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## THE GREAT OUTDOORS

As spring temperatures beckon us outside, be sure to make the move as stylishly as possible. Here, the trends, products and some inspirational projects to help create a thoroughly modern and stunning alfresco mecca for your home.

By Jess Charmoli, Laura Eckstein Jones, Amanda Friedman, Meg McGuire, Andrea Mills, Maile Pingel, Rhonda Reinhart and Phebe Wahl

## **Private Paradise**

Though architect Michael Rachlin purchased his 1950s ranch house in the Beverlywood neighborhood of Los Angeles some 20 years ago, he only recently completed a major renovation—one that stretched well beyond the home's walls. Working with Brad Biben of L.A. Design Associates Inc., a firm with which Rachlin Partners frequently collaborates on largescale public projects, the duo created a series of well-defined outdoor living areas. "The front patio is very nice for breakfast and early mornings as it faces south and has a wonderful view of the adjacent golf course," explains Rachlin, "while the fire pit deck is ideal for an evening glass of wine or for more intimate groups." The fire pit has also proved to be the perfect place to make s'mores—something the architect loves to do with his daughters. "Finally," he continues, "the pool, spa and larger deck with two Philippe Starck outdoor sofas and a bar makes an excellent space for entertaining." Despite being close to Beverly Hills and Century City, the house now feels remarkably tucked away-and even further hidden by the mature pepper trees that first attracted Rachlin to the home. "I enjoy all of the outdoor spaces as an extension of the house," he adds. "They've created a wonderful indoor-outdoor relationship." 8640 National Blvd., Culver City, 310.204.3400, rachlinpartners.com

