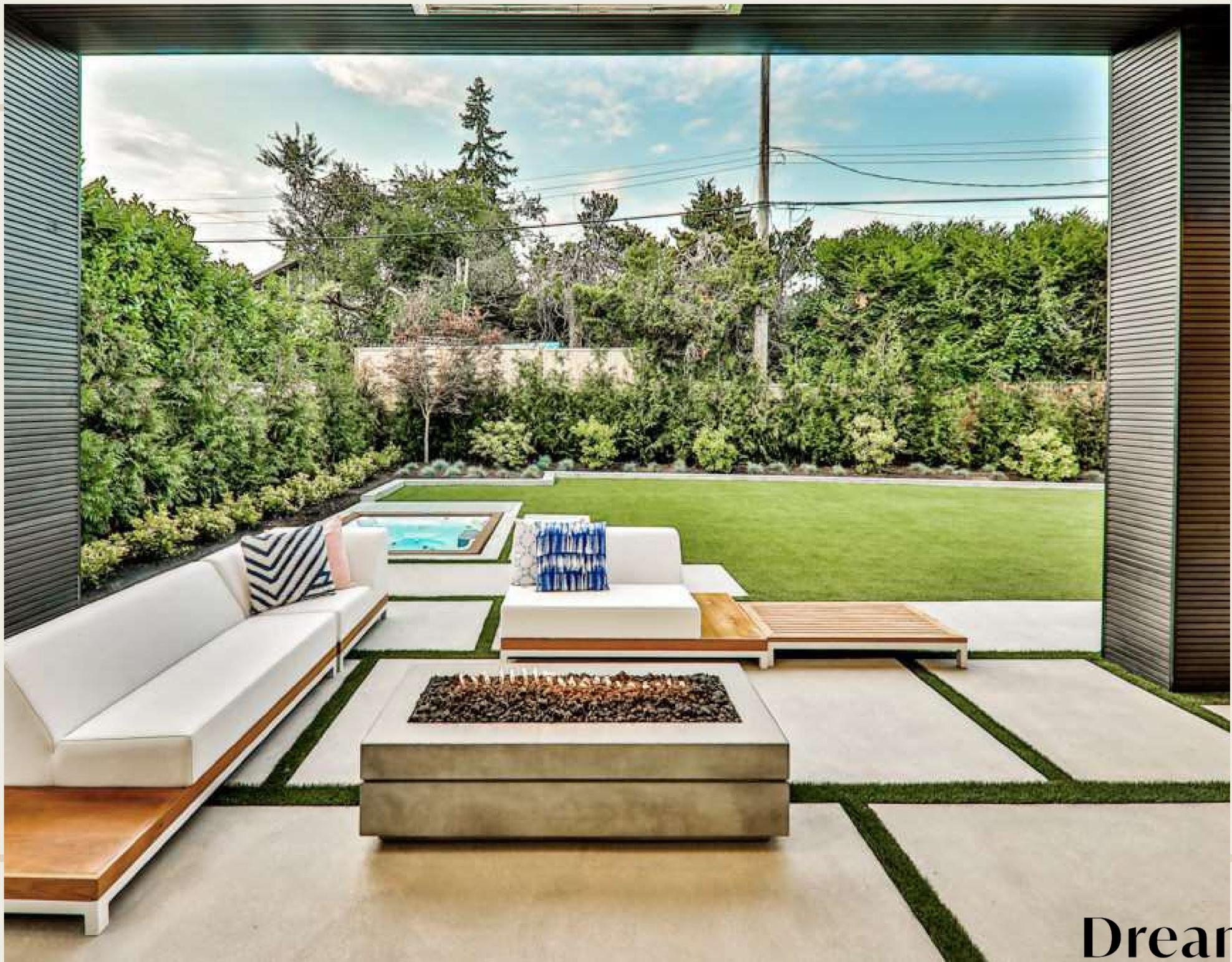


● ————— GUIDE TO ————— ●

A Beautiful Firepit Patio Design





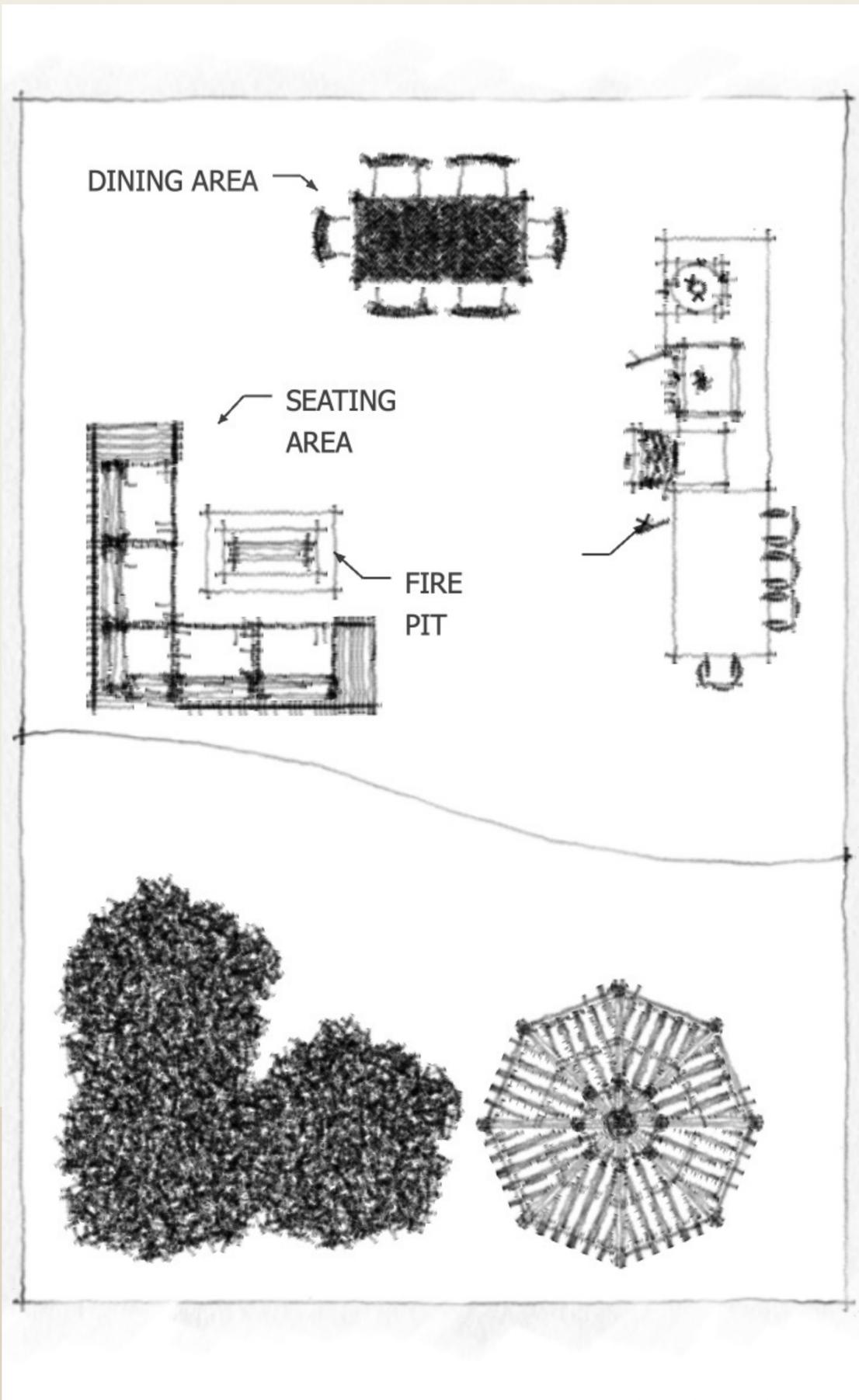
Your Dream Patio

A patio meant for the family can be small and intimate. But if large gatherings are in your future, you'll want to make sure your patio can handle a crowd. We're going to guide you through some planning tips to maximize your living space! You've had this dream for a while and our goal is to make the journey as enjoyable as possible. We have ideas for planning, testing the site, utilizing space, and more.



Step 1:

Size It Right



When laying out your dream patio, you'll first want to make a rough sketch. Assign each "activity" to a different part of the patio. Allow ample space for traffic flow, outdoor furniture, and the activity itself.

If the patio you've planned for isn't large enough, expand it or look for ways that area can serve double duty. Perhaps one corner of the dining area could serve as a secluded retreat. Often moving a chair can make a small part of a larger area feel more secluded.

Once you've figured out where the activity will be in your patio, start thinking about separating those areas visually and physically with planters, trellises, benches or a change in decking pattern. A T-shape patio or different levels with connecting steps naturally divides the space.



Step 2:

Test Out The Site

Once you are happy with your rough sketch, your next step is to mark off your areas. You can use rope, chalk, spray paint or cardboard cutouts. Then, move around furniture or equipment you have on hand so that you can get a visual and a feel of the space.

If you haven't purchased furniture yet, use interior furnishings and add about a foot more space for each item. Figure about 2'/sq. for each outdoor chair, plus about 1' to 2' to push back from a table. Leave 15" from the seat to the edge of the firepit. This will enable comfortable movement between the firepit to the furniture.

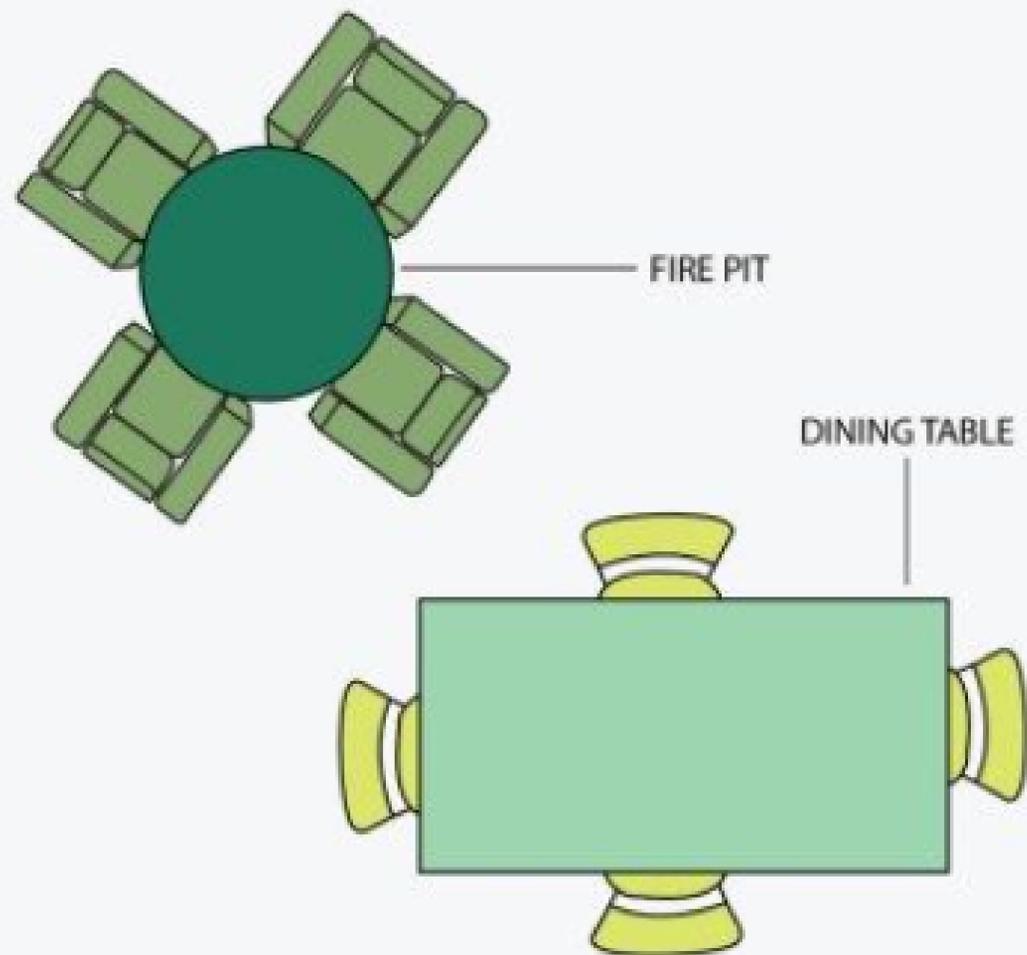
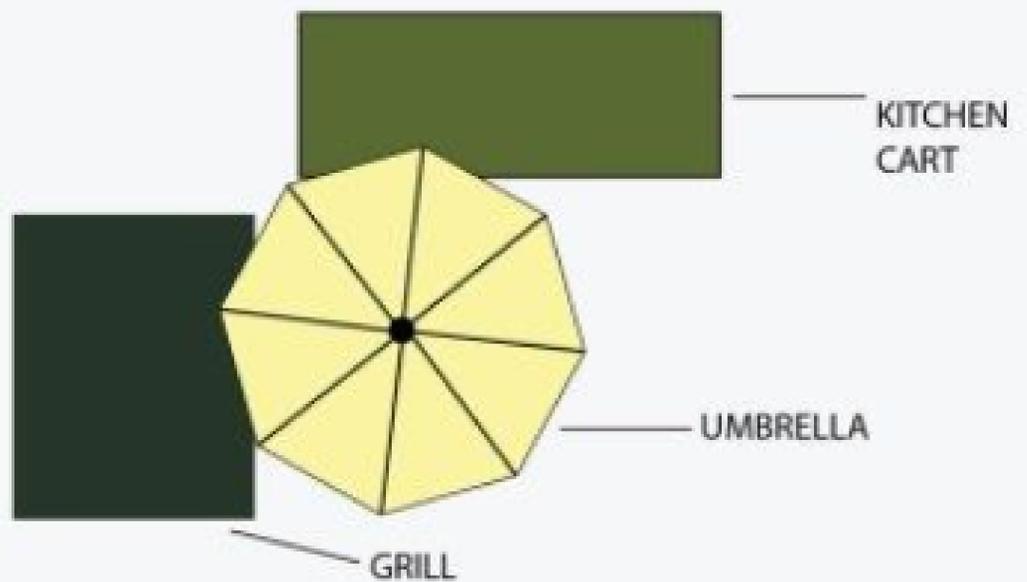
When you've marked and placed everything, step back and consider its scale. It should look proportional to the house and grounds. Small patios usually do not pose a problem - it is less likely to be built next to a big house. More common is a large patio that overpowers a modest home. Start with a design that fits the uses you envision, then fit it to your budget and terrain. When you finalize the size of the patio, draw the plan on paper.



Helpful Tips 1:

Fit Function to Footage

Many patios have plenty of square footage but end up feeling cramped because they weren't planned with traffic and activity in mind. These general guidelines will help you avoid this problem.



Dining Area:

4 people - 10' x 10'

6 to 8 people - 12' x 12'

Round Dining Table:

4 to 6 people - circular area with a diameter of at least 9'

Rectangular Dining Table:

The area should be about 5' to 6' wider and longer than the table

Cooking Area:

The area should be about 6' square. Provide more room if there will be a counter, island or large table.

Reclining Chair:

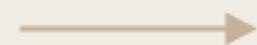
For a single reclining chair, allow the area to be 4' x 7'. For two reclining chairs, allow 7' x 7'

Conversation Area:

For three to six people, space should be about 10' x 10'.

Pathways:

From the door to the stairs and between activity areas should be 3' to 4' wide at all points.



Select Your Details



To make the most of your outdoor living space, you'll want to add amenities like low-voltage lighting, planters, fountains, or a fire pit. Let your lifestyle and needs dictate the details you choose to add.

LIGHTING: Add lighting to make the patio useful even after the sun goes down. If the patio is attached to the house, you can mount floodlights on the eaves for full illumination. Consider putting the lights on a dimmer so you can control the brightness. If the patio is not adjacent to the house, consider mounting lights on tree limbs, an arbor, wood posts, or decorative lamp posts.

WATER FEATURES: Whether elaborate and built-in or simple and freestanding, water features are desirable amenities for a patio. Even a small pond can host several plants and/or fish. Or install a fountain to provide a bubbling soundtrack to your outdoor experiences.

COVERING: A canopy over the patio provides shade and visually contains the area. Options include extending a lath or other open structure from the house (if the patio is attached to the house), building a freestanding structure such as a pergola, or relying on the limbs of an existing shade tree. It is not necessary to provide a rainproof covering. It is more important to filter the sun and create the illusion of a roof. You might choose to have a canopy over part of the patio with the rest left open. This gives you another good option because there are times when you want all the sun you can get on the patio. Keep in mind clearances for your firepit when considering the covering.



Helpful Tips 3:

Select Your Firepit

A focal point that also has practical functions serves double duty. A fire pit or a patio fireplace mantel can both serve as a heat source and really spruce up an area. An important consideration is what fuel source you will be using for your firepit? Think of the pros and cons between propane, natural gas or ethanol and see which you can integrate best into your space. Check out our blog post for more about propane and natural gas.

When integrating a firepit into your outdoor living space, consider the following checklist:

Determine the PURPOSE of your fire feature - how will you be using it?

- Ambience
- Dining
- Drinks
- Warmth
- Focal Feature

Determine what construction materials the fire feature will be built from:

- Concrete
- Brick / Pavers
- Steel

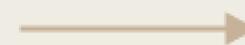
What finished height would your ideal firepit be?

(Consider the function of the area of the firepit will be in)

- 14" to 18" (chat height is 15" ideally)
- 18" to 24"
- 30" dining table height
- 36" countertop height
- 42" bar height

Is it under a covered patio?

- 120" clearance is required for CROSSFIRE burners (high BTU)
- 84" clearance is required for stainless steel burners



YOUR JOURNEY TO A Beautiful Firepit Patio Is Over!

We hope we were able to give you a stress-free journey to your dream patio, through these steps and helpful tips. For more assistance, please visit our website!

Have you checked out our Firepit Planning Checklist? It will help you narrow down how to choose the perfect fire pit.

www.dreamcastdesign.com

