

In The Zone

Fold up the lawn chairs. Rethink the outdoor dining table. It's time to give the patio a makeover. Style Director Stephen Peretto shows how flexible furnishings let you create comfortable, multipurpose zones for chilling and grilling.

BY SHARON OVERTON | PHOTOS BEED DAVIS
DESIGNER STEPHEN PERETTO | STYLING CHRIS HATCH LANGOS

"Feel the same level of comfort outside as you have indoors," Stephen says. Modular chairs offer sink-in single seats for gatherings and daybed-like lounging for "me time." FIND IT: Armless chairs, potterybarn.com

1 Chat & dine

"Low, deep seating allows you to kick back—to really relax," Stephen says. "Especially when you pair it with lots of lush cushions." Adding low end tables (that accommodate umbrellas) and ceramic stools, *right*, gives everyone a place to park plates and drinks. The conversation area can double as dining space. **FIND IT** Blossom ceramic stools; emissaryusa.com. Tables; countrycasual.com.



2 Fresh style

"Inspiration for a patio palette can come from anywhere—not just the outdoors," Stephen says. "Look to your existing interiors and architecture." Keep large surfaces like chair coverings and rugs in neutrals, *below*, then layer in color and patterns. "Maybe start with a pillow that has multicolor stripes, and build off that." **FIND IT** Pillow fabrics; chellatextiles.com. Wicker chairs; summerclassics.com.

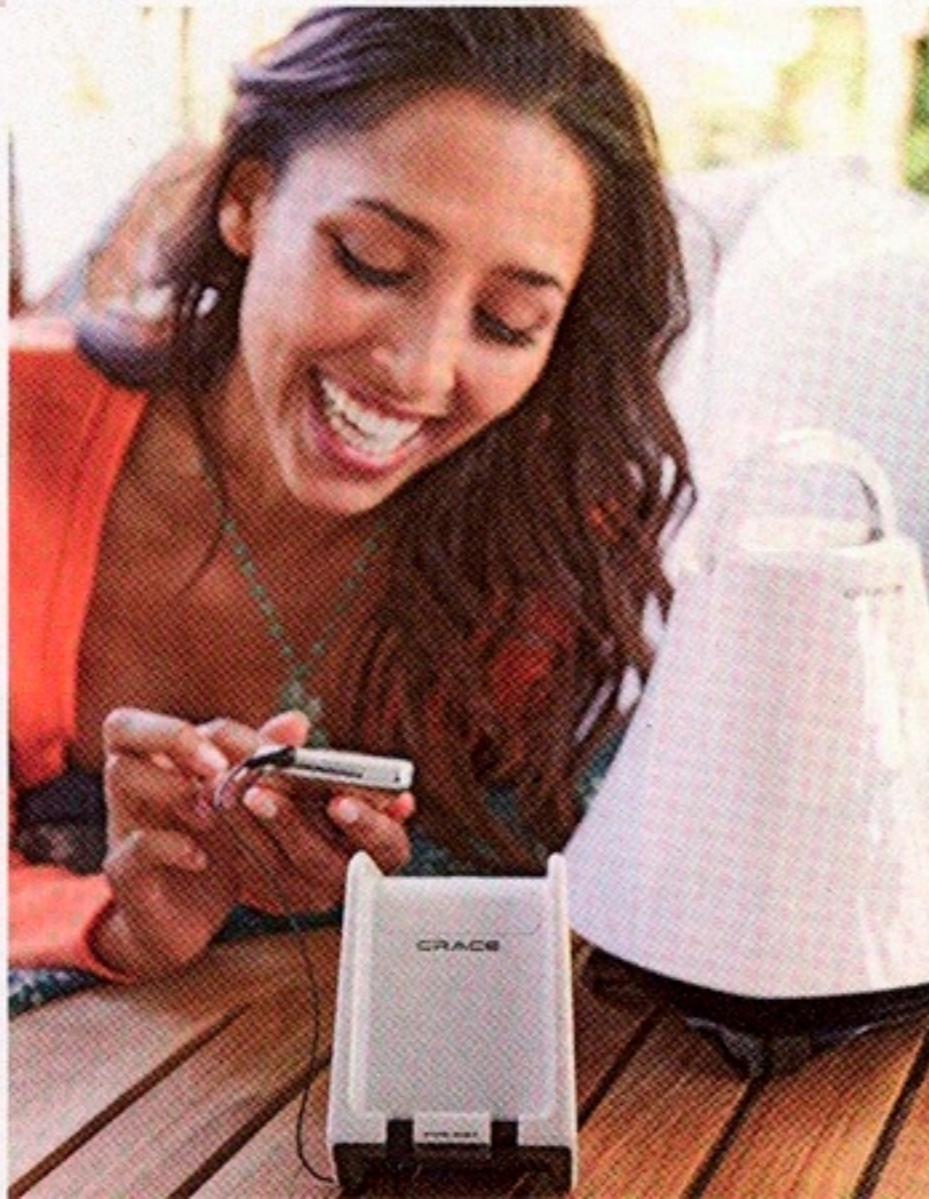


Portable furniture and accessories make a living space more flexible. Carts, stools, and seating can easily be rearranged to accommodate the needs of the moment.



3 Rolling buffet

Carts, *above*, make handy serving stations, especially when they have removable trays that keep bottles, glasses, and other items neatly organized. "I love portable carts because they're so versatile," Stephen says, "but a potting bench would work as a drink station or buffet too." Make sure everything is within reach so guests can help themselves. **FIND IT** Carts; crateandbarrel.com.



4 Mood makers

"Every party needs good tunes," Stephen says. A portable docking station, *left*, lets you and your friends crank up your playlists anywhere. "And while you're at it, satisfy other senses: A tabletop firepot offers warmth and a soft glow on chilly evenings; potted lavender by a path scents the air whenever someone brushes by." **FIND IT** Docking station; gracedigitalaudio.com