

Are you In or Out?

BY DENISE GEE PHOTOGRAPHS BY KING AU/STUDIO AU PRODUCED BY DAVID ANGER AND WADE SCHERRER

Imagine spilling tea on the rug under your dinner table and simply hosing it off. Dining by electric chandelier in a light rain. Running your home's indoor wall and flooring materials outside, with no maintenance issues at all.



Living seamlessly indoors and out isn't just possible—it's a home design revolution that's *now*.

Improving the flow and functionality of your home—and your life—is key to our smartly designed Better Home Better Living™ house, now under construction near Atlanta. As you'll see in our November issue, our innovative home will feature many of the affordable and flexible ideas that you've told us you want in a modern home. Chief among those wishes: effortless indoor-outdoor living that's achievable and stylish.

Connecting to the outdoors gives families more space to play and celebrate nature, and each of us a chance to savor some personal time by gardening and relaxing. It extends a home's overall space and adds to its value. And with more breezes to waft in, it also lowers home cooling bills. In sum, "the experience of a home is better—life is better," says project architect Toby Long.

Rain, wind, and extreme temperatures aren't as daunting now that building materials can hold their own in any climate. And with indoor-outdoor furnishings increasingly in brighter hues, sleeker shapes, and no-fuss, no-fade materials, there are more reasons than ever to truly live outside. Here's what's new.

A curtain *outside* your house? Sure. Smart materials can help you create a cozy—and permanent—outdoor setting.

 BETTER HOME
BETTER LIVING™

Plastic Makes Perfect

Forget cracked plastic tables and sunken-in lawn chairs. Advances in polymer technology translate into surprisingly stylish, functional, and affordable pieces—either in pure molded plastic or as blended vinyls or acrylics—that let us live outdoors in style.

1. WEATHER-RESISTANT FABRIC

Ceramic-art wiz Jill Rosenwald has designed a jazzy retro-inspired fabric line for Laneventure, shown on this oversize (75x52-inch) beanbag, the I-Pad, in her Sno-Cone pattern; about \$299; 800/235-3558 or www.laneventure.com. We also like the festive fade-resistant Sunbrella fabrics (from left) Picadilly Sea Spray, Dolce Oasis, and Mason Macaw; about \$28/yard from Calico Corners; 800/213-6366 or www.calicocorners.com.

2. SLEEKLY MODERN LAMP

This InOut tabletop piece produced for Hinson Lighting in Barcelona is made of strong molded polyethylene. It will withstand normal wind gusts but can be permanently affixed for even more stability; lamp as shown available to the trade for about \$1,000 (floor lamps also available); 212/475-4100.

3. WOVEN VINYL FLOORING

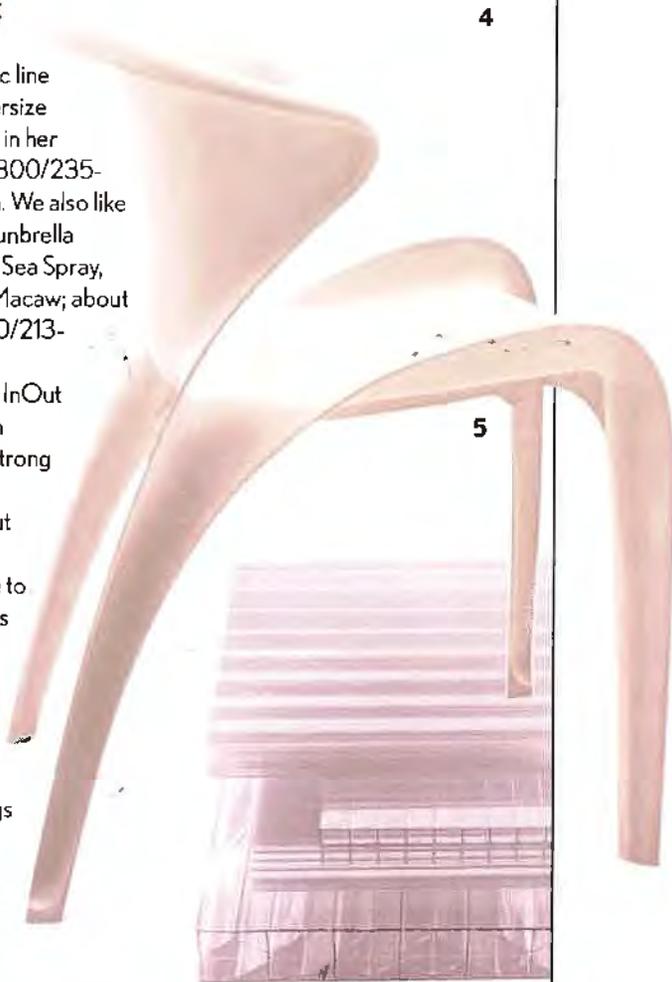
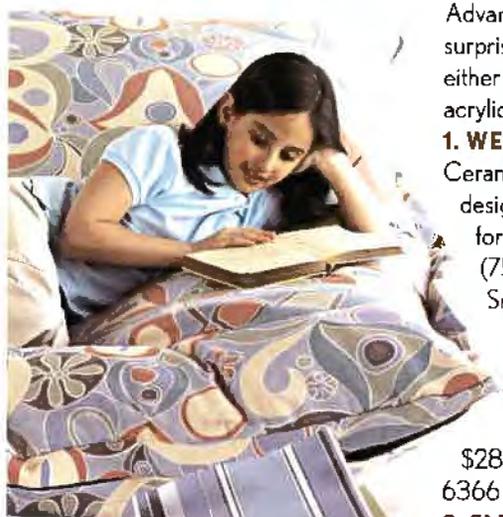
For a durable and colorful alternative to sisal, consider Bolon, shown here in purple-and-white stripe, and on page 65 in indigo tweed; 6x9-foot rugs about \$375; 877/662-5779 or www.bolonusa.com.

4. ALL-WEATHER CHANDELIER

This Shady Lady fixture is made for outdoor use, although its looks say otherwise. Its five-light, powder-coated metal base features durable weather-resistant shades covered in an acrylic that's often used for awnings. All circuitry is sealed, and glass covers protect the 40W candelabra bulbs; \$279; 800/343-1954 or www.shadyladylighting.com.

5. SHAPELY PLASTIC CHAIR Designed by William Sawaya for Heller, the Calla Chair, made of fiberglass-reinforced polypropylene, offers striking style and stackability. In white, black, silver, or red, it retails for about \$90; 212/685-4200 or www.helleronline.com.

6. SEE-THROUGH SHELTER You've seen it in greenhouses and skylights; its brand name is Polygal. As lightweight, insulated, structured sheets of polycarbonate, it adds protection and transparency to porch roofs, arbors, dividing walls, pool houses, and more. Ranging from 1/4- to 1 3/8-inch thick; \$1.29-\$7.20/sq. ft.; 800/537-0095 or www.polygal.com. >> on 68



Natural Selection

Outdoor materials made with organic ingredients don't have to look like camouflage. Today's offerings mimic the vibrancy of indoor style while providing the durability only nature can provide.

1. SHIMMERING GLASS TILE Let an indoor wall flow like water to the great outdoors with Oceanside Glasstile's Tessera line of recycled glass. The 1x1-inch mosaic tiles are sheet-mounted on paper facing and are freeze- and thaw-resistant (but not recommended as flooring). Bohemian No. 123 (shown here), about \$28/sq. ft.; 760/929-4000 or www.glasstile.com.

2. ORGANIC PLACE MATS Created by hand with river rocks that have been washed, polished, and affixed to netting, each Design Ideas Beachstone Place Mat measures 15x15 inches (coasters and runners also available); about \$9 each; 800/426-6394.

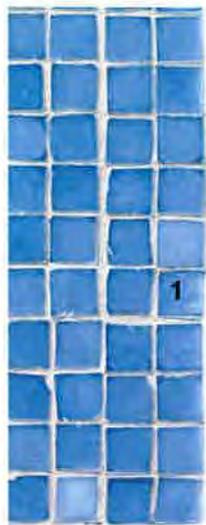
3. WITH-THE-GRAIN TILE Looking like exotic wood, this sleek Italian-made porcelain with through-body color (in five shades) stands up to frost, moisture, and scratches. It has a 20-year residential guarantee. Designwise, the Viva Ceramic tile looks beautiful laid multidirectionally, \$11.50/sq. ft. as shown in brown, white, and black; 713/300-2940 or www.walkerzanger.com.

4. MOVABLE WALL This two-sided Woven Trellis System mobile wall in teak, concrete, and matte steel by Heltzer lets you enclose your patio, divide garden spaces, and add landscape interest. The customizable system allows you to position plants at its sturdy base; it also supports removable bird feeders, plant hangers, lanterns, and bird baths. At 77½x42 inches, it retails for \$3,300; accessories sold separately; 877/561-5612 or www.heltzer.com.

5. TEXTURED STAINLESS STEEL The Crossville Stainless Steel Tile Series fuses a porcelain body to a stainless exterior. Nine surface textures come in square or triangular patterns in various sizes; 4x4-inch tiles, \$6.25 each; 6x6, \$11.25; 931/484-2110 or www.crossville-ceramics.com.

6. BRAZILIAN WALNUT Tropical ipé ("e-pay") hardwoods sometimes cost less than domestic hardwoods, require little maintenance, and are insect- and fire-resistant. Unfinished, the heavy and hard boards from Lumber Liquidators (dealing only with companies that practice managed sustainable forestry) wear to a matte silver unless oiled. For 5½x1-inch deck boards in varying lengths, \$1.79/linear sq. ft.; 800/356-6746 or www.lumberliquidators.com.

7. VERSATILE TABLE This black-washed zinc-coated metal Avira Oasis Table by Design Ideas features a recessed container that can hold rocks or seashells to harbor candles, exotic plants—even a bed of grass. Its top can be turned over to create a traditional flat tabletop; about \$120 (dining table on page 65, about \$170); 800/426-6394. >> on 70



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