

By Christine Conard Shultz

# FALL OUTDOOR LIVING

Autumn's Arrival Offers

Plenty of Options for

Creating Comfy Outdoor Spaces

September's start signals a mental shift for most of us from summer to fall, even though autumn's official start is still a few weeks away. But despite the groan of school busses lumbering through our neighborhoods, there's still plenty of time to enjoy and highlight your outdoor spaces.

**JUST DROP IT** Now that the truly hot weather has passed, you'll want to transition your patio or pergola to ward off chilly evenings. For an easy and inexpensive weekend project, interiors expert Elaine Williamson suggests measuring and installing curtain rods in between columns or posts. Then "drop drapes around columns and pull them closed in inclement [colder] weather."

Choose tab top or grommet styles for an easy way to quickly slide drapes closed and open. Make sure to purchase hardware that will hold up in the elements, or protect it with a clear lacquer or protective spray.

## THE GREAT THROW DOWN

The quickest way to convert those cozy outdoor spaces for fall is also the simplest – throws and quilts. Pair your lounging chairs and Adirondacks with warm, fuzzy throws and pillows. Both options offer a quick way to add color and charm to any outdoor area; it takes only seconds to toss them indoors at the end of the evening, too.

Scout outdoor patio stores for discounted end-of-season items, especially if you want materials that are specifically made for staying outside. Or take a Saturday to visit antique stores to look for vintage summer weight quilts, which make for nice lap blankets. Mix and match bright colors to welcome fall's arrival.



Image courtesy of Sunbrella

## FIRE IT UP

Outdoor trends for fall 2010 still show an upswing in outdoor fireplaces, chimineas and fire pits. Again, you can find some good pricing on these as lawn and garden shops look to move summer items to make way for winter merchandise.

There's a rise, too, in the popularity in standing, outdoor portable heaters, says Williamson. Just like those used by restaurants to warm their patio dining areas, these units can be quite elegant and give your outdoor space a resort feel.

## LET IT SHINE

Outdoor lighting has been elevated to trendier, hipper styles, just like indoor lighting fixtures.

Ground stake or pendant-style lighting is a cool way to warm chilly evenings and provide ambient light for your garden, patio or terraced spaces. Pod Lens offers a variety of upscale lightweight outdoor lighting and looks super cool hanging in bunches from tree limbs or low branches.

Standing torchiere, oversized outdoor floor lamps and pendants offer a dramatic style for fall entertaining. (11)



Image courtesy of Pod Lens

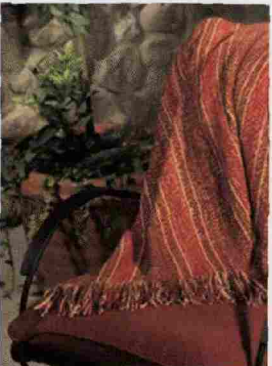


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