



# BRINGING THE OUTDOORS IN & THE INDOORS OUT

People have always enjoyed the outdoors and strive to bring the outside in by filling rooms with plants and statuary. The trend has been further enhanced by designing homes with broad expanses of windows to provide the plants with the nourishment they need, but also to give the perception of an “outdoor” room that can be enjoyed year-round.

But just as we have made an effort to create an “outdoors in” area, a newer trend is also emerging—to enjoy the actual outdoors more by bringing the “indoors out.” As a result, more homeowners are creating outside areas that contain everything from refrigerators, cook tops and microwave ovens to televisions and all-weather furniture and carpeting.

According to Faye Markert, owner of House Details in Virginia Beach, the trend to be more in-tune with nature is also influencing the products that people are buying for the design of their indoor/outdoor sanctuaries. “Any products that are natural, eco-friendly and have a connection with nature take center stage,” says Markert. “Organic products such as linen and cotton textiles are very popular, and we are now seeing other eco-friendly fibers like soy, hemp and bamboo more often. Sustainability is the new direction for people who are concerned with our planet’s future.” ❖

