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Some Random Landscape Thoughts



Joshua Mitchell

Fire features are among the hottest trends in landscaping. Fire pits and fireplaces can help nip the chill of cool nights in the fall and winter and add entertainment sizzle to the long days of spring and summer.

A fireplace makes a great focal point or design anchor. It often imparts a more formal feel to the space, making your space seem more like your indoor living room. A fireplace also provides some privacy, blocks the wind, and can hide a less than desirable view due to the hearth and chimney. The mantel and side boxes of a fireplace provide opportunities for decorating as well as wood storage.

A firepit invokes a more casual atmosphere and invites everyone to sit back and put their feet up. You can fit more people around a firepit because they can sit all the way around it. A firepit also has flexibility of design; they can be round, square, rectangular, oval, etc. Firepits do not need chimneys, and they take up less space both visually and physically than fireplaces, while giving off more heat.

Either a fireplace or a firepit will be a great gathering spot for you and your guests.

Which one to choose depends on your style, space and budget, but both will draw people to them and provide warmth and ambiance to your outdoor area.

Happy Landscaping!



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- Outdoor Living Space
- Custom Water Features
- Landscape Lighting
- Fireplaces and Fire Pits



Gas or Wood Burning?

Gas fire features are generally more expensive to install due to the need for gas lines to be added. However, it is very convenient to simply open a valve and flip on a switch to get the fire going. There are also many attractive features such as crushed glass and lava rock.

Despite the ease of gas, many homeowners want a real wood fire. There's a smell and a feel that you don't get with gas. When selecting a wood fireplace or fire pit, make sure local ordinances allow it and you're locating it at a safe distance from combustible objects like trees and roofs.

Material Selections



Stone Veneer



Stucco



Natural Stone



Concrete



Marble



Slate

Outdoor Fire Cooking

Ham and cheese loaf

Make a sandwich using Italian bread, butter, Dijon mustard, cheese, and ham.

Spray a piece of aluminum foil with cooking spray and then wrap the sandwich in the foil. Place the wrapped sandwich near the fire to toast the bread and melt the cheese.

Toasted Burritos

Place your meat of preference, rice, cheese, salsa, and beans in a large flour tortilla.

Then wrap the burrito in foil and place in the fire until it's toasty and cooked.

Pineapple Upside Down Cake

Take 1 or 2 fresh or canned pineapple rings, 1 tablespoon of butter, 1 or 2 tablespoons of brown sugar and a plain cake donut.

Place everything together in an aluminum foil packet; place in the fire for five minutes.