



**ABOVE:** Slipped-cover chairs around a wood trestle table, with a full outdoor kitchen, make this covered loggia both welcoming and practical for most Houston months. (photos: Custom Homes, builder; photo by Steve Chiro)

**BELOW:** According to Mike Logan of Texas Pit Crafters, the ultimate must-have for outdoor kitchens is the pizza oven. They can be installed in kitchens of any style or design. (photos: courtesy of Earthstone and Texas Pit Crafters)

## VENDOR PICKS & IDEAS

Mike Logan, owner of Texas Pit Crafters, says the most have among his clientele are "more high BTU burners for skillets and pots, in addition to stainless steel kitchen islands and wood-fired pizza ovens."

He calls the pizza ovens the "ultimate cooking asset." They range in price from \$7,500 to \$23,000.

Logan says that Houston residents are fortunate in that they can utilize their outdoor kitchen investments just about year-round.

"My clients are putting in sophisticated audio/visual systems with two to three TVs, premium speakers, and a control unit for the equipment – separate from what's in the main house," says Wayne Franks, owner of Outdoor Homescapes.

Franks says clients also ask for exterior fan and light controls with dimmers, in addition to USB ports to accommodate "smart" computers and phone devices. A hot item for winter months: ceiling heaters.

When roofing the outdoor living space, Franks says clients like to match the main house. And they tend to like having a raised bar at the kitchen, where guests can sit and watch the cooks.



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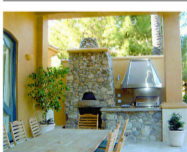
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