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NEWS

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## An American Style (Japanese) Tea House



Dream, Design, Peace Of Mind!

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### Love Of The Outdoors Is Universal *Quick Tips For Homeowners*

#### The Japanese Chashitsu (Tea House)

Chashitsu. It's a Japanese term that means a place or room where guests gather for Tea. When it refers to a free-standing structure, designed and used exclusively for tea ceremonies, we just call it a "tea house." It's one way the Japanese create private outdoor getaways. The traditional Japanese structure is a small, simple building located in the gardens or on the grounds of private homes. Though small, it will consist of two rooms: a main room where the guests gather for tea and another small room where the host prepares the tea and stores equipment. The size of the room can vary anywhere from 24 square feet on up to larger sizes of 43 square feet. The ideal traditional tea house requires the occupants to crawl in through a small low doorway



#### Tea Houses-American Style



In America, we also enjoy our private backyard getaways. But, we wouldn't make our guests crawl in to visit with us. So, the American version of a tea house is designed to fit our culture plus some. We may add some electrical outlets, and nice

windows with a great view. Today there are many ways to enhance your backyard to create your own paradise retreat. Here are a few more thought starters for you.

#### Grilling At The Next Level

Do you like cooking outdoors? How about creating a complete outdoor kitchen? With a built in grill a gas line and some running water, the American tea house is starting to look pretty good. Add some cabinetry, counter tops, a sink and fridge and you are on your





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### 1. Dream

Make Your list, of  
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### 2. Design

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and make a plan!

### 3. Peace Of Mind

Then, sit back. Take  
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way. Some electricity and a little protection from the elements is necessary too. But, comfortable chairs, a high def TV and a great sound system are a nice touch. With just a little creativity and your backyard escape can be customized to just your specifications.

### Simple And Quiet



On the other hand, if your needs are simple and all you desire is a quiet place to slip away and meditate, consider a simple pergola. They come in all shapes and sizes. Design can be influenced by your imagination. They can be enhanced with some

landscaping, flowers, benches and some overhead lattice work. For a bit more privacy you can plant some climbing vines to create a natural screen. Pergolas can be stained in a variety of colors. Or if you prefer low maintenance a host of green composite materials are available as well.

### That Open Air Feeling

For those that enjoy the sun in their face and the wind at their back, an open air deck is the definite choice. Similar to pergolas, decks come in all shapes and sizes and can be designed to blend with your home and back yard space. The material used can be



natural wood or composite. Composites are low maintenance and do not require repeat staining over time. Multi-tiering adds interest and creates different zones. Accessories enhance the deck, keep it safe and make it cozy and comfortable to use. Things like railings, hanging plants, lanterns, motion sensors, stairway lights, and floods are always a nice addition. Built in seating can be added as well. For those that enjoy background music, outdoor speaker placement can be integrated into the design.

### Where To Start

Screen rooms, three and four season rooms, sunrooms and more. The options and ideas are endless. Need help from the pros? Custom Built Design and Remodeling has done it all-including Japanese Tea Houses! Their design and construction team can help bring your backyard dream to life this summer. They have the experience, the track record and the references to assist. Call Michael today for more ideas. You can reach him at 517-881-8971.



**Call Michael  
Today!**

workers, and client references!

Thank you! We really appreciate your business!

Chris & Mike



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