

CHARLOTTE URBAN

# HOME

FALL 2008

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Decorating

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That are Stylish  
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is **Hotter** Than Ever

Recycled Glass  
Countertops

Photo courtesy of Kreiss Furniture  
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# Casual Living Indoors and Out



An emerging new trend in the United States is “staycations,” which refers to people who opt to stay home in lieu of taking vacations due to rising gas and travel costs. This is the same growing homeowner segment seeking to improve their outdoor living spaces, along with “casualizing” indoor areas, for the utmost comfort in their humble abodes.

Locally, Debs Pedigo, owner of Fire House Casual Living stores and the Furniture Marketplace, offers his insight for current indoor and outdoor casual furnishings’ trends:

“For outdoors, look for cushioned, deep-seated furniture and synthetic wickers,” said Pedigo. “Today’s synthetic wickers are so good people can’t tell it from real wicker, plus it lasts much longer, coloration is incredible, and it won’t decay like regular wicker. Changing out cushions when you want a new look works for these high-durability frames that will last a lifetime.”

Pedigo also noted that indoor furnishings are more casual. Slipcovers are popular particularly for people with pets, plus they’re easier to maintain and change.

“There’s a growing trend toward smaller-scale furniture for downtown condo living, along with outdoor furniture due to more balcony settings that require smaller dining sets,” added Pedigo.

Turnkey sources for entire casual outdoor and indoor rooms are thriving. This has not gone unnoticed by Pedigo. Not only does he offer a full array of outdoor home furnishings, but goes a step further by opening Casual Living Marketplace, a combo of his other two store

concepts by offering all your indoor and outdoor casual home furnishings and accessory needs in one convenient location.

“To my knowledge, no other store in Charlotte offers indoor casual furniture alongside outdoor furniture and accessories,” Pedigo says. “A home’s outdoor room is an extension of the interior and homeowners want to coordinate the looks.” ♦

Casual Living Marketplace, slated to open in early October, is located at 1201 Westinghouse Boulevard, 704-405-1790. Fire House Casual Living has several Charlotte locations, which can be found at [fhcasual.com](http://fhcasual.com) and [furniturenationwide.com](http://furniturenationwide.com).

## Outdoor Living Trend Continues

- The American Institute of Architects (AIA) reports outdoor living is the No. 1 growth category.
- Outdoor rooms enhance resale values. AIA estimates home values increase 15 to 20 percent when an outdoor room is added, and return more than 100 percent of their cost.
- According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), outdoor rooms and kitchens will become standard in all new construction and existing upscale homes within five to 10 years. Seventy percent of new construction upscale homes will also feature an outdoor fireplace.