FEATURE ARTICLE

and character to the space. Using the same materials as those in the adjacent room gives the illusion of extending the space.

Adding comfortable sofas and chairs covered in the new, durable Sunbrella® or other comparable fabrics makes outdoor rooms practical and inviting. Try adding a chandelier for glamour as well as illumination. Add a rug and big pillows and sculpture to make the space irresistible – a place where everyone wants to come and relax.

Consider using a gazebo, a pergola over the hot tub, or a pergola over the outdoor bar and serving area. Fountains beyond the outdoor living space continue the ambiance and create areas of visual interest. The sound of splashing water is inviting and soothing. If you have a swimming pool, you will want to put the sun deck in the pool, complete with lounges for sun bathing and a table for refreshments.

So go ahead - go outside to play and enjoy!





The Cat's Fancy
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Then the Master's away cats will get into and on top of everything! Creating their own room where a little mischief is OK is cat heaven.

One of my clients, Mrs. Cat Lady, loved having her two cats. However, her husband was not too sure as he had not been around cats that much. Needless to say, he has been enjoying their personalities and the playful things they do.

They did not want to worry about what the cats were doing while they were gone. So creating a room with a view for feline entertainment was key.

When they moved to their new home we made the bedroom at the front of the home the CAT ROOM and occasional second guest bedroom.

Tile with minimal grout lines was carried in from the rest of the home for easy maintenance and inexpensive and washable area rugs were used. The cats were declawed, so we were not too worried about their claws.

Hunter Douglas Everwood blinds were installed as window treatments for easy maintenance and they were positioned just above claw reach. A patterned soft hanging tailored valence was installed above.

Since the cats fight over who gets the sill, I gave them a cat playground that ran across the room, in front of the window, then steps climbing up the back wall that had hideaway hobbit houses all covered in soft shaggy-like nylon carpet. The cat run can be unbolted and moved when needed with ease.

A daybed is covered with a washable patterned tailored throw just they right color for the cats fur to blend. There is a closable TV cabinet that features cat videos, and yes, the nature channel is a favorite.

Owning and caring for more than 4 independent cats since a child, and now occasionally cat dander allergic (brushing regularly is key); I realize how important it is to let cats have their own environment to hide, cozy up, and stake out their own space.