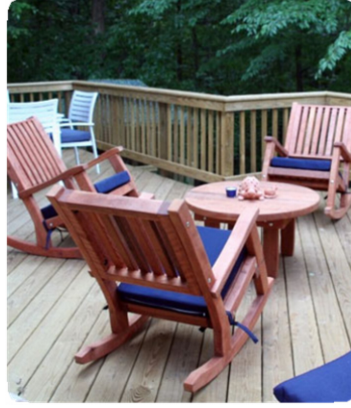


Top Tips for Designing Your Outdoor Great Room

It belongs to the American Dream. But the tradition goes back centuries—at least to the ancient Greeks and Romans—and it's shared by cultures around the world. Creating an **Outdoor Great Room** is a classic way to enjoy dining and relaxation amidst the beauty and openness of the outdoors surrounding your home.



Whether you're envisioning a traditional space for small barbecues and family get-togethers, or a full-featured kitchen and dining complex, ready to entertain dozens of guests, by following a **few easy tips** you'll be sure to create a space that you'll love for years to come.

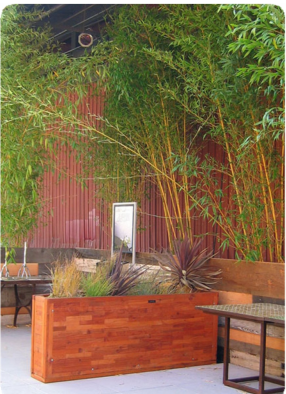


Tip #1: Think Big (even if you're going small)

Your Outdoor Great Room will probably want to include a central dining area, but it doesn't have to stop there. In fact, the best outdoor spaces are **multi-purpose**. By properly designing your outdoor room, you'll be able to easily transition between:

- Fun with family
- Entertaining friends & neighbors
- Social functions
- Intimate evenings
- Relaxing solo

Take a moment to imagine all the different ways you would like to use your space. This will help determine the table styles, quantity of seating, little extras, and other options.



Tip#2: Provide for Shade & Privacy

The beauty of an outdoor room is that you get to enjoy the sunshine, breeze, bird sounds, and other natural wonders. But nobody wants to sit outside on a sweltering hot, sunny day without some shade!

One of the best ways to provide a shaded area is with a **pergola**. Although pergolas are open structures, you'd be surprised how much shade they can provide. A pergola can be *attached to your house* (see our [Attached Pergolas](#)) or *freestanding* (see our [Garden Pergolas](#)).



The style of the pergola roof can be customized to your desired level of shading. You can even grow crawling vines along the posts and beams of your pergola for extra shade and visual interest.



For additional privacy, consider adding a **privacy screen** to one or two sides of your pergola. Finally, a great way to create a boundary around your outdoor area is by using a series **planter boxes** (see our [Planter Boxes](#)) filled with flowers, veggies, or even small bushes and trees.

Tip#3: Choose a Beautiful Table that Meets Your Needs

The first question many people have when it comes to dining tables is: What shape should I get, round or rectangular? Keep in mind, a round table (see our [Round Dining Tables](#)) will tend to promote more intimate and inclusive conversations, while a rectangular table (see our [Rectangular Dining Tables](#)) will afford greater seating capacity.

Getting an extra-wide table can be especially useful if you have large platters you'd like to place in the middle of the table. Forever Redwood tables can be easily customized in larger widths. If you prefer a smaller main dining table, a couple **side tables** (see our [Side Tables](#)) can provide useful surface space for platters, trays, extra utensils, etc.

Tip #4: Create Interesting & Useful Niches

Depending on the amount of room you have to work with, you may wish to create small niches apart from the main dining area. Here are some ideas to consider:



Conversation areas — Great for smaller-scale socializing and private conversations. What you'll need (per area):

- 2-3 [Chairs Rockers](#) or [Benches](#)
- 1-2 [Side Tables](#)
- [Coffee Table](#)

Breakfast nook — A wonderful place to enjoy your morning coffee, alone or with your spouse. What you'll need:

- [Cocktail table](#) and [Bar Stools](#)

Sunbathing area — Especially nice near the pool or any water feature, like a fountain. What you'll need:

- [Chaise Loungers](#)
- [Side Table](#)



Arboreal retreat spot — If you have surrounding trees, you can turn them into little intimate retreat areas. What you'll need:

- [Tree bench](#)
- [Garden Swing](#)



Kid Zones — Give them a place to play, laugh, make messes (and stay out of your hair!). What you'll need:

- [Kid's Picnic Table](#)
- [La Playa Sandbox](#)
- [Tree Disk Swing](#)



Tip #5: Accessorize Generously

Once you have the basic layout of your outdoor room, the fun really begins. The little details will help make your space more charming, unique, and functional. Here are some ideas.

To bring in more flowers, herbs, or small veggies, add a couple [Window Box Planters](#) or [Vase Planters](#) into the mix.

Would you like to invite birdsongs into your yard? A birdfeeder on the periphery of your outdoor dining space is a lovely touch (see our [Aviary Oasis Birdfeeder](#)).

Finally, for a distinctive conversation piece, consider adding a [Wishing Well](#). You can fill it with flowers and invite the kids to imagine their dreams coming true.

Conclusion: Go Redwood for Durability & Distinctive Style

There are dozens of choices when it comes to the materials for your outdoor room. Authentic California Redwood stands apart for its proud tradition, earthy tones, robust strength, and virtually decay-free longevity. Feel free to request [wood samples](#) to see for yourself. The impressive quality of our redwood is why we offer [up to 30-year warranties](#) on our products.

Last but not least, by investing in a Forever Redwood set you'll be able to tell your friends and neighbors that your outdoor room is helping to restore the Redwood forests (learn more about our [Restoration Forestry practices](#)). Beyond just going "green," you'll be fostering a subtle and sustainable connection to a majestic species—one of the most powerful and beautiful trees on the planet. *And you'll feel it* as you sit back and watch the sun go down, enjoying an evening surrounded by elegance, strength, serenity, and classic style.