

The Beauty of Late Bloomers ■ Masterpiece Gardens

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10 great outdoor fireplaces

The warmth of summer lasts longer with a sophisticated fireplace in the garden

LONG SUMMER DAYS FADE INTO SOFT SUMMER NIGHTS, AND THE LATER THE SEASON THE LONGER everyone loves to linger outside, savoring the closing days of summer down to the last drop. At this time of year the chances of a chill in the air go up, and that's when the outdoor fireplace comes into its own. There is nothing to compare with the primitive attraction of a fire—the flames draw people together late into the night, talking, drinking, toasting marshmallows, singing or just sitting and watching the flames and letting the dark close in.

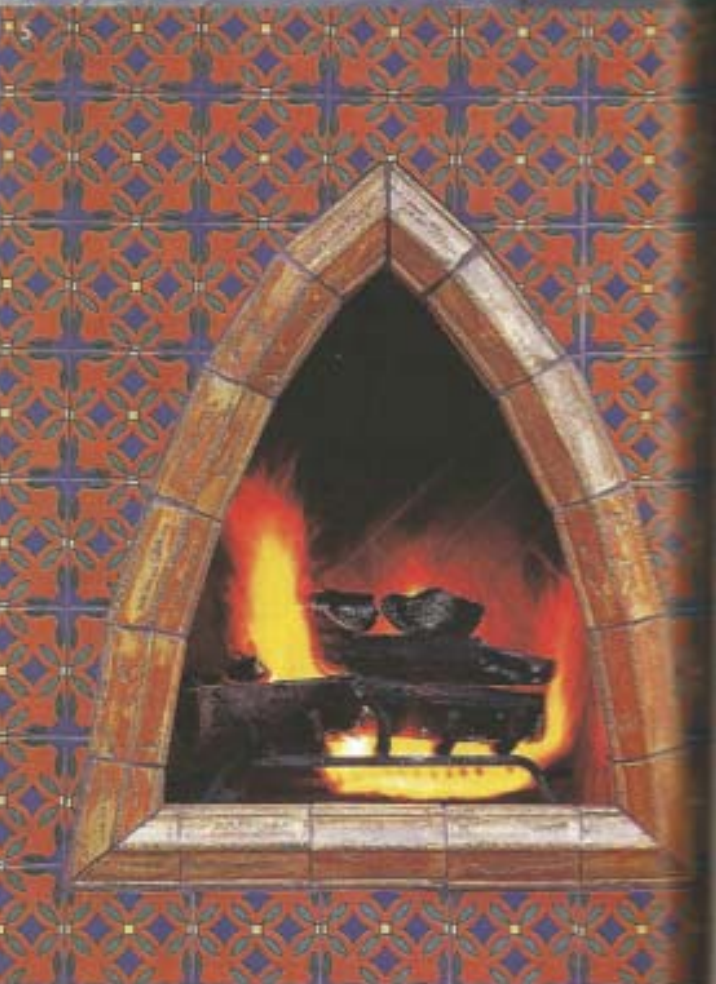
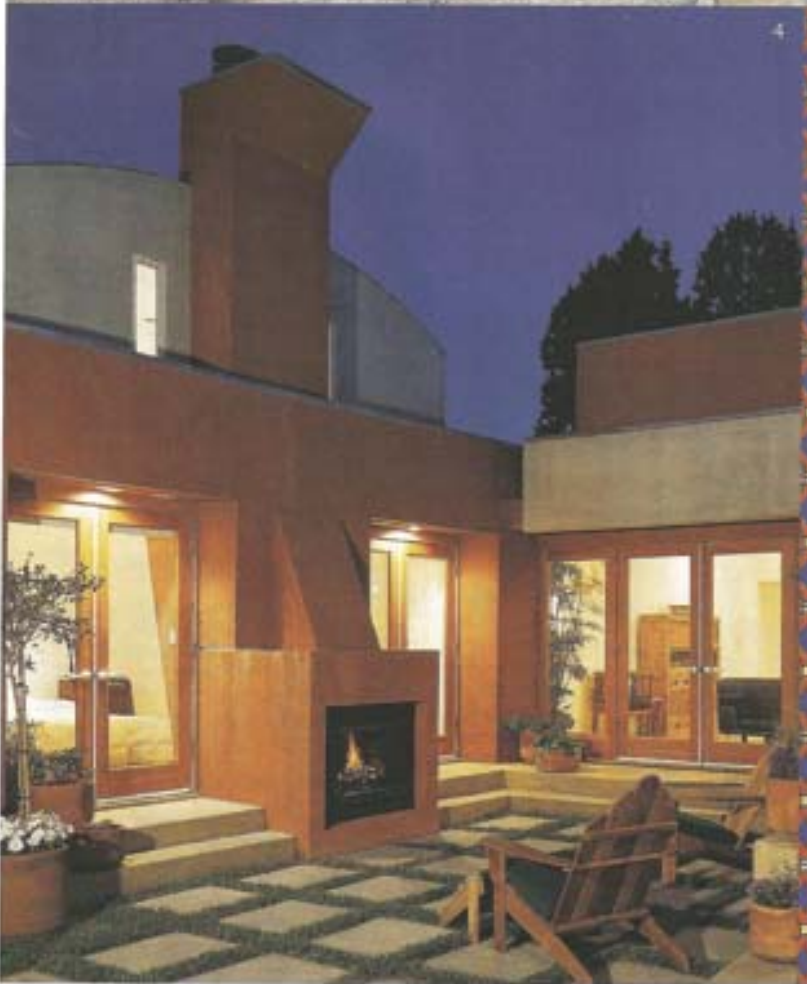
As a source of warmth, a fireplace serves as a means to enjoy the outdoors late into the year, but it is also a very sophisticated design element that contemporary landscape architects and designers are increasingly exploring for its value as an architectural feature and focal point, moving the warm social heart of the home out of the living room and into the garden, opening up the possibilities of the "outdoor room" as never before. The 10 examples shown here, collected by *Garden Design* editors on their travels in quest of great gardens, are just a glimpse of the design potential of the outdoor fireplace. Enjoy!

STEVE GUNTHER





The 14-foot retaining wall running the length of Fegie and Moshe Barkan's hillside home in Studio City, California, could have spelled design disaster, but landscape architect Rob Pressman turned it into the focal point for a series of open-air rooms. In the sitting area, the wall becomes a yellow fireplace complete with log storage, art niches, seating walls and planters. Rob Pressman of TGP Inc., 818-907-8460; www.tgpinc.net.



6 Interior designer Vance Burke moved from New York to Los Angeles in quest of more living space. The West Coast climate allowed him scope for extending interiors into the garden—this outdoor fireplace is a prime example. Burke defined the space with low Moroccan-style built-in seating with cushions in white Sunbrella fabric; the green slate flooring is a continuation of the interior; jute matting makes it soft underfoot. He furnished the space with rugs, chairs and objects, altering the display as mood and occasion demand. A surround of bamboo, lit at night, adds to the sense of outdoors while providing privacy. Vance Burke, 323-654-5602.



TOP: STREET PORTRAIT; MICHAEL ARBENI; STEVE GONTYER; CHRISTOPHER BOW

This octagonal paved outdoor room with dry-laid mica schist stone seating all around and a fireplace in rusted steel is the ultimate summertime hangout for a crowd of lucky friends in the Hamptons. They can grill hamburgers and still be near the swimming pool and tennis court. Plantings enclose the space and soften the stone. Design by Lisa Stamm, architecture by Boohar, e-mail: stammboohar@earthlink.net. Stone by William Stone, New York, 518-677-5247.

3 An outdoor smoking lounge with its own fireplace and all the furnishings of a luxurious indoor living room is accommodated under a garden pavilion, forming a focal point at the end of the swimming pool. Landscape by Frank Perrino with interior designer Jarrett Hedborg who used comfortable Sutherland furniture and soft greens and terra cotta to link this space with the house interior. Frank Perrino, 818-992-4908. Jarrett Hedborg, 310-271-1437.

4 A fireplace was the pivotal element of a remodel at the Pressman home in Los Angeles. This stucco outdoor fireplace, which shares a chimney with the master bedroom fireplace, became the focal point of a new outdoor living room and adjacent dining patio. Concrete steps provide seating for group gatherings, and speakers are concealed in the soffits above the French doors. Architect Jeffrey Tohl. Landscape by Rob Pressman of TGP Inc., 818-907-8460; www.tgpinc.net.

5 For a fanciful Hollywood Moorish-style home, this tiled keyhole-in-the-wall fireplace doubles as a traditional pizza and flatbread oven. Raised up to a handy 4 feet above the ground, the entire structure is made from concrete block, with firebrick inside, and stucco and handmade tiles from the Mortarless Building Supply and Tile Company on the outside. Landscape architect Garrett Carlson, www.wgarretcarlson.com. Contractor Native Designs, 818-509-9573.