



“To make an outside room, you need some bones: trees and shrubs, plants, wood and or stone,” Cassells says. The same principles apply whether you’re making changes to an attached patio or just a special corner of your yard. A base of wood or stone is your starting point—and you don’t necessarily have to choose one or the other. “You can combine wood and stone, say square-cut stones and wooden steps,” Cassells says. “The nice thing about wood is that painting it—like your spindles or banisters—brightens up the space.”

It used to be that your colour options for such spaces were light stain or dark stain, but that’s all changed. “One of the least expensive ways to change the look is paint,” LeBlanc says.

**To achieve a truly striking outdoor room, start at the bottom and work your way up. Beginning with your flooring, you need a comprehensive plan that will guide all your future décor and design decisions.**

**ABOVE: If your space is based on slate or stone, try a contemporary design like the Diamond Lake collection from Backyard & Veranda.**

**RIGHT: Colourful accents that are easy to update are a simple way to keep a fresh, seasonal look.**

**BELOW: For traditional wood flooring, you can't go wrong with the classic look of teak, as featured in these designs from Wicker Emporium.**



PHOTO: LOGE CASSELLS

