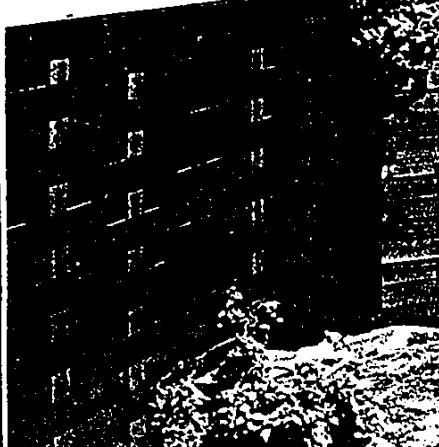
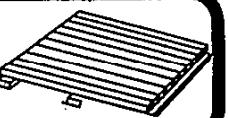


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THIS IS a dining patio since it's located close to a kitchen door. Like the traditional Spanish patio, it's fenced in.

## Where Should You Place A Patio?

By BETTY FRANKEL

Patios are "in" for outdoor living.

In former years, great-grandma's idea of summer fun was to sit on the front porch -- she called it a veranda -- with a palm-leaf fan and a pitcher of lemonade and wave to the neighbors as they went by in their horse-drawn buggy. But bustles are out and bikinis are in, and the backyard patio is the favored spot for summer relaxation.

A patio can be the center of family activities during the warm months, and it helps make the yard a real outdoor living area. It is just the spot for a play area for toddlers, a lounge area for teens, and for adult entertaining.

"PATIO" IS A Spanish word and refers to the paved, enclosed courtyards that have been a feature of Spanish architecture for centuries, ever since the idea was brought to Spain by the Moors in the seventh century. In addition to the paved floors and high enclosing walls, the main features were a central pool or fountain and groups of potted plants.

The Spaniards, when they colonized America, developed their typical patios in Florida, California and Mexico. The enclosed patio is still found in these areas. In other parts of the country the traditional patio has been modified. There is generally a paved floor, but the enclosure is often indicated only by a single wall of the adjacent house. In some cases, patios have been developed away from the house without any enclosing walls at all.

The patio should be located where it will be most useful and convenient. Patios adjacent to kitchens or family rooms are most popular since patios are favorite spots for summer dining.

However, since shade is a "must" for summer use, this may

determine where it is best to locate a patio. For spring or fall use, a sunny patio is desirable.

DEPENDING ON the situation, the patio may be located to take advantage of a beautiful view, or it can be tucked away in a private area that is secluded from the neighbors or from the rest of the yard.

For a change of pace, or to provide a second patio area, consider building a patio under the wide-spreading branches of a tree in a far corner of the back yard. It can be charming and delightful for an early morning breakfast area, or for an afternoon cup of tea. Another advantage to paving under a tree is that it is often difficult to grow grass there, anyway, and paving is an attractive substitute.

To be most useful, a patio should be firm and level, pitched just enough so that it drains quickly after a rain. Make sure it pitches away from the house if it is adjacent to the house.

The patio should be designed so it adds to the beauty of the landscaping. It will serve as a transitional area between the straight architectural lines of the house or garage and the soft flowing forms of lawn and trees and shrubs growing in the yard. The size and shape will depend on the space available and on the effect desired.

MATERIALS FOR paving include brick, stone, concrete, wood and imaginative combinations of these materials.

Attractive patios have been made of random-shaped flagstones. These can be set in mortar with close joints, or they can be set on a bed of sand with grass or moss, or creeping thyme growing in the joints.

Irregular stones make an informal patio. Even less formal are wood patios made of wood rounds cut from large trees. These have great charm, but are not very durable.

Use your imagination when designing your backyard patio. Let it express your creativity -- and it can be a fun do-it-yourself project.