

Design
an
outdoor
retreat
with a
colorful
splash
of style.



The covered porch at the Quackenbush home in Sonoma County is a quaint, cozy retreat.

Photo: Dave Klein

Cozy with Color

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C C I D C California Council for Interior Design Certification

IN A FORESTED AREA OF SANTA ROSA'S Montecito Heights neighborhood is the beautiful, Renaissance-style home of Greg and Stacia Quackenbush. The main house has a large, open floor plan, which allows for their guests to be entertained and enticed into the many open interior areas. They've also incorporated smaller, more quaint spaces. A covered outdoor porch (pictured above) allows the homeowners to take a break from their busy schedules to read, enjoy a glass of champagne, or have a bite to eat and spend time talking.

When designing an outdoor area such as a porch or veranda like the one at the Quackenbush home, consider the existing textures in the tiled, stone, or wood flooring. The view beyond the immediate area also comes into play. The textures of the tall, dark pine trees covered in moss are an important feature for the Quackenbushes' porch. Mixing dark metals and cream wicker offset the green in the background and made the space a natural environment for ferns and potted plants with a bit of bright color splashed in for contrast.

The accessories on the chair and table are simple but make a big impact.

The great thing about small outdoor spaces is that it's easy to change the look without a lot of effort. New outdoor fabrics make it a breeze to add in colors of any hue or pattern. Silk and potted plants, readily available at many garden centers and craft shops, can dress up a space or give it an exotic feel. Sparkling accessories and crystal glasses take the décor up a notch to pure elegance. You can also add a small water feature for a soothing, relaxed feel.

Whether you want an elegant look, a cozy atmosphere, or a serene, calm retreat, you can create the look you want using these easy design tips.

Kerry Klein, CID, IDS, is the owner of Country Cottages in Santa Rosa. Stacia Quackenbush, IDS Associate, is the owner of Stacia Nicole Interiors and Redesign. Special thanks to Ambiance HOME in Santa Rosa. For a free list of Certified Interior Designers in your area or to view the CID Pages (a visual directory of CIDs), visit www.ccidc.org. THM