

VERANDA

JULY-AUGUST 2021

Our
Summer
"It" List

- COUTURE SLIPCOVERS
- AFTER-DARK AMBIENCE
- SHOWY WICKER
- POSH CABANAS



The New AMERICAN STYLE

EXUBERANT, PERSONAL &
MORE LUXURIOUS THAN EVER



In Good Taste

◆ REBORN, REBUILT, REIMAGINED ◆

The New American House

After more than a year of quarantine life at home, even *The Wizard of Oz's* Dorothy might click her twinkling heels and say, “There’s no place like a cocktail bar.” The pandemic certainly shaped how we live in our respective domiciles—and did so in real time. “Any dreams that people have been sitting on have in most cases gone active. What are we waiting for?” asks Atlanta architect Bobby McAlpine. “People who have busied themselves as we all have—traveling, and going, and chasing, and using our houses as places where we pick up our dry cleaning—have shifted tremendously. And I think in many cases, people learned how to be home and how to live in their houses.”

And yet the ideal of the American home was already in flux, shifting, as it does, from one decade to the next. To examine just how much our desires and priorities have changed, we polled more than 170 architects and designers on everything from mudroom must-haves to how we host guests. The results are in. Welcome home, where the party’s just beginning.

Dazzling First Impressions

The front yard is the new social zone, says Houston designer J. Randall Powers, who is seeing a resurrection of 1960s-era block parties, with kids and parents (wine glasses in hand) coming together out front and in the street. As a result, clients are asking for street-facing landscapes to be as “knocked out” as their interior rooms, an idea for Powers that’s long overdue. “For us, an entry is like a calling card, so it should always be thoughtful and impressive,” he says. “At my own house, I want it over-the-top. I’ve got so many manicured boxwood balls, it looks like Bunny Mellon threw up in my front yard.”

In Birmingham, Alabama, architect Anna Evans is seeing a similar shift, noting that three different clients recently asked for dining rooms with French doors flanking a front terrace, specifically so their parties can spill out onto the lawn. One even requested a cooler be built into custom benches on either side of the entry. How’s that for a neighborly toast?

DROP-INS WELCOME

Front walks and courtyards roar to life with charming tables for gathering, flickering lanterns, and style that matches the revelry.



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