

Summer's the season for outdoor entertaining



Photo provided

By Amanda Eck

Well, ready or not, summer is here! And with that comes lots more outdoor entertaining. Here are a few fun ideas to liven up your outdoor space.

Bringing the Indoors Out

We've all heard the phrase bringing the outdoors in, but the reverse also holds true. Bring out your favorite pillows and throws when entertaining. Accent tables and decorative pieces can also be used for those

special outdoor occasions. We used an antique dresser to display all the sweet treats for my sister's bridal shower.

Ground the Space

Outdoor rugs are great for creating intimate seating areas and providing a punch of pattern and color. For great outdoor rugs shop FrontGate, Horchow, or Ballard Designs.

Ambient Lighting

When the sun sets, keep the party going with soft lighting. I love to use lanterns, candles and string lights. If you have a

nearby outlet, you could bring out some indoor lamps to set on the table or in a seating area.

Create a Focal Point

If you have a large blank space, either a wall or fence, add some outdoor art to create interest. I also love using mirrors outdoors to create the illusion of space and they can also lighten up a shaded corner with reflective light. Outdoor fire pits or a water feature also create nice focal points.

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