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backyard escapes

**SOLAR
SAVINGS**
**beautiful
built-ins**



BACKYARD

Escapes

a HAVEN *at your* DOORSTEP

Back yards set the stage for
relaxation and recreation

BY DEBORAH PRATT



Photos by Patricia Burke



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AMERICANS WANT TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL WITHOUT LEAVING home, with beautiful spaces to enjoy alone or with a crowd of friends. In fact, most of us think our yards are just as important as what's inside the house, according to a recent survey conducted for the Summer and Casual Furniture Manufacturers Association. The priority, the survey shows, is creating a place that enhances relaxation and comfort.

ASIAN INSPIRATION: An Aegean blue deck at the landlocked Ridgewood home of designer Tess Giuliani helps satisfy her longing to live on the water. Palms and accessories lend an exotic atmosphere to the space. Some pieces were collected when Giuliani lived and traveled in Asia: the umbrellas are from a temple in Myanmar, the large urn is Turkish, and the pierced wooden screens are Indian, purchased in Singapore. Other pieces were inspired by sights she's seen abroad — such as the replicas of Burmese dancers, the large elephant behind the chaise, and the umbrella-holders — but actually were bought in the United States. The garden just beyond the deck is more European, with a fountain and stone sheep. Giuliani describes it as a fusion of East and West. As for the deck, Giuliani, whose company is Tess Giuliani Designs in Ridgewood, came up with the lotus and koi design. Painting was begun by a visiting Parisian friend, Emilie Strady, and completed by Ornella Muth of Arte Nova in Ridgewood. **Source:** garden landscaping, Andrea Buckingham in Mountain Lakes.