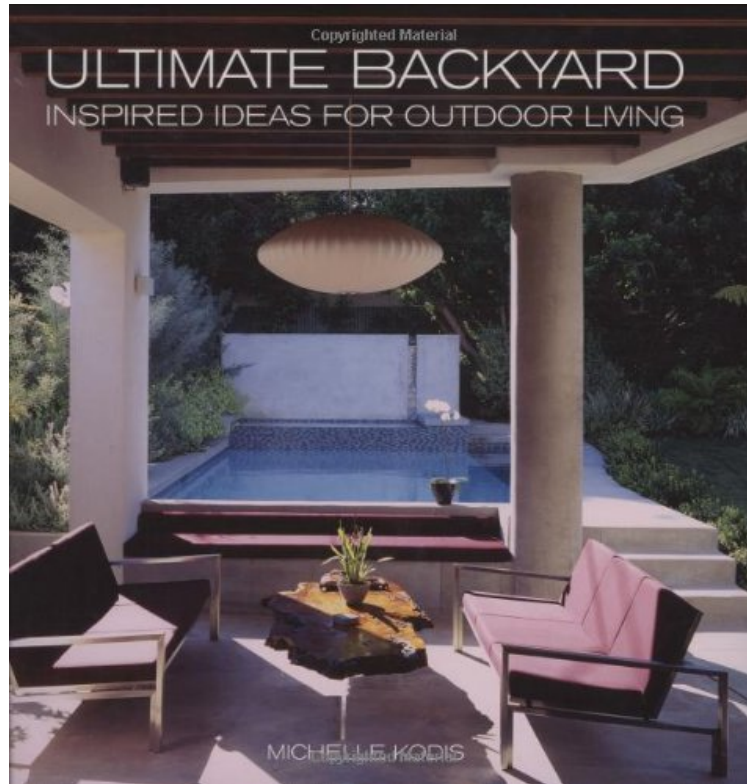


[Read ebook] Ultimate Backyard: Inspired Ideas for Outdoor Living

## Ultimate Backyard: Inspired Ideas for Outdoor Living

*Michelle Kodis*

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**Michelle Kodis : Ultimate Backyard: Inspired Ideas for Outdoor Living** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ultimate Backyard: Inspired Ideas for Outdoor Living:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of my favorite outdoor living booksBy H. StullI don't really disagree with the 2 star review. This is not a book full of pictures of random stuff from Target/JoAnn's Fabric that people have decorated their backyard with. This is a book full of innovated design and construction ideas. Will my backyard ever look like any of these? Probably not. Was I truly inspired? Oh yah. This is just a gorgeous book and actually interesting to read and look at. I highly recommend it for anyone starting their backyard project.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Ultimate BackyardBy C. GaffneyI personally was disappointed in the book. It is more for someone who has a background in architecture. I was hoping it was more for what I call "suzy Q homemaker"! However, my friend has an architecture background and I gave it to her and she just LOVED IT!!!!!! For the everyday small backyard garden I felt it was too costly to do and above what my needs were.

Outdoor living can no longer be defined as a simple patio with a few tables and chairs-today, homeowners across the country are creating remarkable spaces in which to eat, relax, meditate, swim, and even sleep! Author Michelle Kodis reveals how to create a customized oasis in nearly any type of setting. Whether building new or redesigning an existing yard, Ultimate Backyards offers inspiration for outdoor spaces no matter the climate or budget-imagination is

the key to creating a unique and personalized space. Learn how to connect an outdoor area architecturally to its environment, whether in the country, a suburb, or a busy urban locale. See first-hand the ways in which architects study a home's surroundings and then make them an integral part of the living space. Thirty case studies share stories, photos, and information on the challenges facing each project at its beginning, and the beautiful end result. Helpful sidebars offer suggestions and solutions on topics such as sustainability issues, using recycled materials, setting and staying within a budget, and what to do with a really small space. Sections include: Outdoor Rooms-Outside spaces that dramatically increase the size and usable space of a home, from screened porches to outdoor family and play rooms Indoor/Outdoor Combination-Outdoor spaces designed to enhance an indoor/outdoor connection, such as a bedroom that opens directly to the outside Water-Covering pools, spas, ponds, and spaces where water is the focal point Creative Landscapes-Landscapes that go beyond the ordinary to truly connect the house to its setting

This book shows what can be done when there's very little usable outdoor space -- Los Angeles Times, March 23, 2006

From the Inside Flap

Backyards everywhere are going through striking transformations. No longer just squares of grass contained within a fence, backyards as we know them have evolved into design-savvy extensions of the homes they accompany--indeed, the backyard has risen in status to become one of the most important rooms in the house. Today, more and more homeowners are realizing that committing time and money toward the goal of a beautiful outdoor living space brings many rewards, among them a savvy financial investment, a sizable increase in the livable space of their property, and the ability to experience the outdoors without leaving home. Although the desire to connect to the outdoors is fundamental to the human spirit, sometimes it can be difficult to see beyond the limitations of a site, or a tight budget, or a lack of space. *Ultimate Backyard* features dozens of examples of outdoor spaces that have either been released from their formerly drab existence or designed and built from the ground up. Whether in the middle of a city or the middle of nowhere, the secrets of inviting and architecturally unique outdoor spaces are revealed in colorful detail in the pages within. The common theme is simple but powerful: dwellings that connect to the environment directly through their architecture. Author Michelle Kodis offers hundreds of suggestions for all budgets and locations, in the process covering everything from a rooftop outdoor living room in a small mountain town in Wyoming to an Eichler remodel in a busy California suburb. Organized into four easy-to-navigate sections--Outdoor Rooms, Indoor/Outdoor Connections, Water and Creative Landscapes--*Ultimate Backyard* is your ultimate guide to taking your backyard from ordinary to extraordinary and doing so with architectural flair and style. Michelle Kodis, who received her master of science degree in journalism from Columbia University, specializes in writing about design and architecture. She is the author of the Gibbs Smith, Publisher, "Blueprint" series: *Blueprint Small: Creative Ways to Live with Less*, *Blueprint Affordable: How to Build a Beautiful House Without Breaking the Bank*, and *Blueprint Remodel: Tract Home Transformations That Turn Everyday to Extraordinary*. Her favorite outdoor spaces are in and around the mountains near Telluride, Colorado, where she lives with her husband and two dogs. She is currently at work on additional titles for Gibbs Smith, Publisher.

About the Author

Michelle Kodis is the author of *Blueprint Small: Creative Ways to Live With Less*, *Blueprint Affordable: How to Build a Beautiful House Without Breaking the Bank*, *Blueprint Remodel: Tract Home Transformations That Turn Everyday to Extraordinary*, *Ultimate Backyard: Inspired Ideas for Outdoor Living*, and *Ultimate Outdoor Kitchens: Inspired Designs and Plans*. She lives in the mountains of Colorado.