



BY GLEN PELOSO

# BRINGING YOUR INDOOR STYLE TO *The Great Outdoors*

As we are finally finishing up with the snow and cold, I can see neighbours, friends and family longing to get outside and enjoy some warm weather. Dinners in the yard, or garden visits seem to be what we are all turning our attention to. We all want to enjoy living in the great outdoors with all the comforts of being indoors. With the advancements in outdoor furniture, that is completely achievable.

## POOL PARTY

Have a look at the space that you have at the back of the house and decide how best to divide it up to create both comfort and luxury. A pool offers a clear, central focus and function to the yard. This is the area around which to create your lounge or living area as it will be where people congregate for fun. Depending on how large the decking is around the pool, there should be lounge chairs for the sun worshippers. However, we are now able to gage just how much sun we get with canopies being built right into the lounge chairs. The other new addition to the lounge is hydraulic lifts eliminating the need to get up and adjust that bar behind the back rest.

If the decking has a little more area, you can also incorporate an outdoor sofa and coffee table set up so that area also becomes an ideal place to entertain or to simply curl up with a book and a summer drink. Conversely, you can create a wild lounge area so that your back yard will be party central.

Even if you don't have a pool, all of this can be achieved on the deck or back patio.

## FURNITURE

With the advent of the woven, recycled plastic structure and fantastic outdoor, mould-resistant fabrics, we are allowed to play with shapes and styles like never before. There are many lines of this style of furniture in all price points.

## DINING ROOM

You also want to be able to create a dining room outdoors. I think it is always best to have this area closest to the back door of the house as this is typically where the barbeque is and it allows for easy travel of foods and dishes from the kitchen to the table. Again, the advanced styles of furniture means that you no longer have to be tied to the white plastic chairs that are available at the big box stores. With the development of some really fantastic furniture you can see that you are able to create spaces that will weather well and last you for years to come, while achieving the look of fine hotels around the world.

In terms of making furniture choices, you want to look for items that have classic lines. You also want to be sure that they weather well, as our Canadian climate is hard on furniture. Being able to have outdoor furniture that is every bit as beautiful as your indoor furniture allows you to double the size of your living area in the good weather. In the past, it was difficult to host a brilliant dinner party in the back yard as the seating areas were never all that comfortable. I think it best to look at styles that are similar to what you have chosen for the indoors of your house so that you create a seamless feeling between the indoors and the outdoors.

## UPHOLSTERY

The upholstery for outdoor furniture can be changed when you tire of the look or pattern. If you use quality neutral-coloured fabrics for the main cushions, you can add a spark with great accent cushions in mould-resistant fabrics that can be found at any good fabric store. Summer by summer you can change these cushions, which will give you the feeling of a new space each year in the same way the surrounding gardens change year-by-year.

As we are pushing on the gates of time to get us back into the great outdoors, don't ignore the indoors but do what you can to marry the two. What you finally end up with is a fantastic space that will keep you feeling as though you have gone to a resort. Now, the only thing that needs sun block is your skin! **OH**



Glen Peloso is the principal of Glen Peloso Interiors, an internationally known Canadian interior design firm.