

HOME

VAIL VALLEY

REAL ESTATE & MOUNTAIN LIFESTYLES | SEPTEMBER 2015

VAIL BOARD OF REALTORS®

INSIDE
BACKYARD
GAZEBOS

—
FRONT DOOR
DÉCOR

—
BEFORE
& AFTER

mountain
contemporary

WHAT WAS NOVEL AND EDGY IN '90S IS NOW PART
OF THE VALLEY'S ARCHITECTURAL VERNACULAR

Visit vvhmag.com to read
our tablet and desktop editions.

GARDEN GETAWAYS

Extend garden enjoyment with a gazebo

by MARTY JONES

WHEN TEMPERATURES begin to cool off, an outdoor structure such as a gazebo can provide the extra protection you may need to extend your garden enjoyment into the autumn months. Plus, a gazebo can provide shade for a cool space all summer long. A gazebo is simply a small exterior structure that's detached from a home, and while a great range of architectural styles exist, most gazebos consist of a roof that tops open walls surrounding a sitting or dining area on a deck platform.

If you've worked hard all summer to create a beautiful garden and landscape, now's the time to sit back and relax in a space that lets you take in the view or celebrate your accomplishments with friends. By shielding occupants from the wind, rain, and even the early winter snow, a gazebo can become a special creative space, a reading nook, or even a nightly dinner spot.

Whether you choose to purchase a ready-made gazebo building kit or contract with a local builder to custom build a gazebo that matches your home's architectural style, consider the following details before putting your plans into action.

Location planning

Before making plans for any gazebo construction project, check with your neighborhood organization regarding building ordinances. While gazebos are allowed within some neighborhoods in the Vail area, others may limit size and location, and others



may not allow them at all.

If your area does allow gazebos, choose a spot that will maximize outdoor enjoyment while minimizing construction hassles such as slopes or low branches. Where you choose to place a gazebo ultimately depends on purpose in constructing it. If you want a relaxing hideaway, for example, choose a level spot on the corner of your property so that you can take in views of surrounding gardens or water features. If, however, your primary purpose for building a gazebo is outdoor entertaining, then choose a location that's more central to your home, and consider adding paver walkway from a back door to the gazebo so that it's more easily accessible for guests.

Heating and dining

To increase autumn comfort in an open-walled structure

BY SHIELDING OCCUPANTS FROM THE WIND, RAIN, AND EVEN THE EARLY WINTER SNOW, A GAZEBO CAN BECOME A SPECIAL CREATIVE SPACE, A READING NOOK, OR EVEN A NIGHTLY DINNER SPOT.

such as a gazebo, add mobile stand-up propane heaters or have permanent ceiling heating elements installed. Most types of patio heaters are also appropriate for gazebos, given that proper ventilation exists, which should be the case with an open-walled structure such as a gazebo.

If you plan on regularly dining or entertaining in your gazebo, then include an outdoor kitchen. A gazebo can certainly shelter a grill and a cooler, but appliances suitable for outdoor kitchens housed within a gazebo can



also include cooktop stoves, sinks, refrigerators and almost anything else you like to have for entertaining indoors. Look for appliances specifically made for outdoor kitchens so that they're tough enough to withstand the conditions, and cover appliances when not in use to extend their lifespan.

Furniture and décor

Carefully chosen gazebo furniture and décor can enhance the mood you're trying to create. For a romantic dinner space, add hurricane lanterns and glowing candles. String up party lights for a festive feel, and add speakers for music on party nights. For a relaxing reading space, be sure to

outfit your gazebo with a cushy sofa covered in an outdoor fabric such as those in the Sunbrella line, which resist mildew, fading and stains. While wicker furniture is a common choice for outdoor spaces, explore other rot-resistant wood and outdoor-appropriate metal options so the furniture you choose matches your gazebo's overall style and purpose.

Although blankets and pillows can also add to a gazebo's comfort, the winter weather will eventually have you retreating into your home no matter how comfortable you've made your outdoor structure. But if you create a special gazebo space this autumn, you'll surely look forward to reoccupying it in the spring. **PHOTO**



Marty Jones is the owner and manager of Colorado Alpines & Wildflower Farm in Edwards. Marty has lived in the Vail area since 1973, and his work with Colorado Alpines & Wildflower Farm has inspired extraordinary landscapes and gardens in the Vail Valley and beyond. Marty can be reached at marty@thewildflowerfarm.com.

PHOTOS BY CHARLES TOWNSEND DESIGN