

LIFE JUST RIGHT

MAY/JUNE 2008

# cottageLiving

## SUMMER'S BEST HAVENS & HIDEAWAYS



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flowers, colors, and ideas you'll love

**american revival**  
big comeback for two small towns



**WHETHER YOU'RE CRAVING** a place to cook out or chill out, you're invited to try our best-of-the-season recipes and ideas for outdoor living all summer long. Your host, Los Angeles-based interior designer Tia Zoldan, shares her tips for setting the scene and serving any number of friends. "Think of your yard as an extension of your house," says Tia, who spends most weekends out by the pool with her husband, Ben, and their two children. "Just like inside, you can easily make the outside work for entertaining, eating, lounging, and playing." Turn the page to get your party started. >

Tia Zoldan (right) and her husband, Ben, make the most of the tiny backyard behind the Los Angeles bungalow. What used to be a garage (left) became a cabana-like living space opening onto a pool.

## setting the scene

**MANY COTTAGE LIVING STAFFERS**, longing to redo our own tiny yards, were happy to learn that the space behind the Zoldans' 1920s bungalow once looked like most urban lots, given over mainly to a driveway and just enough lawn to let out the dog. When Tia saw the neglected back house, a common sight in old neighborhoods, she thought, "outdoor living room!" And

so began her transformation of a utilitarian space for cars into an indulgent lounge for her family and their guests. With a beautiful new pool, an outdoor kitchen, and a dining terrace in place, no one misses the old garage. Although it's warm and sunny nearly year-round in L.A., Tia's four rules for bringing the inside out (below) apply no matter where you live.



### 1 Create an outdoor living room.

You don't have to give up your garage—it can be as easy as arranging the same mix of furnishings you'd use inside out on your terrace, deck, or porch. Start with an outdoor rug, anchor it with an all-weather sofa, two chairs, and a coffee table, and add hurricane lamps for atmosphere. Layer in some fragrant and exotic plants, as well as festive pillows, umbrellas, and accessories to complete the look.

### 2 Set up an outdoor kitchen and dining area.

The Zoldans started with a heavy-duty grill that they knew they'd use as much as their range inside, and they had it permanently installed into what looks like a kitchen island with a slate countertop and shelves. A long dining table nearby doubles as a buffet for larger parties.

### 3 Just add spice.

Buy a few extra beach towels to make oversized cushions like these (one towel per pillow—Tia's are 30-inch squares): **Kids' Beach Towel** in Lighthouse Navy Stripe, \$17.50, from Lands' End; 800/963-4816 or [landsend.com](http://landsend.com). Complete the look with white pom-pom fringe, about 4 yards per pillow: **1-inch Pom Pom Fringe** in White, \$3.99/yard, from Hart's Fabric; 817/423-5434 or [hartsfabric.com](http://hartsfabric.com).

### 4 Light the garden like any room.

Illuminate paths and uplift interesting plants; hang chandeliers and sconces to decorate the living spaces, and light candles on tables for a romantic glow. Here are three recommendations.



#### LANDSCAPE

Low-voltage lighting systems cast a soft glow along pathways or flower beds and keep energy costs down. **Elegant Metal Walk Light** (CSMAP), \$32, from Malibu Lighting; [malbulights.com](http://malbulights.com) for retailers



**WALL FIXTURE** Every porch or patio needs illumination—we suggest a lantern with a shade that prevents seeing the bulb. **Brookside Collection Copper 1-Light Wall Lantern** (P5721-14), \$121.70, from Progress Lighting; [progresslighting.com](http://progresslighting.com) for dealers



**TABLETOP** Citronella votives help keep pesky bugs away and look pretty when staggered on a dining table. **Rope Filled Citronella Votives**, \$12.99 (set of three), from The Companion Group; 800/321-0505 for stores >





## Party in style

Try Tia's picks for adding a colorful garnish to any setup and keeping away unwanted guests (bugs!)

### [for the host]



Sono Wood Cuff, \$25,  
from Red Envelope; 877/733-3683  
or redenvelope.com



Collared Shawl in Navy Chevron,  
\$172, from Virginia Johnson; 416/516-3366  
or virginiajohnson.com



Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus BR3335  
SPF 30 Sunscreen Lotion (0-47-900), \$10,  
from Avon; 800/500-2866 or avon.com

### [for the table]



Alana Cool Napkin, \$28, from India Rose;  
415/626-5743 or indiarose.com  
Jewel Dome Napkin Ring Set,  
\$100/set of four, by Kim Seybert, available  
through Vivre; 800/411-6575 or vivre.com



Suite of Dinnerware, prices vary by size,  
from Verterra; 718/383-3333 or e-mail  
michael@verterra.com



Transglass Tumblers  
in stain finish from Artecnic; \$34 set of 4;  
artecnicalnc.com for retailers

### [for the bar]



Two-in-One Citrus Juicer, \$20,  
from Williams-Sonoma; 877/812-6235 or  
williams-sonoma.com



Green Glass Canister Set with Rope Lid  
\$32.97, from Cost Plus World Market;  
877/967-5262 or worldmarket.com



Somerset Willow Picnic Tote  
with Canvas Handles, \$59,  
from Mudroom; mudroom.com >