

PRICELESS

MARCH 2011

LAKE NORMAN Woman

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF WOMEN

{GO OUTSIDE!}
EXPAND YOUR HOME WITH
outdoor
SPACE!

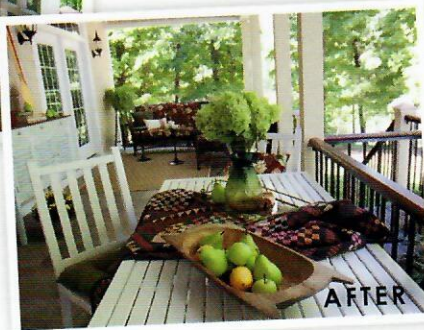
FOCUSING
on
FAMILIES

SHAWNA CASTORIA

home
SWEET
home



BEFORE



AFTER

GO OUTSIDE AND

play!

**IF YOU AREN'T USING
YOUR PATIO OR
OUTDOOR SPACE,
THERE MUST BE A
REASON!**

- IS IT TOO BRIGHT IN THE SUN?
- IS IT NOT COMFORTABLE?
- IS IT NOT LIGHTED AT NIGHT?
- IS THE SCREEN-IN TOO TIGHT OR CUMBERSOME?

THAT WAS THE CASE with one client—they had a great, long porch facing Lake Norman, but half of it was a screened-in area that they never used. Due to a lovely off-the-lake breeze, they never had problems with bugs, so the screen was not necessary. They also found that when they were entertaining grandchildren or guests, the constant going in and out of the back door over to the screened-in area was a hassle. Solution? Knock the screened in area down and dress up the whole porch with new flooring, furniture, paint, lighting and railing.

Spring is just around the corner! You can expand your home by effectively utilizing your outdoor spaces to create warm and inviting environments to entertain your friends and family. 🛶

AND DON'T FORGET THE SMALL STUFF!

Outdoor entertaining is more fun when you think of the simple things we often forget:

DECORATING

- *Outdoor rugs help define spaces. Even if you want to add a sitting area under a tree for the occasion, place an outdoor rug under the seating area.*
- *Hang votives in the trees. (Make sure the flame is at least 12" from any foliage!)*
- *Use inexpensive burlap on tables.*

- *Bamboo plates from greenfeet.com are beautiful, sturdy, disposable and biodegradable.*
- *Use flat leaves as coasters.*
- *Fire pits and fireplaces are great in the spring and fall on cool nights.*

MOTHER NATURE

- *If it is windy, sew weights into the edge of your tablecloth.*
- *If there is space, add a fan to help cool and keep bugs away.*
- *Marigolds help ward off insects.*

HOSTING

- *If you are having a crowd, a lovely empty trash can will help keep things clean and everyone outside.*
- *To keep food cold, place the bowl on a larger bowl full of ice and kosher salt.*
- *As the sun sets, provide ambient lighting on a dimmer to allow your guests to continue their conversations.*



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