

# garden

By Roger Myers

Roger Myers is the President and Founder of American Beauty Landscaping. Established in 1979, ABL is the Valley's industry leader with more than 100 national, state and local awards to its landscape design and build credit.



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## “This Definitely Has Changed the Way We Live”



Creating an outdoor living space, or building an outdoor room continues to be ever popular, as folks enjoy just staying home. Of course if all you have is an 8'x10' deck or patio, you probably aren't feeling the magic yet of a true outdoor living space!

With a little imagination, a creative designer, and a motivated homeowner, your backyard will never be quite the same!

Today's homeowner wants a backyard experience that makes friends, family and themselves feel like they're getting away when they get together. An outdoor table and chairs is a given, but then it's anything goes. It may be just a raised fire pit, with some surrounding walls to create privacy, or a much more elaborate get-a-way including a bar, fire pit, gas fireplace, pizza oven or hot tub! Some sports fans include a large-screen TV. All you need now is some great food and cold drinks and your best friends to create that memorable evening.

### *“It's Like Having an Entire Living Room Under the Stars”*

There's something magical about an elegant dinner outdoors. Add a vase of fresh cut flowers, and set out a variety of candles and candle boxes, string lights in trees and around your patio. It's all about the lighting. When designing your outdoor retreat, allow for a variety of light sources, to create that soft, appealing glow. Avoid large spot lights which add glare and melt the ambiance, and the “mood”! Exterior sound products are quite popular, and can easily deliver good quality tunes without creating a sour note in your budget. What could be more romantic than a warm fire, glass of wine, soft lighting, and Bublay playing in the background? (Oh yes, and the three kids!).



A new patio, nicely landscaped, some lounge chairs and a loveseat, candles and low voltage lighting all add a touch of style and romance. Whether it's a pool or spa, fire place or fire pit, relaxing in your own backyard escape, is definitely a plan more and more people are following.

For more outdoor living ideas visit us at [www.AmericanBeautyLandscaping.com](http://www.AmericanBeautyLandscaping.com), click on “outdoor living”. Also click on “garden walls, terraces & patios” for more ideas.

Roger A. Myers  
CEO/American Beauty Landscaping

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