

furniture lighting & decor

indoors out

interior style, nature drive
outdoor design trends



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Naturally Traditional

On the East Coast, Kelley Proxmire, based in Bethesda, MD, says "paying attention to scale, and doing a floorplan, even for furnishings outside, is very important in creating outdoor spaces. Right now, for example, we're working on a house where a pergola is being added, and we've got to figure out the size of that in relationship to the furniture that's going to be underneath it."

Above: Interior designer Kelley Proxmire and her husband regularly enjoy meals together on this screened-porch space overlooking their backyard. Left: A working fireplace, teak furniture and "very comfortable" seating extends the "outdoor" dining and relaxing season for a Washington D.C.-based client.

The other key to an interesting outdoor space, she contends, is variety. "I don't like everything to be the same, and I don't like to see 'sets.'" On the screen porch overlooking her own backyard, the eclectic mix of high and low ranges from McKinnon & Harris, "which is fabulous and very expensive," to Pierce Martin and pieces purchased via Frontgate. All of the fabrics are indoor/outdoor, as is the fill.

In terms of trends, wicker and rattan, which are currently making a resurgence across all home furnishings categories, never really passed out of style for this specialist in "tailored traditional interiors. It's a classic look," she says. But like her counterparts across the country and to the South, she says performance fabrics have made the greatest impact on what's possible both indoors and out. "It's been a huge change. I just had a meeting with a client yesterday where we wanted to put a cushion in her bay window in white. She said, 'Oh! You can't possibly!'" I said, "I understand your concern, but here is the fabric and I want you to spill red wine on it tonight, catsup, whatever you can think of. Sure enough she did, and it all came out. Now she's a believer. And we can do the white cushions." **FLD**