technology from the marine industry, to build shade structures. The Marina model, inspired by the sweeping lines of the sea creature, uses a steel and pulley rigging system. And since we’re well-versed in parts wear out, the umbrella’s aluminum components are replaceable. \$2,344, awson.com



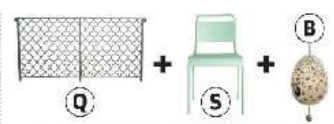
V IS FOR VINTAGE

In open-air settings, Palm Beach, Fla., designer Colleen Kamala gravitates toward pieces “that have or will age in a beautiful and casual way: copper, patina, or hand-painted.” Her mid-century French rattan bar cart carries weathered charm and modishness. Lillo, Genua Rattan Style, Kaitan Co. from \$1,100. Home, \$1,900, 1ststbs.com

GOOD FORMULAS // WAYS TO COMBINE THE A-Z ELEMENTS



MIX THE MASCULINE AND FEMININE
 Curves and angles can sometimes clash, but when married well, they create surprising and deeply pleasing visual rhythms. To accomplish the effect, contrast rectangular pieces such as the boxy Duffley armchair and the Geo-Earth platters with a curvaceous show-dropper such as Walter Lamb’s classic chaise. Choosing pieces in subdued tones, as shown here, fosters happy cohabitation.



PAIR THINGS OLD, NEW AND NATURAL
 For maximum interest, collapse eras, said Betsy Burnham of Los Angeles firm Burnham Design. “I always do a mix of new and vintage. And I make sure there’s an organic element somewhere—pottery, wood or stone.” Metal construction and a French accent help the 19th-century altar railing and the 1937 chair bridge their age gap easily, while the Eric Polenthal ceramic birdhouses pick up hues from each and add an avoid yet unmistakably human touch.



TELL A COLOR STORY
 Create an idiosyncratic mash-up of textures and styles, but choose pieces that share a hue, advised Warren Trivelpiece, owner of luxe indoor-outdoor furniture company Lajo Living. “This will ensure the look feels curated, not chaotic.” A sustained note of vibrant orange-red links the dramatic sweep of a Bohemian Rhapsody lounge, the intricate swirls of Madeline Weinreb’s ethnic floral fabric and the taut, tailored lines of the Koete joboss table.