

Create a cool outdoor lounge

Sunset

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Washington's idyllic
Lake Chelan, page 22

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Design on fire

Lessons from a Phoenix patio on adding nighttime glamour to your backyard

BY SHARON COHOON PHOTOGRAPH BY NORM PLATE

THEATRICAL ILLUMINATION

Lighting for safety and function is a given, but lighting for flattery creates magic. Uplights outline the dramatic shapes of octopus agaves, while sconces and votive candles sparkle against the walls.

DESERT ISLAND

Though the garden is not heavily vegetated, a pocket of sculptural agaves, barrel cactus, and pinkish boulders creates drama near the house.

DISAPPEARING WALLS

Painting some of the home's exterior walls dark charcoal gray makes them recede, blurring the boundary between house and garden. "It also makes the night seem darker, which in the midst of a big city is a welcome thing," says designer Troy Bankord (*TM Bankord, Phoenix; tmbankordinc.com*).

PEARLESCENT PAVING

The pale, smooth Marbella limestone turns creamy and soft under moonlight. "It almost looks like it's glowing from within," Bankord says.

FLOATING FIRE Side-by-side square pits form the garden's focal point, especially after dark. Elevated on uneven pedestals, they appear to hover above the golden decomposed granite. ■