

Your Outdoor Living Guide...

by Lakeland Home Innovations





Your outdoor living space

How much time do you spend in the space outside your home?

Most people spend a lot of time in their garden or outdoor living area, benefiting from a relaxing space. However the British weather can sometimes cut our enjoyment short. By designing a well thought out living area and making the most of shading, you can enjoy your outdoor space all year round.

If you are not yet maximizing the benefits of your outdoor spaces, this eBook will show you the many things you are missing and will even show you how to make the best use of the space.

Choosing the best outdoor living equipment can be a challenge. You will want equipment that is guaranteed to last for a long time while delivering on expectations. Keep reading to understand some of the factors that you need to consider before making your choice.

We have put together this information to help you get the best out of your outdoor living space. As Managing Director at Lakeland Home Innovations, I truly understand the value of an outdoor living area and how it can benefit a home and family life.

Ready? Let's get started.



Benefits of outdoor living

There are many benefits to outdoor living other than simply enjoying the fresh air and nature when you are outside.

Increases the aesthetic view of your house

This is usually the principal reason why people create outdoor living areas to their homes. The beauty and ambience of a well-designed outdoor space should make you smile every day when you go home. Your outdoor living space becomes an extension of your home and a place to relax and enjoy the view, as well as making your neighbours jealous!

More space for entertainments

Have you ever hosted an over-crowded party in your house? If you answered yes, you will understand how important it is to have an extended outdoor living area. Whether you are planning your child's birthday party, a family dinner, a simple barbecue or even a large celebration – your outdoor living space will come in handy, giving you the space for an outdoor kitchen and for hosting your guests comfortably.

Increase the value of your property

Imagine walking into a beautiful house with an outdoor living area tastefully designed with quality awnings, patio roof coverings and glass solutions. You'll be thinking "Wow! What a great property" and the value of the property will increase in your mind. This is exactly what happens when you extend your inner living area to the outside. It will not only give you extra space, it will also increase the value of your property. Adding an outer living area to your house is an investment that will pay off whenever you want to sell the property.



Saves you money

Surprised? Yes, an outdoor living area will save you money. If you can get a great outdoor area designed for you like a summer resort with hot tubs, pools and an entertaining area you can use it for your relaxation spot instead of going on holiday.

Deciding to stay and have fun within your outdoor living area can actually save you a great amount of money on holidays – decide to take a Stay-cation in your beautiful outdoor living area instead!

Improves the quality of your health and vitality

An outdoor living area can improve the quality of your life and reduce stress. Try switching off your phone, putting away anything that has to do with work and finding refuge in a quiet area of your outdoor living space. Enjoy the sounds and smells of nature and really relax.

Increase your family bonding

Using your outdoor space to spend quality time with your family is priceless. Enjoy time eating together, playing games, swimming and making new memories to last a lifetime! Outdoor space doesn't only benefit your home, they are also great spaces for businesses. If you run a school, a bar, restaurant or a retail outlet, there are many benefits to having an outdoor area.







Planning the design

Designing your outdoor living area

Having understood that the outdoor space can extend your house, increase the value of your property, add ambience and beauty and even contribute towards your overall health and vitality, the next challenge is to design your outdoor living or business area.

Designing an outdoor space requires attention to detail just like designing your indoor space. You need to consider traffic flow, comfort, colour, harmony and architectural style. You also need to consider privacy and protection from the wind and sun in the design of your outdoor living area.

In this section, we will look at tips to make the most out of your outdoor living area.

Consider the size and layout of the outdoor space

The activities you intend to accommodate and the size of your property will greatly determine the layout and size of your outdoor living area. You will want to create different partitions to separate the various activities you want in your outdoor area – such as cooking, conversation and relaxing. You should also consider protection from the natural elements.

Complement the architectural style of your home

The essence of an outdoor living area is to bring your indoor home outside. So while planning your outdoor living space, you should ensure the patterns and colours you use are in tandem with the design of your home. An Awning can be used for protection from the elements and can also be colour matched to complement your decoration.



Choose an orientation that will create attractive scenery

Make sure that you consider the orientation of your outdoor space, so that you can enjoy beautiful views and your garden space. A glass veranda can be incorporated to shield from the wind, while still allowing you to enjoy a clear and serene view.

Put convenience into consideration

You should ensure your outdoor room is accessible from the house and it is good to have outdoor food preparation areas close to the indoor kitchen. This will help you reduce trips back and forth to the kitchen. You should also consider access to water and power from your outdoor area.

Don't forget privacy

Hiding away from the pressures of life is a good way to get relief from stress and to relax. If you do want to achieve this within your outdoor area, then plan for privacy.

Shelter should be taken serious

Don't get burnt by the sun while relaxing on your own or with family and friends in your outdoor living area. A good shading product like an awning or patio roof will protect you from harsh sunlight while creating intimacy.

Don't rush it

If your budget is tight, you don't need to rush the building of your outdoor living area; you can build it in stages. You can start with a decorative concrete patio and a concrete countertop for serving food. Later on, you can install other features like a fountain, outdoor fireplace, landscaping and lighting. Finally, make use of the help of professionals. They will help you design an outdoor living area with a functional and aesthetic requirement that matches your budget



Choosing the best outdoor equipment

Which materials to use?

Another challenge you could face in the design of your outdoor living area is the choice of the equipment and materials to use in the design and building, such as awnings, glass coverings and patio coverings.

Here are few tips that will help you get it right the first time:

Who manufactured it?

Yes, you should find out the manufacturers of the materials you want to use in your outdoor area. Are they certified to manufacture the product? Getting your materials from a certified company such as Lakeland Home Innovations whose products have won many awards for excellence and quality, will ensure you get the right product that will serve you for a long time to come.

What is the guarantee on the product?

You would not want to install a product that stops working when you need it most. Ensure that the product manufacturer offers you a guarantee on the product so that when something goes wrong, the manufacturer will be responsible to make repairs.

All products including awnings, glass verandas and patio roofs should come with a five year guarantee. This will ensure you get the best out of your outdoor living area.



What are the functionalities it offers?

The products you should use when building your outdoor living area should make life easier for you and not the other way round.

For example, awnings can be installed with weather sensors that automatically open or retract the awnings depending on the weather condition. They also have a heating system that delivers a heat output of over 1,500watts, light bars that extend the time you can stay outside in your patio, roof vents for a breath of fresh air and lots more.

These are typical functionalities you should expect from the materials you use for your outdoor living area. Be sure to check all your options and make a decision that suits your home and you your budget.

Create your outdoor space

Setting up an outdoor living area can be one of the wisest decisions you will ever make. It will add value and glamour to your property, protect you from harsh weather, give you more space for entertaining and room to relax and refresh your mind. So go ahead and build an outdoor living area for your home now.

Lakeland Home Innovations

Lakeland Home Innovations provide contemporary and stylish solutions to enhance your home, including stunning glass houses, patio roofs, retractable awnings and garage doors – bringing light, life and warmth to your home.

Lakeland Home Innovations is part of The AMO Group, which includes the commercial security brand AMO Security.

The AMO Group was founded in 1989 by the late Peter Hudson to manufacture and supply Roller Shutters, Steel Doors, Security Grilles, Shop & Garden Awnings as well as Garage Doors to commercial, industrial and domestic clients nationwide. The business has remained in the family and has gone from strength to strength under the management of Andrew and Rachael Crookes (Peter's daughter).

The company has recently expanded its Yorkshire head office to accommodate additional manufacturing space for its garage doors, roller shutters, patio roofs and awnings.

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