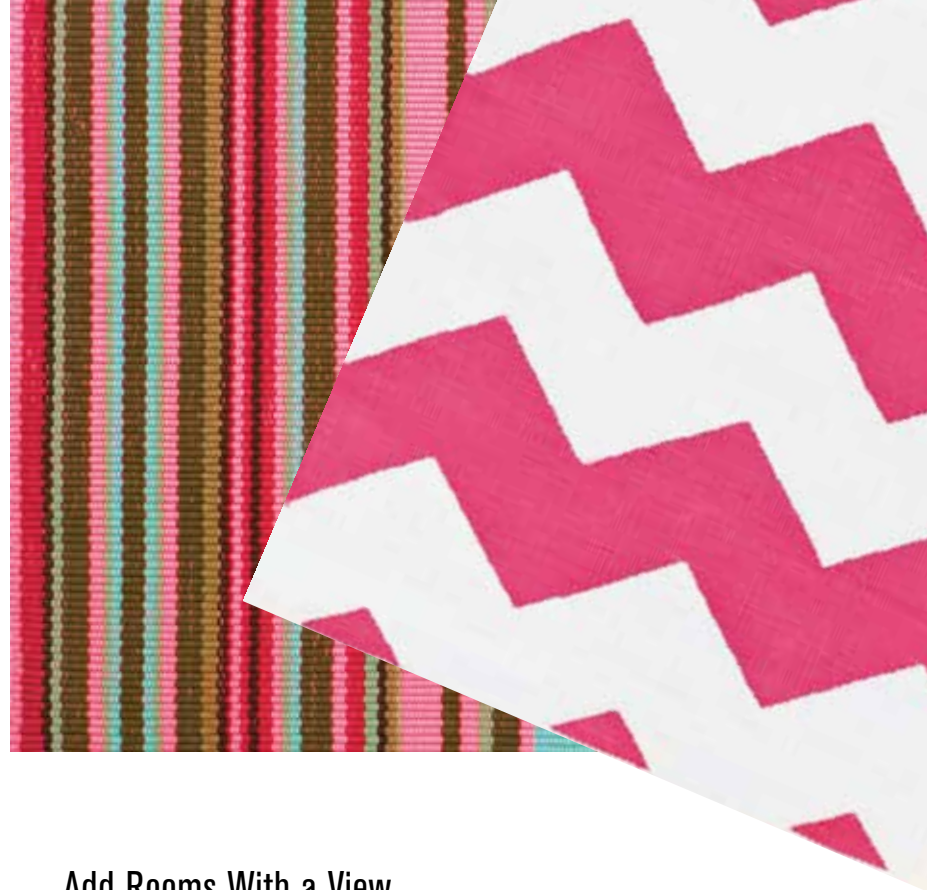


# A Six-Pack for Summer Fun

How to build an enviable, inviting outdoor space. | BY LISA PECK, ASID

**I**t is often said there are two seasons in Minnesota: winter and road construction. Yet despite the orange cones and one-lane highways, I would suggest summer in the land of 10,000 lakes is just as synonymous with cabins, boats and sunshine.

Sadly, summer in the northland doesn't last long. But you can still take full advantage of the great outdoors by partnering with design professionals. We know how to bring any open-air space to life: by designing it with the same expertise used to perfect a home's interior. Here are six ways to make your next outdoor project a breath of fresh air.



## Add Rooms With a View

Different outdoor areas can be defined as “rooms” for cooking, conversing and dining. Kitchens or secluded seating areas can be tucked away under decks and balconies. I've even suggested installing fully retractable screens on porches — unless mosquitos have crashed the party.

## Bring Out What's In

Gone are the days when a sectional with soft fabric and lush pillows had to sit inside. Advances in the manufacturing of outdoor fabric and furniture frames allow these comfortable lounge pieces to join in the fun outside.

## Brave the Elements

Custom lighting, rugs and accessories can transform your backyard into a fully finished room. Lamps now come equipped with solar panels, outdoor ratings and the convenience of functionally fabulous outdoor illumination. An outdoor rug holds up to the elements while still offering coziness and definition to a space.

## Light a Fire

Gathering around a fire evokes a natural feeling of familiarity. A fireplace or firepit where guests can cook, share stories or even sing creates a comfortable space for everyone to linger long after dark.

## Cover Up

Rain or shine, a pergola, cantilevered umbrella or even the canopy of a tree can serve as an inviting element of protection.

## Go Wireless

Wireless technology invites more elaborate audio/video equipment into our outdoor living rooms. Attractively designed portable speakers and a movie screen make enjoying a flick under the stars easy-peasy. **AL**

*Lisa Peck, ASID, is the owner and principle designer of LiLu Interiors, a boutique design firm based in Minneapolis. She believes no idea is too big or detail too small. After 20 years in the industry, Peck understands the importance of protecting her clients from spending time and money on frivolous extras. Learn more at [liluinterior.com](http://liluinterior.com).*

