

DESIGNED FOR LIVING

Giving a pergola a purpose

The Designer:

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**ANTHONY ALBERT
PASSANANTE**

Challenge: When this home was built, the architect created an outdoor area with a pool, a cabana and a pergola-like structure. The latter had stone columns and a frame ceiling, but lacked a defined purpose. The homeowners originally brought me in to design the kitchen and bathrooms but, as this work progressed, they asked me to turn my attention to this outdoor structure.

Solution: We decided the pergola was a natural spot for an outdoor kitchen and set out to create a space that reflected the design of the rest of the home. As discussions proceeded, the clients (particularly the husband) were specific about their desired

appliances and the size of the grill, as well as requesting a fireplace and a place for a flat-screen TV. Happily, within the parameters of the existing pergola, I was able to develop a space plan that accommodates everything on their wish list...and more.

The first order of business was to run electrical and plumbing lines from the house to the pergola. The structure now has a shingled roof and a bead-board ceiling that match exterior details of the home. The floor is now a continuation of the stonework around the pool and the bricks on the new islands and the fireplace match the original stone columns.

The L-shaped section is for prep work and cooking. It includes the grill, side burners, a warming drawer and a pull-out garbage can, as well as storage cabinets and drawers.



PHOTO BY BRIAN KLUTCH PHOTOGRAPHY

This pergola lacked personality until designer Anthony Albert Passanante repurposed it to house a high-end outdoor kitchen. The stone and brick work relate to the home's exterior.

at the counters. The keystone with the homeowner's initial was a surprise touch for them. For easy viewing, the television is installed above the fireplace. This part of the project involved a great deal of brainstorming and on-site consultations with the mason and the electrician...teamwork at its best!

The island across from the grill is the bar area, which contains the sink, under-counter refrigerator, under-counter ice maker and hot and cold running water. Stools around the perimeter are positioned so that, even on a rainy day, everyone stays nice and dry.

The wood-burning fireplace, with wood storage areas on either side, rests on a raised hearth so it can be enjoyed by people sitting

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