



# The Summertime Host

Focal points and flexible seating are key to a patio made for partying.

## HOW TO HOT TUB

Thinking of taking the plunge and installing a little bit of luxury? A few tips:

They are more expensive and complicated to install, but **a built-in hot tub will always look more intentional.**

Built-ins should **blend into the surrounding surface**, with enough room on the edges to dip your feet in or pull up a chair.

But do consider an **aboveground tub** in a location with a covetable view, especially on a rooftop.

If you opt for something aboveground, **celebrate it!** Make it a focal point.

Consider a vessel that is simple and aesthetically clean, akin to a **Japanese soaking tub**, or a stainless steel model.



**S**pace planning is all about defining functions, and the residents of this Mount Baker home had just one in mind when it came time to remodel the backyard: parties. Each design element primes the patio for serious socializing under the sun or stars. “There needs to be a focal point that is indelible” in backyards meant for entertaining outdoors, says architect

Tyler Engle. In this case, the fireplace. In another home, maybe it’s an outdoor kitchen or even a Ping-Pong table.

All surfaces and seating—from the dining table to the lounge chairs—can be moved, or removed entirely, depending on need. Even the hot tub serves a party purpose, and not an obvious one: When covered, it becomes a stage for children’s impromptu performances.

