

Designing a Great Deck

A deck is one of the most useful home improvements you can make. It adds beauty and value to your home and offers a way to expand your living area into the outdoors.

Plan your deck with your house site and the surrounding landscaping in mind. There are many factors to consider in planning the shape, size, and location of a deck. A great deck design makes the best possible use of available outdoor space while meshing gracefully with the beauty and functionality of your home.

Instead of settling for a flat, simple surface, design your deck to incorporate a large tree, boulders, shrubs, a pond, or a landscaped slope. It will

become the focal point for your yard. Decks provide solutions for almost every house and lot configuration—from wraparound decks that take advantage of small yards by using the space surrounding the house to detached decks that can be located anywhere in the yard to create a private sanctuary away from the busy household and the rest of the world.

Study the photographs on the following pages to see how other homeowners planned and built according to their unique circumstances. As you look at these and other decks in books, magazines, and your neighborhood, think of how these ideas might lead to solutions for your needs.



Redwood deck photo courtesy of California Redwood Association

An island deck is an appealing way to fill an outlying area of the yard and make it more functional. This multi-level island deck creates many comfortable, private spaces for entertaining large groups or just enjoying an evening outdoors.