

Midwest Living

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THE ULTIMATE LIST!

50 BEST PLANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN

CREATE THE Perfect house

TIPS FROM MIDWEST EXPERTS

30 MUSTS for Midwest Travelers

COMPLETE RECIPES INSIDE!

Flavorful secrets of Italian cooks

20 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR KITCHEN FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Display until April 25, 2005



\$3.95 US/\$4.95 CAN.

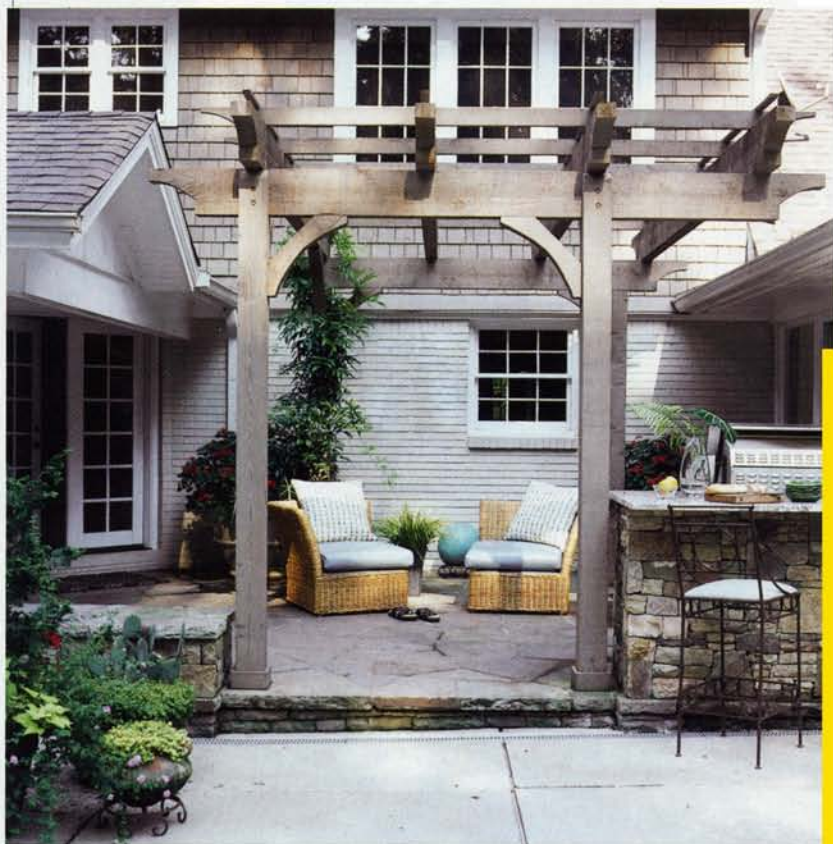
EXTERIORS

If there's a positive side to stress, it's this: We're more protective of our family time, and our homes show it. "There's a growing hunger for escape," says Tom Trayser, a landscape architect from Long Grove, Illinois. To gain more time, we're choosing smaller homes and low-maintenance products. To gain natural serenity, we're adding outdoor rooms and kitchens, fountains and firepits and integrating in and out via sunrooms and larger windows. We're using natural materials and landscaping with mature trees for instant age. Builder Geno Benvenuti of Evanston, Illinois, says, "Homeowners are creating homes to please themselves *now* without worrying so much about resale value." ■
For product resources, see page 60.



FLEXIBLE LOOKS Change window looks when you change your mind. Pella's Designer Series (above) features between-the-glass snap-in and snap-out grilles, blinds and shades that come in many styles and colors.

TOUGH STYLE More than ever, typical homeowners have easy access to a broad range of exterior products that aren't just durable, but beautiful, too. A great example: Fiber-cement siding, proven durable in Midwest climate extremes, from James Hardie now comes in 12 baked-on colors that won't fade, peel, chip or crack.



“Outdoor rooms are popular. We're transitioning seamlessly from inside to out with long, tall windows and French doors.”

— Geno Benvenuti, builder, Evanston, Illinois

“Not long ago, a living space in the front yard of new construction in the Midwest was almost unheard of. Today, planned outdoor spaces of various levels of intimacy are routine in both front and side yards.”

— Tom Trayser, landscape architect, Long Grove, Illinois

“The 'Not So Big House' concept is really catching on. Young customers abhor McMansions. Isn't it really better to have quality over quantity?”

— Chris Novak Berry, kitchen designer, St. Louis

“Our desire for more connectedness is driving everything from more urban-like planned communities to open floor plans.”

— Hamid Kashani, architect, Eden Prairie, Minnesota