

## **Outdoor Living Luxury** **By Jeff Cooper**

Remodeling a kitchen and finishing a basement are common home improvement projects. Yet many owners today are “thinking outside the box,” and creating special outdoor living spaces.

One benefit is that installing a backyard hot tub costs less than upgrading a bathroom does. Building a screened patio also is less hassle than adding a room.

Yet these improvements can dramatically boost your enjoyment of where you live. You also may be able to fix some of the limitations of your current home at the same time.

A small kitchen doesn't matter as much if you can spend more time cooking and entertaining friends around your new bricked-in backyard grill and wet bar. A crowded media room in your house isn't a problem once you build a gazebo over the hot tub, and put in a stereo system.

Everyone wants their home to uniquely express themselves, and today there are many ways to create a residence that's unforgettable. Building special places both in and outside your house also will allow you to sell it quickly when you're ready to move.