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A strategically placed pair of wicker chairs, with a round tile-topped table between them, helps define the perimeter while allowing the eye to travel to the landscape beyond, making the space seem larger than its 8-by-12-foot dimensions. Fabric: "Aquitane Coral," Schumacher & Co., Denver Design District (DDD), (303) 733-2591, fschumacher.com; Trim: "Spring Lakes small cord in Ivory," Brunswick & Fils, DDD, (303) 733-6484, brunswick.com.



Stylish, weather-resistant furnishings are featured beautifully in this patio. Because it is sheltered on the south side of the home and set into a corner, homeowners Bill and Jo Jones are able to stretch the number of months they can use the outdoor room. Fabric on bench: "Margala Woven Stripe in Palm," Brunswick & Fils, Denver Design District (DDD), (303) 733-6484, brunswick.com.

summer breeze

STORY BY HEATHER J. PAPER
PRODUCED BY ELAINE ST. LOUIS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMILY MINTON-REDFIELD

Coloradans look for any excuse to be outdoors, and Bill & Jo Jones have extra incentive—a beautifully appointed patio designed by Lane Elisabeth Oliver

"Our community is tight-knit, and neighborly, so we wanted something that was welcoming," says Jo Jones. "The original space just didn't have the feeling we were looking for." Having previously worked with interior designer Lane Oliver on their main residence, the Joneses were confident that she could transform this space as well. "Bill and Jo love to entertain, so I suggested we extend the living room to the outdoors," says the designer. "I showed them fabrics and trims, wonderful things that could withstand Colorado's erratic weather and allow us to create a custom space." The design complements the main interiors, but it also looked to the gardens as inspiration for the color palette. "The resulting scheme is as refreshing as the Colorado air."

All weather wicker seating pieces come alive with coordinating coral fabrics while a pair of petite armchairs are softened by seat cushions in a melon-green stripe. A bench at the far end of the space, with a cushion in the same soft stripe, allows Bill and Jo to accommodate eight or more. "We even brought in a couple of garden seats," notes Oliver. "You can use anything that a little rain won't hurt."

An area rug echoes the predominant coral and green hues, but the finishing touches are the most unexpected elements in this outdoor room. A table skirted with weather-resistant fabric flanks one end of the sofa while a matching



ottoman does more than offer put-your-feet-up comfort, it also opens to reveal convenient storage space, where Jo keeps a serving tray ready for drinks and appetizers. Over the sofa, a mirror reflects the nearby garden view, edged on either side by decorative plates. "Jo loves to collect plates and found some reasonable pieces online," says Oliver. "We use a mix so she can easily replace them."

The most surprising element may be the curtains that soften the space; they are nothing less than what you might

find in the finest interiors, down to the tiebacks with brush fringe. "They are Gatsby-esque, wonderful when there is a light breeze and they billow," says Oliver.

Thanks to the deft hand of their designer, the Joneses have the best of both worlds; they can enjoy their patio privately or share it with family and friends. "We wanted a place where we could sit in the late afternoon and have a cocktail and enjoy the neighborhood. It is a perfect place for impromptu get-togethers," says Jo.



DESIGN DETAILS

INTERIOR DESIGN
LANE OLIVER
Lane Elisabeth Oliver Interior Design
(303) 722-4288, leinteriordesign.com

Lane Oliver offers 10 tips for creating a gracious outdoor living area:

1. Select colors from your garden to extend the color palette into the space.
2. In lieu of overhead lights, use watertight exterior lamps to create a warm glow.
3. Drapery adds privacy and accentuates soft breezes, but remember to use rust-proof paint and hardware.
4. Weatherproof rugs help define separate spaces.
5. Search the Internet or shop your favorite world market store to find inexpensive plates, wall art and accessories.
6. Use solution-dyed trims to create custom furnishings.
7. Combine textures when creating a traditional patio scheme; blend your pieces just as you would indoors.
8. Tile-topped tables add color and an artistic touch.
9. Ceramic garden seats are whimsical and can double as tables.
10. A storage ottoman can also be used as a cocktail table. It is an excellent place to store an inexpensive tray or your favorite magazines. □



(top) "Too often," says Oliver, "patios can feel vanilla, very cold and exposed to the elements." This space, however, is anything but exposed. Tucked cozily into a corner, it possesses plenty of warmth due to the coral-colored furnishings and a red-brick wall. (above) The mix of materials in this serving cart—metal and wicker—is indicative of Lane Elisabeth Oliver's approach to design. "I like to mix fabrics, textures and trims so there is something interesting wherever your eye travels," she says.



(above) A storage ottoman allows Jo to keep entertaining essentials, such as a serving tray, close at hand. It can also be used to store a throw or light blanket; something to wrap up in once the sun goes down. Ottoman: Ballard Designs, (800) 536-7551, ballarddesigns.com; Fabric: "Barnegat woven in Palm," Brunswick & Fils, DDD, (303) 733-6484, brunswick.com; Button fabric: "Beausoleil in Coral," F. Schumacher & Co., DDD, (303) 733-2591, fschumacher.com (left) Floor-to-ceiling curtains soften the architectural columns that edge the patio. "Plus, they create a separate space," notes the designer. "The curtains make the area more private, even though it is exposed to neighbors and sidewalk traffic."

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