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TRENDSPOTTING

Design goes outside the box

BY LINDA HAYES

Mountain views complement this elegant rooftop dining area. Design by Bluegreen

Aspen is a trendsetting town, no doubt. Come summer, the proof is evident in everything from striking architectural feats to the more subtle, though no less inspired, efforts of the army of local interior designers, landscape architects, and artisans who turn their attention to the great outdoors.

ROOFTOP REPASTS

High-impact views are the main attraction of rooftop dining and entertaining areas. That they have little impact on the environment is a bonus. Contemporary design and materials (such as the built-in ipe-wood benches shown here) and perennials like black mondo grass and annual sweet-potato vines work well against mountain backdrops.

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY BLUEGREEN/JASON DEWEY



Whitewater adds a splash of excitement to a serene duplex courtyard. Design by Bluegreen



Going green takes on a new meaning on this verdant hillside. Design by Bluegreen

GARDEN SPAS

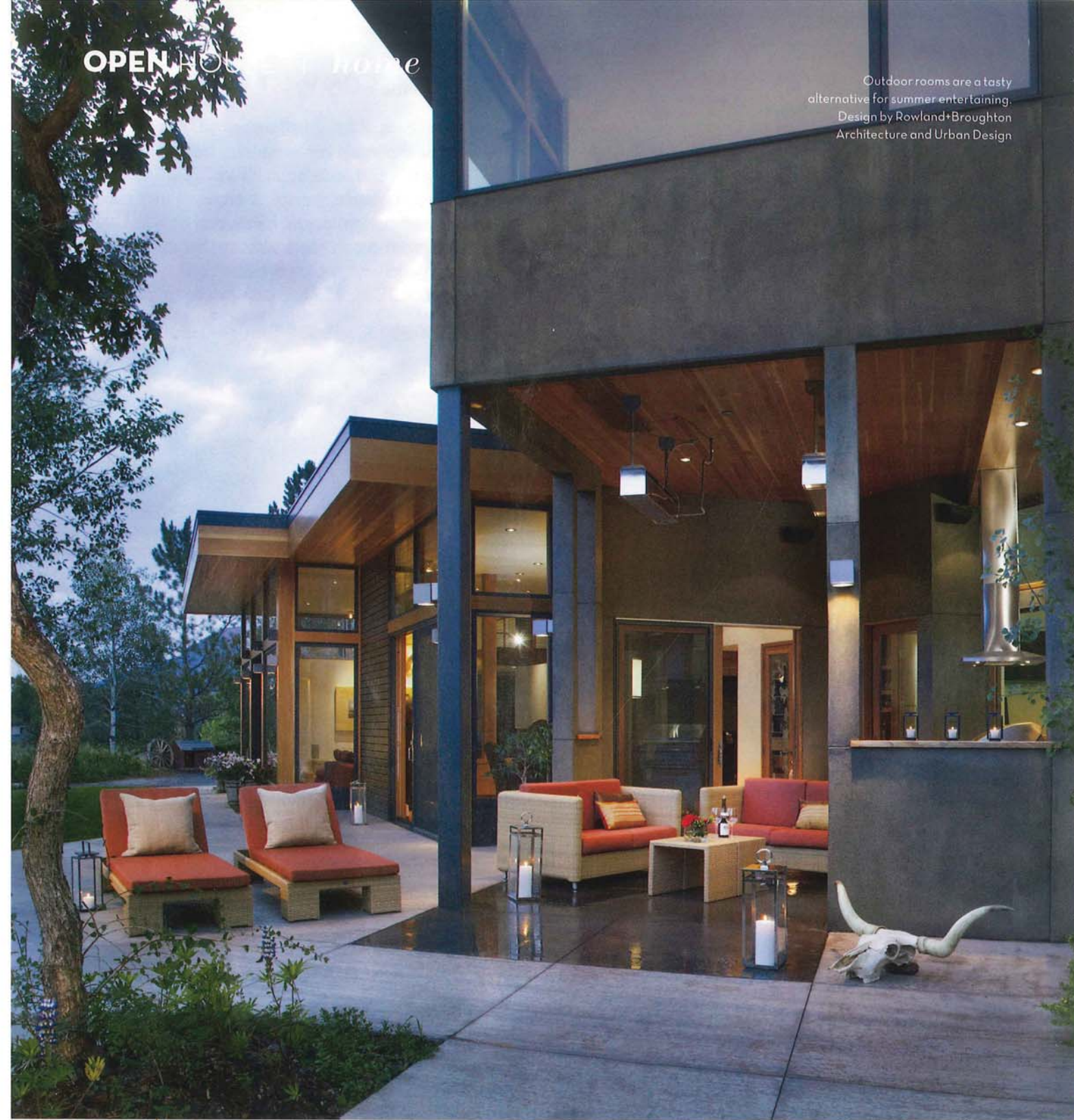
Even the most petite patio, courtyard, or garden can be transformed into a sanctuary with the addition of a burbling spa that, in the case of this custom stainless-steel version, doubles as a water feature. The strong geometric design is reflected in the clean grid of the surrounding stone and concrete pavers. A dense assortment of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs softens the effect and adds color and privacy.

EMERGING PATTERNS

Landscaping takes on a whole new dimension, thanks to the concept of layering in a palette of greens. Rather than depending on more traditional bursts of color, mature aspen and spruce woodlands are accented with plantings, including sweet woodruff and heart-shaped bergenia, that add texture and pattern to the scene. Stairs cut from local sandstone provide contrast and encourage the exploration of hillside property.

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY BLUEGREEN/JASON DEWEY

Outdoor rooms are a tasty alternative for summer entertaining. Design by Rowland+Broughton Architecture and Urban Design



ALFRESCO KITCHENS

When temperatures climb and backyards beckon, who needs walls? Architectural designs like this wood-and-glass box with rain-screen siding and dramatic overhangs create what are essentially outdoor rooms. Paired with fully furnished living areas, kitchens with state-of-the-art appliances—from gas grills to warming drawers to refrigerators—might make summer your favorite season.

Stylized floral arrangements add a sincere welcome to a home.
Design by Bluegreen

DYNAMIC ENTRIES

First impressions begin with "Hello." Here, standing bronze planters, filled with flowers in tones that complement the exterior materials, define the home's entry and lead the way to the front door. The juxtaposition of vertical planters against horizontal planks is subtle yet stirring.

PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY BLUEGREEN/JASON DEWEY