

PARAGON

Backyard Envy. A freshly cut, manicured lawn is certainly the American standard, but this family went further and transformed it into a paradise. It's a place to simply relax and unwind or entertain in style. A beautiful tree-lined backdrop sets the stage for creative ideas to be dreamed, designed, and executed.

SPOTLIGHT

This pool house has every trendy accessory for today's forward thinking homeowner, from reclaimed barn wood shiplap and barn doors to industrial weathered rebar railing.

"We spend more time outside now than inside our own house," explains the homeowner. Designed by Robert T. Foster Design Studio, the pool house

has a total of 604 sq. ft. heated and 1,213 sq. ft. under roof. All custom construction projects present their own unique challenges, and this one was no different. The soil was poor and the setbacks tight. Each challenge takes planning and expertise to overcome.

Despite the building's smaller square footage it holds all the components of a full size home:

kitchen, bathroom, garage, sauna, fireplace and more. We implemented many unique design features during this project. Even the sound system around the pool is state-of-the-art, carefully hidden away components to maintain aesthetics. This lifestyle concept offers it all, from a party pad, to an elegant guesthouse, to a quiet re-

▼ *Pool with arched fountain design.*







◀ Reclaimed barn wood shiplap with blonde brick to tie-in with main house.

treat. The outdoor kitchen and bar features everything a professional chef or backyard BBQ enthusiast could possibly want. Adjacent to the kitchen is a garage to store the gardening tools, riding mower and pool equipment. In addition

to entertaining, this pool house was also designed for health and wellness. The upper floor contains full size professional fitness equipment and spectacular views of the pool and tree line.

One of the central attractions inside the pool house is the lower level bathroom and sauna. The

▲ Rustic tile work in oversize shower and bath with distressed wood vanity.

oversized shower and tile adds to the rustic feel and the vanity compliments the reclaimed barn wood shiplap. The Finlandia sauna adds a feeling of spa-like luxury and elegance. When planning this type of outdoor living



▼ *Clockwise from top: Views of different elevations of the pool house.*

project, we recommend a few guidelines. First, the distance between a structure and the pool is often based on the depth of the pool water.

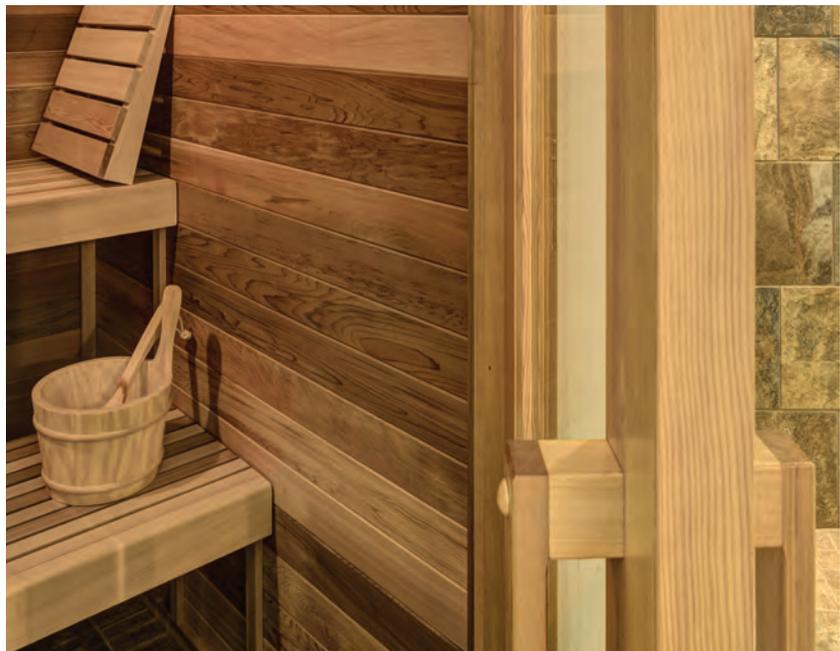
Secondly, it is a good idea to follow some of your home's architectural styling, so it creates visual cohesion.

Third, an under roof patio provides shelter for enjoyment out of the sun (and rain). Fourth and often overlooked, remember to leave room for storing outdoor lawn and pool equipment. ↻



THE A-TEAM

Design:
Robert T. Foster Design Studio
Reclaimed Wood:
Reclaimed Lumber & Beams
Masonry:
Griffin Masonry
Interior Trim:
G & R Woodworking
Stairs & Rails:
Andronics Construction
Windows:
Pella Window & Door
Boxing:
Advanced Renovations
Bath Hardware:
Barefoot
Masonry:
Griffin Masonry



BALUSTRADE BEAUTY

THE NEW FRONTIER FOR CREATIVE EXPRESSION

DESIGN

Stairs have always been an essential element in a home.

From a practical sense, balustrades are used to prevent falls, but a luxurious staircase in the foyer can be the centerpiece and accentuate the home décor. Balustrades, defined as a row of small columns topped by a rail, have become the focal point of staircases in today's custom homes. Interior designers and custom home builders have been focusing their creative inspirations on actually showcasing balustrades. The lines between

commercial, industrial and residential material applications have started to blur as homeowners seek more unique expressions for their living spaces. What used to be applicable to outdoor installations is now acceptable and even desirable indoors.

Designs run the gamut of material from wood to glass to metal to bamboo to repurposed materials like iron and weathered rebar. Whatever your style, be creative and the sky's the limit.



LUXURY UPGRADE

WHY PERSONAL WELLNESS SAUNAS ARE HEATING UP HOME VALUES

TRENDS



The benefits of saunas are widely reported, from relieving stress and soothing tired muscles to numerous health benefits cited by health publications. The emergence of pre-manufactured kits has made this wellness trend even more accessible to homeowners and builders as a luxury upgrade.

There are three types of saunas (Finnish for bathhouse): traditional (hot rock and water), steam (steam bath) and a newer technology using infrared. All of

these saunas achieve the same desired results and selection may be influenced by personal needs, space restrictions, home décor and project price range.

A traditional sauna, such as the one we installed in our featured pool house, provides the most intense environment with extreme temperatures and blasts of hyper-steam from splashing water on heated rocks. For many, this is what a true sauna is all about. The growing popularity of using infrared saunas is that they heat

▲ *A traditional sauna kit by Finlandia was the perfect marriage to this oversize pool house shower.*

the body at less intense temperatures than the traditional model. A steam bath is somewhere in between. Whichever type of sauna you choose to invest, the health benefits of heating the body in this manner are numerous.

Though the initial investment to have a custom sauna installed in your home can be substantial, a sauna adds value to your home

and requires very little upkeep. Home buyers seeking a spa experience in the privacy of their home will value the addition of a sauna or steam room when shopping for a new home.

Like gourmet kitchens and custom wine cellars, saunas are an added luxury upgrade that distinguishes your home from others. It adds a sense of luxury, especially when it is part of a bigger picture like a home gym, a backyard living experience, or an upgraded master bathroom.

Saunas' low maintenance makes them attractive to homeowners

and home buyers. As people's lives become busier, they seek ways to simplify the maintenance of their home without having to sacrifice comfort and luxury.

The construction is fairly straightforward with a multitude of add-on options to create the look and style of your choosing.

Whether you are building a new custom structure or renovating an existing one, incorporating a sauna will bring a 2,000-year-old health and healing practice, into your home adding value and luxury for years of enjoyment. 🔄



JOE'S MAINTENANCE CHECK LIST FOR YOUR HOUSE

Check your hoses and exterior faucets for leaks -- even a tiny drip can add up to a big waste of water. Pinhole leaks in hoses can be covered up by winding regular electrical tape around the (dry) hose in overlapping layers.

Test smoke/carbon monoxide detectors and all GFCI outlets monthly as well as fire extinguisher pressure gauges.

Re-caulk exterior wood surfaces every 6 months: this will make wood products last the longest.

Give your gas grill a deep cleaning, turn the heat up to high and let the grill cook with the lid closed for about half an hour. Allow the grill to cool and then brush it off with a grill brush.

