Silinget. Silinget.

With an outdoor kitchen, you can do more than just barbecue





With the assistance of architect Richard Shugar, general contractor Dennis Coduti, the Neil Kelly Company, and Radius Design of Portland, they reshaped their New England saltbox-style house with an outdoor room facing the McKenzie. Thus the Maxwells brought daily al fresco living to Lane County.

For many homeowners, an outdoor grill is simply not enough. In remodels, they want to incorporate small kitchens and living spaces outdoors. After all, the kitchen is the heart of any party: It's where the food originates. Traditionally, the kitchen was a gathering space simply because it was the warmest area of the house. An outdoor kitchen brings the cooking room outside,

into Oregon's lusciously green yards and sometimes along a roaring river. Trends in home remodeling have introduced durable materials that can stand up to most of Oregon's seasons, as well as designs that fit each house and budget.

"Even though it rains seven months a year, there's still time in the late spring and early fall for being outside," said Shugar—as long as it's a covered area, he added.

Cooking Inside Out

Jane Maxwell was inspired to cook outdoors when she discovered some of the relics of the 1920s-era riverfront home. Among



the appliances was an antique stove with a charm she couldn't resist. She realized that it would fit perfectly outside, adjacent to their Wolf liquid-propane gas grill and rotisserie.

Walking out to the Maxwell's exterior cooking area, it feels as though you're walking into another room. French doors lead to the softly lit living area. The Maxwells chose tile flooring to add to the kitcheny feel. For color, they chose warm, neutral stone rather than gray brick. A warm ambience penetrates this outdoor room: Light is filtered through a ceiling sheet of polycarbonate, which blocks 70 percent of ultraviolet rays but allows 90 percent of the light to beam into the area.

The fireplace and walls are constructed from tumbled mahogany rock, a pale and rustic-looking stone. The counters are Palomino Rock, a peach-toned concrete that compliments the hues of the stone. A wood-framed ceiling adds elegance; stainless-steel appliances were chosen for efficiency.

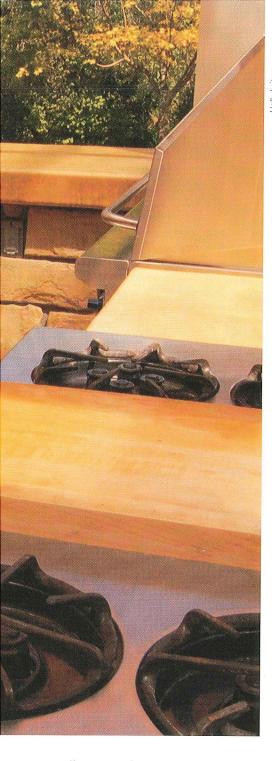
A lighted ceiling fan and sidelights along the house provide ample nighttime illumination. The wicker chairs blend the feeling of outdoor and indoor furniture. The cushions are made with Sunbrella designer fabrics, which resist fading in the sun.

The Maxwells have shaped their McKenzie River estate to fit their lifestyle in many ways. Retired from careers in genetics and biotechnology, they knew they wanted to spend their golden years outdoors. Along with the kitchen, Jane spends much of her time in the home's own vegetable and herb garden, called Barking Trout Farms.

If You're Remodeling

The Maxwells demonstrate just one style of outdoor living space. If, like them, you want to spend every possible moment in your backyard—if you detest running from the kitchen to check on the sauce, grab another cocktail or prepare the hors d'oeuvres—you may also want an outdoor kitchen. Here are some tips from the pros to consider before jumping in.

The Plan: It's important first to analyze your space and to develop a plan. How big do you want your kitchen to be?



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For the chef who really enjoys entertaining outside there is the Epicure Outdoor Grill. Brilliant features abound like the industry's first built-in halogen lighting system, illuminating the cooking surface well after the sun goes down. Power reigns throughout including three commanding uburners. Hosting your barbecue by the pool, patio or anywhere on your grounds is easy with our mobile stainless steel carts. Our warming oven, side burner and access doors complete your outdoor kitchen.

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-Richard Shugar

