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Abstract "Art Piece" in the heart of NB

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Bringing The Outdoors In

Tips To Incorporate Natural Elements Into Your Home

By Johnelle Walker

The earth, sky and water give us a sense of tranquility and better outlook on life as a whole. The outdoors should be an important aspect of daily living and can be brought into our homes, not only to elevate our moods but also to increase the value of our homes.

Invite nature into your home by making your patio or garden a focal point of the architecture and design of your house. Beginning with this concept in mind, you can enhance your best views and add a sense of calm and natural inspiration to any room with the following helpful tips.





Windows and Doors

Let there be light! Natural light is key to making the natural backdrop of your home shine through indoors. Consider a remodel that opens up your home by adding more windows and glass doors. Larger windows and skylights allow more views of ocean, trees, rolling hills, mountains and sky. Voila! The outdoor scenery is instantly framed into natural art for your home.

Identify your best views and integrate them into your living areas to show them off. Make the outdoors easily accessible by installing sliding, French or retractable glass doors. Special coating for your new glass can eliminate ultra-violet rays and help keep your home warm in the winter and cool in the summer.





Update Your Landscaping and Outdoor Lounge

Trees and certain plants appreciate over time and will add beauty and value to your property. Plant more trees, flowers and grow herbs in a garden that will grow well in your climate. Pick out fragrant flowers and plants with appealing scents that can carry into your home, and that you can pluck for your favorite windowsill vase.

Your outdoor lounging area should flow into the indoor plan, making it enjoyable for entertaining or just relaxing alone or with family. Create an inviting ambiance inside and outside by installing, expanding or updating your porch, patio, deck or outdoor terrace and walkways. Turn your backyard into a sanctuary; install a grill, get some planters, fountains or a fire pit to develop a cohesive unit from the inside out.

Use Natural Materials and Change Your Color Palette

Bring the natural colors of the outside world into your home: earthy and neutral tones work great for furniture, rugs, curtains, fabrics, paints and more. Include pops of green, blue or flowery colors to balance the room.



Choose indoor furniture that has natural fibers, textures and patterns or can be used outdoors as well, like rattan, wicker, hemp, and more. Natural flooring like stone tile, wood floors and natural rug weaves help your indoor rooms become a natural extension of the exterior.

Using elements of nature in your décor will really complement your location. If you live near the beach try adding seashells, driftwood or sea glass. If you are next to rolling hills or a lush garden, try decorating with rocks, straw, flowers, fruits and vegetables. Put citrus or materials from your yard in bowls or in a glass vase on tables and countertops. Use candles and lanterns, well, everywhere. Go green with eco-friendly materials and plants that are drought friendly.

Consulting professional architects, builders and designers can also help you achieve the perfect balance. Establishing an outdoor-indoor relationship will help you enjoy the great outdoors from the comforts of your living room, kitchen to bedroom, as well as impress visitors or buyers. All that will be left to do is relax in your new oasis.

Interior architecture and design: **ARIA Design, Inc.**
www.ariades.com

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