

WHAT'S TRENDING?

WE ASKED THREE EXPERTS IN THE HOME DESIGN INDUSTRY TO TELL US ABOUT THE LATEST TRENDS IN ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN.

ANDERS LASATER, ANDERS LASATER ARCHITECTS LAGUNA BEACH



TOP LEFT AND BOTTOM: JERI KOEGEL

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: a stately olive tree defines the edge of this outdoor room; protected by the entry courtyard wall, a shimmering pool becomes the focal point of this inner courtyard; this courtyard works twice as hard by being both an entry path to the front door, as well as the backdrop to the kitchen space inside.



TREND: OUTDOOR ROOMS

Meaningful outdoor spaces, says Laguna Beach architect Anders Lasater, “are becoming a primary starting point for all of our new home and remodel designs.” Whether it’s a spacious modern home, or a small efficient cottage, Lasater’s clients are “expecting outdoor rooms that support their lifestyle and become a true extension of their indoor living experience.”

“It’s no surprise that the outdoor spaces we create become the centerpiece of the home’s composition

and are meant to be enjoyed from many rooms throughout the house,” Lasater says. “This way we give our clients access to the fantastic California climate and magical western light we all love, while also making their home feel more spacious and open.”

But a great outdoor room isn’t just any space that happens to be outdoors. A really great outdoor room is one that is created by, and held within the edges and boundaries used to shape them. “Those edges and boundaries take different forms with each project,” he says. “Often they are the walls of the home themselves, which serve as a dramatic backdrop to a significant landscape object like a pool, water feature, or striking planter element. Equally important is a sense of ceiling to an outdoor room. ... Outdoor rooms are strongly connected to their indoor counterparts through generous openings of floor to ceiling windows or folding or sliding glass doors that help bring the outdoor space into the home and extend the indoor space out to the landscape. In this way the outdoor rooms become inextricably linked to the indoor spaces and are truly a meaningful part of the home design.”