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PRODUCTS REPORT



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# Good Vibes

BY RYAN HUGHES

**It didn't take a pandemic** for our clients to look to us, at Ryan Hughes Design Build, for resort-style sanctuaries. This focus has been our reality from the very inception of our company. We are seeing, however, an expansion in clients exploring their own personal definition of resort style in a unique way.

Over the past months, our company, like so many, took measures to adapt to the pandemic by way of virtual meetings to connections with vendors offering domestic warehousing. Through it all, our designs remained pure and without restraint. Our clients continued to look to us to bring an organization and expression of their personal resort.

For many, resort living is comprised of a stock list of backyard design elements. However, we find it is defined by something more elusive. Our clients seek a personalization for their outdoor spaces, and we seek to realize it through the projection of a desired vibe.

When resort living is imagined, it calls to mind a pool or patio, all-weather wicker, and possibly a fire feature or

Due to this, we work with each client to garner their definition before our design phase can commence.

Once the homeowner shares what they are seeking, our first consideration in creating it is something we find others approach as an afterthought. For our projects, furnishings are first. Even before structural elements are mapped out, including pools or fire features, we consider the organization and ultimately the furniture required to bring the desired resort vibe to life.

For this process, we stay on top of the latest in furnishing styles and categories, keeping in mind constructions, textures, fabrics, and finishes. With the options available, from there we find resort sanctuaries can be completely personalized.

When first discussing the design plan in an outdoor space, the use or function also needs to be explored. That is where the practical features of furnishings come into play, whether it be daybeds for gathering with family and friends, or swings and action seating to offer a sense of motion.



Ryan Hughes

door surfaces and elements.

The same vibe-defining process can be incorporated into designing an outdoor kitchen. As the center of many exterior spaces, it is critical for this gathering feature to align with and complement the vibe being projected.

For a recent client, their idea of resort living was indicative of a Las Vegas style with family-focused areas during the day, but a nightclub vibe when the sun went down. The outdoor kitchen design included glamorous waterfall-edge countertops, a contemporary metal sculpture in a planting area, a state-of-the-art Fire Magic grill and contemporary seating including aluminum and all-weather vinyl barstools.

We have clients for which resort style may be fashioned around televisions and projection screens with professional-quality sound. Whether lying back in Ledge Loungers around a firepit and watching the big game or an action movie is the objective, we can pull together a design that evokes a relaxed and comfortable indoor/outdoor room vibe.

The secret to creating resort-style living is not solely about what's included, but more about the vibe it conjures up. Once this vibe is pinpointed, the elements will fall into place. This can range from wild and vibrant to chill and calming or anywhere in between. The important component in creating sanctuaries, especially during challenging times, is making sure each has exactly the personalized resort-at-home feel—a vibe we are all seeking. ■

**Ryan Hughes owns a Tampa, Florida-based company that creates award-winning, one-of-a-kind outdoor living spaces.**

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outdoor lighting. Resort style, however, can have a diversity of meanings. When my wife and I think resort living, we think Miami or South Beach. It evokes an upbeat, art infused, colorful vibe with lots of motion in the seating and glamour in constructions, from countertops to illumination.

For others, resort style may mean hammocks gently swaying, all-natural wood elements, and plantings creating a vibe of calm and seclusion.

For a recent project, we incorporated Brown Jordan's new Oscar, which presented a sense of hand-crafted, yet modern, décor. It was a waterfront space in which the homeowner was looking for a vibe of modern serenity. Situated on a calming shoreline with impressive trees, the sanctuary at the same time was adjacent to a towering modern home with interior angles and engineered out-