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Louise Brooks of Brooks & Falotico, the architect behind this charming New Canaan, Connecticut, pool house and kitchen, chose retractable doors, a design feature that allows the space to be completely opened up.



FRESH PERSPECTIVE

TAKE IT OUTSIDE WITH HIGH-DESIGN ALFRESCO KITCHENS.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY **KATHRYN GIVEN**

PHOTO: JANE BEILES PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY BROOKS & FALOTICO.

SWIM SEASON

A picturesque pool house becomes a family's destination for year-round entertaining. Architect Louise Brooks of Brooks & Falotico walks us through the project. [brooksandfalotico.com](https://www.brooksandfalotico.com)

How did you decide on the location of the pool house? The pool already existed, and the area looks out to beautiful rolling hills, so we were set from the beginning on where we were going to construct the pool house. Even though it's only a two-minute walk from the main house, it very much feels like a destination for the clients, a family with four children. They feel like they're on vacation when they go over there.

What was on the clients' wish list? The homeowners really wanted a full working kitchen here, meaning a refrigerator, range, dishwasher, microwave and sink since they use it often throughout the year for everything from Super Bowl celebrations to sleepover parties. Since it's meant for entertaining, I wanted to keep the kitchen design straightforward with as little maintenance and upkeep as possible. We actually started with the creamy man-made countertops that can weather any storm or family gathering, and the rest of the scheme stayed in a similar neutral palette.

We love the bright and airy ambience. The demand for indoor/outdoor spaces continues to grow and, in this case, I went with retractable doors and big windows that stay open during the warmer months for a light and fresh effect. I also chose materials that are very durable and aren't precious. We kept finishes to a minimum and the entire kitchen is soft, open and very welcoming; it's all about bringing the outside in here.



For the kitchen, Brooks went with a Rohl farmhouse sink and faucet along with a Sub-Zero refrigerator and Miele dishwasher. Liliane Hart Interiors designed the decor and furnishings for the pool house.

PHOTO: JANE BEILES PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY BROOKS & FALOTICO.

HIGH LIFE

For a spectacular patio kitchen in the Hamptons, Edmund Hollander, president of Hollander Design Landscape Architects, started with functionality. "Think about where you want your dining table to be in relation to other living areas and then look at aesthetics and what you want to see when you're in the space," he explains. Tucking the dining setting on the side of the house protects it from seaside winds and also takes advantage of beautiful views across a salt pond. hollanderdesign.com



HIGH LIFE PHOTO: CHARLES WAYER PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY HOLLANDER DESIGN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS.

GRILL GAME

Warmer weather means entertaining en plein air so up the ante when it comes to cooking. From traditional *kamado* techniques to precision temperature control, these three grills offer innovative options.



WOLF
36" Outdoor Gas Grill
subzero-wolf.com



KALAMAZOO
The Shokunin Kamado Grill
kalamazoogourmet.com



HESTAN
Outdoor Deluxe Freestanding Grill
hestan.com



Wood TIMES

St. Charles New York, the maker of luxury kitchens, has launched its first-ever kitchen collection consisting of three curated series that incorporate a distinct variety of finishes, woods, hardware and paint colors. Creative Director Karen Williams notes that “as kitchens have evolved from back of house to the most significant rooms of the home, the choices have become endless and overwhelming,” but the ultimate goal of this new program is to demystify the kitchen design process for the client. Shown is STC No. 1, which draws on the brand’s rich 85-year-old design history while simultaneously ushering in a more minimal, sleek style. stcharlesnewyork.com

WOOD TIMES PHOTO: COURTESY ST. CHARLES. CHILL OUT PHOTO: ROGER DAVIES/OTTO.

CHILL OUT

The kitchen and bar on this Del Mar property serves as ground zero for the casual indoor/outdoor lifestyle that epitomizes Southern California. Duan Tran, partner at KAA Design, understood that entertaining here was a priority for his clients so he decided to embrace the grill rather than hide it. “We designed the area to support the social aspects of grilling and hanging with friends, so it became a focal feature within the space,” Tran reveals. Interior designer Mark Williams, who collaborated on the project, customized the hanging lanterns and barstools. kaadesigngroup.com



PALM *paradise*

“We wanted this to look like a buffet yet function like a kitchen,” says designer Scott Sanders, of paneling the appliances to make them disappear in this Palm Beach oasis. The hood above the grill was covered in a striking custom woodwork design, which lends to the overall elevated feel. Sanders maintained the same colors, materials and finishes throughout the loggia for a sophisticated scheme. scottsassersllc.com



1. Elsinore Small Wall Lantern
by Chapman & Myers /
\$465 / circularlighting.com

2. Cirque Umbrella
with charcoal/whitecap
canopy / \$3,950 /
santabarbaradesigns.com

3. Bronte Dinner Plates /
\$68 for set of four /
sirensongcuriosities.com

4. Canasta Zig Zag Stripes
Frayed Bag / \$294 /
sensistudio.com

5. Cloud Drippy Planter / \$350 /
bzippyandcompany.com

6. Amalfi Armchair /
\$2,811 / janusetcie.com

PHOTO: NICK SARGENT.