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by Laurie Rudd

# OLD WORLD, NEW STYLE

BLENDING TUSCAN CHARM AND INNOVATIVE CULINARY ELEMENTS



## OLD WORLD CHARM MEETS MODERN

convenience under the California sun in an outdoor space that's cooking with innovation and style.

Many outdoor designs come together in stages, and that was the case for one southern California family who decided to alter and upgrade their home's existing outdoor areas.

With the expertise of Lars Remodeling and Design of San Diego, the family updated their Old World-style guest house with an outdoor kitchen, fully equipped with all the latest elements for entertaining, while complementing existing outdoor spaces.

"The homeowners had a guest house with access to a patio area," says Jason

The outdoor space seamlessly flows from the guest home's interior, thanks to a new opening and coordinating furnishings.

Larson, Lars owner and lead designer. "The plan was to build out the area with a barbecue, rotisserie and grilling area, an Italian pizza oven, a refrigerator and a kegerator."

But the outdoor plan didn't end there. Larson's team also incorporated a raised bar with

fire pit, bar seating to match existing deep seating, chaise lounges for the nearby pool area, mounted televisions and integrated electronics.

Creating the outdoor kitchen's in-wall pizza oven proved to be the most complex element. Once they finished

**Designer:** Jason Larson

**Firm name:** Lars Remodeling & Design

**Location of project:** San Diego

**Furniture brands:** Arizona Iron Furniture

**Textile brands:** Sunbrella

**Accessory brands:** EVO Cast Iron Grill; Dacor Barbeque; Mugnaini Fire Pit

**Photography credit:** Martin Mann



A fun conversation element, the walled pizza oven posed the greatest challenge for the project's outdoor kitchen.

*Continued*

the oven's chimney and 6-inch-deep walls, the other elements fell into place.

The 42-inch-high bar with a gas fire pit in the center is one of the most dramatic additions. Larson's team molded the nosing for the bar's concrete from an impression of an amber tree, and embedded the countertop with crushed glass and LED lights.

furnishings with existing pieces. After much research, Larson found that Arizona Iron Furniture had made the Old World-style seating.

"The homeowners had an outdoor living room near the new kitchen that had existing lounge seating," Larson says. "After contacting the manufacturer, we found a collection that had the same unique

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"We poured the LEDs into the top tier of the bar; they feature color-changing functionality operated by color wheels inside one of the kitchen's cabinets," Larson says. Technology throughout the design allows for multiple lighting and electronics to operate via wireless connections, including an electronic ignitor for the fire pit.

When it comes to seating, the client challenged the designer to match new

details in the wrought iron, and they were able to replicate the finish and the fabric used on the initial pieces."

To unify the project, the designer matched previously used fabrics with new textiles that carry warm hues throughout the Tuscan-inspired home. Through this effort, the seating blends the home's multiple outdoor areas and creates an exciting venue for al fresco entertaining with plenty of pop. **cu**



Above: The guest house's updated outdoor living area overlooks the home's swimming pool and spa.

Below: Arizona Iron Furniture made the stools for the custom bar, which allows for large gatherings with seating for 10.

