

West Bay Landing

Borrow ideas from this innovative weekend home, and live in casual comfort.

The plan started with the idea of a simple, one-room-wide design that accommodates great cross ventilation and balanced light," says Ted Flato, one of the architects for our exciting and unique Florida Idea House. Located on the Great Northwest Coast near Panama City Beach, West Bay Landing is part of RiverCamps on Crooked Creek. RiverCamps, a development of the St. Joe Land Company, occupies a 1,500-acre inland nature preserve.

"St. Joe has owned this magnificent piece of land for more than 60 years," says Kevin Fox, vice president of RiverCamps. When completed, the community will also include a swimming pool, library, fitness center, outdoor dining pavilion, boat dock, and other facilities.

The construction is by builder Paul Thrasher and his team of craftspeople from Lynn Haven, Florida. Paul used cypress and pine throughout the 2,051-square-foot home to give warmth and character to the design. "People can learn a lot from the details in this house, from paneling on interior walls to mechanisms that hold the wooden support columns to their concrete foundations," Paul says.

Designers for West Bay Landing were Susan Lovelace and Patricia Kramer. Susan says, "For the interiors of this home, we used natural elements that you would picture in the most delightful camp an adult could ever imagine."

Going Back

Vintage cottages inspired many aspects of this home, including the long front stairway, the porches, and the galvanized metal roof, which cools the house by reflecting sunlight. "The early, simple houses on the coast are great to learn from," says Ted Flato. "They were built well and built to last."

ASSISTANT PHOTOGRAPHER, MARY MARGARET CHAMBLISS



Screened Porch



by Julia Hamilton / photography Jean Allsopp / styling Cari South



idea #1



Expand With a Screened Porch

Outdoor living spaces make West Bay Landing seem much larger. "We designed screened porches as well as open porches," says architect Jonathan Card. "One even has a fireplace so that in the cooler months, with the protection of the house on one side, it's still a very pleasant place to be."

A large screened porch runs from the front of the house to the rear, nearly doubling the size of the first floor. Wooden rafters and metal roofing remain exposed, emphasizing



Dining Room

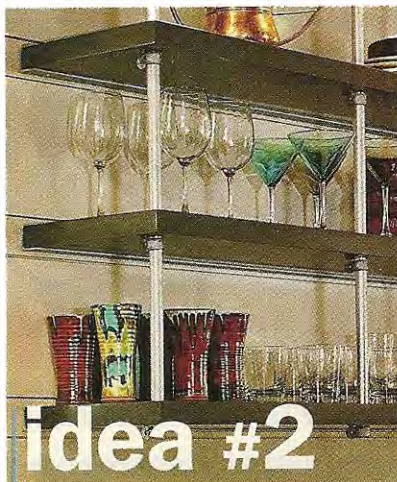
informality and regional style. Doors on this porch open to the dining room, kitchen, and master bedroom, so there is a nice flow, and the house can be open regardless of the weather. Chairs and a sofa are centered around the brick fireplace. Wooden daybeds constructed to fit single bed mattresses fill the other corner of the porch and can be used for both sitting and sleeping. For easy maintenance, the designers used colorful acrylic indoor/outdoor fabrics on the furniture.

Iron lanterns and other rustic items serve as accent pieces on the screened porch. Found objects add interest and character, says designer Susan Lovelace. "Something nostalgic is always comforting," she explains.

Creative Kitchen

The kitchen stands at the center of the house. On both kitchen and dining room walls, cypress 1 x 10s alternate with 2½-inch-wide boards; an ⅛-inch gap separates them. A sheer ivory-colored finish was applied to the horizontal cypress paneling, giving a light and airy feel.

Here, the open storage is both a means of displaying cookware and an example of creative shelf design. The



idea #2

Use Wood on Walls and for Open Shelving

1½-inch-thick wooden shelves rest on metal supports and hang from pieces of 1-inch-diameter galvanized pipe. The open shelving is great for showcasing serving pieces and pottery, and guests love them because they can easily find needed items.

Going Upstairs

The stairway in the kitchen features photographs of Florida landscapes. On the second floor, the sloped ceiling gives a feeling of spaciousness to the hallway, laundry room, guestroom,



Kitchen

and children's room. A collection of framed photos creates a gallery-like display in the upstairs hallway.

Fine Dining

The dining room has natural, handmade elements, which offset the clean lines of the house. The designers used a striped woven rug under the dining table, and an old-fashioned pie safe stores china and glassware. Glazed pottery for the table settings mixes in shades of red and green that are used throughout the interiors. ▶



AWARD-WINNING ARCHITECTS

The architects of West Bay Landing are Ted Flato, Craig McMahon, and Jonathan Card of Lake/Flato in San Antonio. They received the American Institute of Architects National Firm Award 2004 in recognition of their diverse design projects such as family retreats, museums, arboretums, and corporate headquarters.

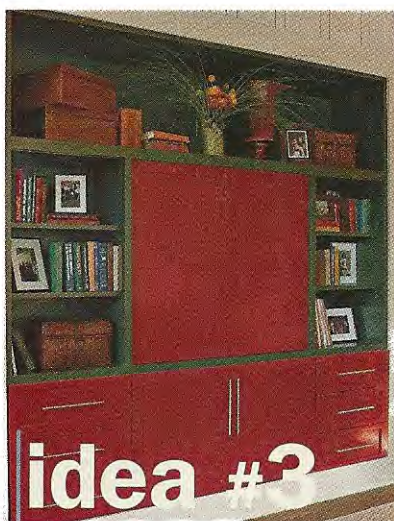


Family Room

Family Style

Linen cafe curtains hung from an iron rod bring privacy to the family room, and a wooden bench serves as a coffee table. Because this room has windows on three sides and opens to the dining room, furniture arrangement was a special consideration; most pieces are placed about 1 foot away from the windows.

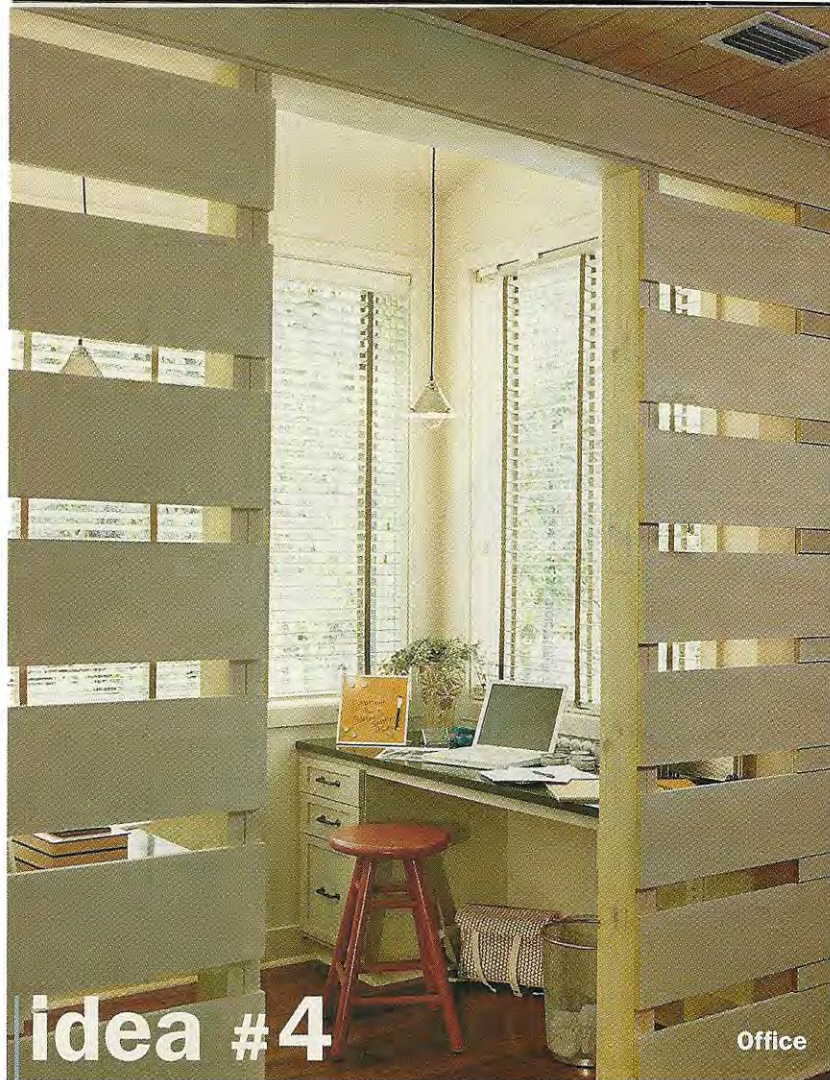
To avoid having the entertainment/bookshelf unit take up floorspace, it was fitted into a box bay constructed on the exterior wall. A pair of doors mounted on tracks slide away from the center of the unit, over the bookshelves at each side, and then back across to cover the flat-screen TV. ►



idea #3



Add Sliding Doors to Built-ins



idea #4

Office

Design a Small But Well-Equipped Office

Office Hours

Adjoining the dining room is a home office measuring only 7'11" x 5'2", yet there's room for a laptop, fax machine, and files.

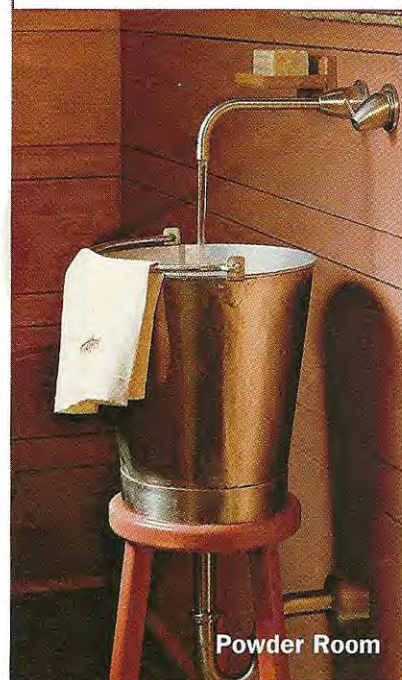
"Adding space where you can work will theoretically buy you a longer weekend at RiverCamps," says architect Jonathan Card. "Say you have

three hours of work that has to be done on Monday morning. Just get up early, knock out those three hours, and you'll be enjoying yourself out on the water by noon."

The office feels like a spacious tree house perched high in the woods. Its glass walls also bring light to the windowless dining room. ►

SINK SOLUTION

Looking for a compact bathroom sink to fit into a tight space? Try this idea on for size: In the powder room, a metal milk bucket resting on a wooden, three-legged stool was plumbed for use as a sink.



Powder Room

"For the interiors of this home, we used natural elements that you would picture in the most delightful camp an adult could ever imagine."

Susan Lovelace, designer



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idea #5

Children's Room



Children's Bath

Have Fun With Color

Dreamy Bedrooms

In a house where areas are primarily neutral, the children's room offers a bright departure. "The more color we added, the better it got," says designer Patricia Kramer. Surfaces here and in the adjoining bath are painted lime green and orange sherbet; fabrics in a mixture of colors and patterns reflect youthful enthusiasm. "Children use every hue in the crayon box, and that's the approach we took in this bedroom," Patricia explains. Windows are located on three walls, and each sports a different fabric treatment. With a full-size bed and a twin-size one with a trundle, the room easily sleeps four. ►



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James Hardie Siding Products are made of fiber-cement, and they possess the character of natural wood with increased durability. Some products now come in a selection of colors, so they don't need to be painted. Both lap siding and board-and-batten siding are used at West Bay Landing. For more information call toll-free 1-866-4-HARDIE, or visit www.jameshardie.com.



NATIONAL SPONSOR TREX DECKING & RAILING

Made primarily with recycled plastic grocery bags, reclaimed pallet wrap, and waste wood, Trex decking is environmentally responsible. At West Bay Landing, Trex forms the floor of the screened porch and surrounds the outdoor kitchen. For more information call 1-800-BUY-TREX (289-8739), or visit www.trex.com.



Guestroom

The guestroom bed is dressed in cool aqua linen and soft ivory damask. The ivory curtains on the windows behind the bed can be pushed together to give the illusion of a headboard. Built-in seating fits between the closet and a drawer unit that also holds a TV.

Downstairs, the master bedroom boasts a comfortable, casual bed with head- and footboards that resemble charming old metal gates. It's piled high with colorful, coordinating pillows in various sizes. Rattan chairs fitted with plush cushions stand at the end of the bed. ▶



Master Bedroom

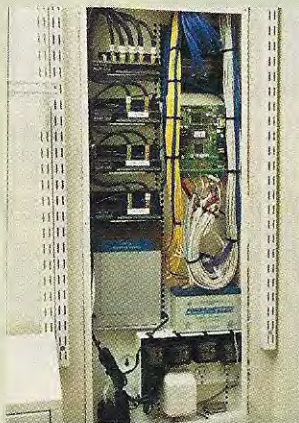
OPEN VANITY BASE PROJECT

The vanity in the guestroom bath is a *Southern Living* Project Plan. Measuring 54½ inches wide x 24 inches deep x 34 inches high, it holds a sink and has a storage shelf underneath.

Detailed plans and step-by-step instructions for the Open Vanity Base Project are available for \$4. To order send a self-addressed, stamped (with two first-class, letter-rate stamps), business-size envelope to Open Vanity Base Project, *Southern Living* Projects, P.O. Box 523, Birmingham, AL 35201. Please enclose a check for \$4 payable to *Southern Living* Projects. Allow six to eight weeks for delivery.



Guest Bath



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Mudroom



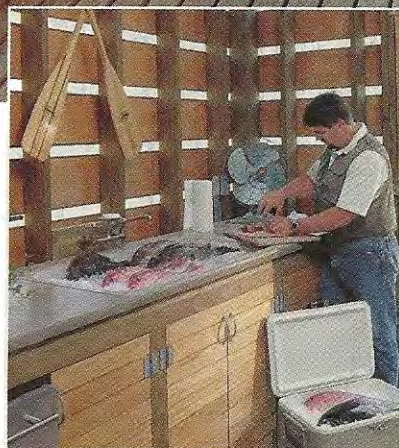
idea #6

Make Your Entry a Practical Space

Maximizing the Mudroom

The front door opens directly into a mudroom, not a conventional foyer. Residents of RiverCamps are likely to have plenty of fishing tackle, canoe paddles, coolers, and other outdoor gear to store. This area gives all of those items convenient berths. There's also a long sink for cleaning the day's catch.

Architect Craig McMahon says, "The slat walls of the mudroom are a bit like the old storage lockers that you see on piers. Inside, you have an open storage system for all the gear that makes being near the water exciting."



Narrow strips of screen fitted between the horizontal slats help to keep the area insect free. A bench and other built-ins and a custom-made screened door at the entrance complete this useful room. ▶



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idea #7

Outdoor Room

Transform a Sun Porch

At the rear of the house's lower level, the brick-floored outdoor room is furnished with daybeds covered in red weatherproof cushions and framed by khaki curtains. The space makes an ideal sleeping porch for children, who can spread out their sleeping bags and "camp" overnight. To help keep the area free of insects while main-



taining ventilation, retractable screens are installed on each open side. The remote-controlled motorized screens can be raised or lowered at the push of a button.

OUTDOOR DAYBED PROJECT

Measuring 75 x 39 inches, these daybeds would make a great addition to your porch. Plans are available for \$4. To order send a self-addressed, stamped (with two first-class, letter-rate stamps), business-size envelope to Outdoor Daybed Project, *Southern Living* Projects, P.O. Box 523, Birmingham, AL 35201. Enclose a check for \$4 payable to *Southern Living* Projects. Allow six to eight weeks for delivery.



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Benjamin Moore Paints let you express your individuality and creativity when choosing colors. You can experiment, knowing that paint color is relatively easy to change when you're ready for a new look. At West Bay Landing, two coordinating colors highlight the exterior board-and-batten siding, and shades of lime green brighten the children's room. For more information visit www.benjaminmoore.com.



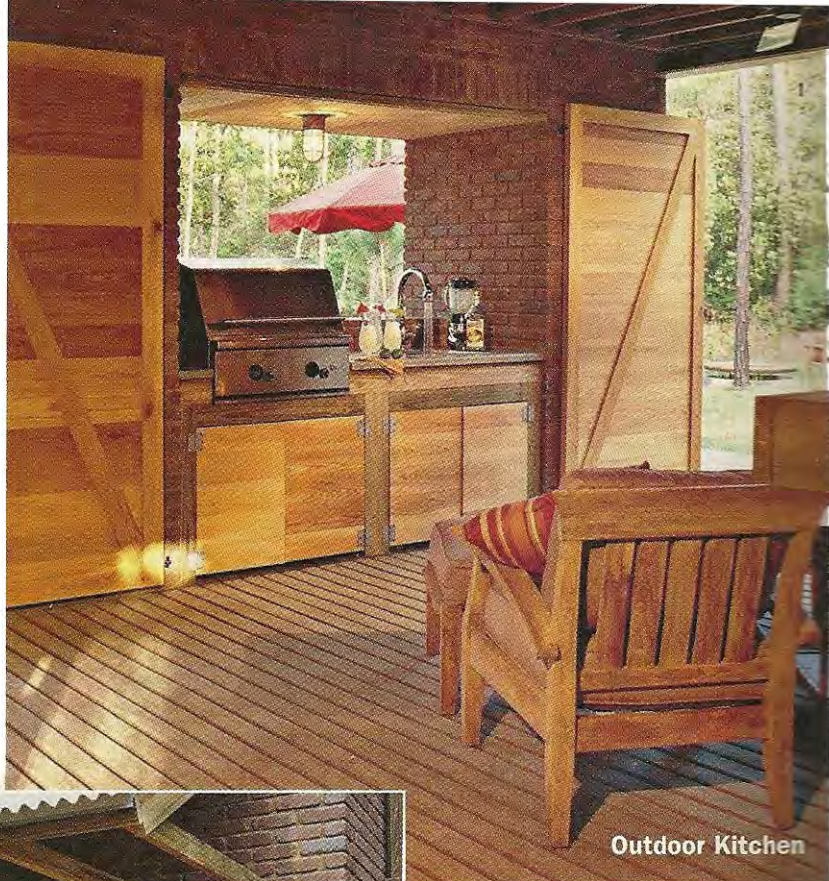
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In the Great Outdoors

Exterior spaces are put to maximum use in this creative home. "Many houses along the Gulf Coast are built up off the ground because of the possibility of a storm surge," says architect Craig McMahon, "and storage areas are often constructed under the house. We wanted to take advantage of all the ground floor space, so we created a variety of outdoor rooms, including a kitchen and shower." There's also room to park both a boat and a car.

Durability and easy upkeep factored into the selection of construction materials for this vacation home. "The metal roof will last a long time," say builder Paul Thrasher. "And with the fiber-cement siding, the paint job will last longer than if it was on wood."



Install an Open-air Kitchen

At ground level, the base of the chimney houses the outdoor kitchen, which contains a sink, grill, and built-in cabinets. There is also a bar for serving. The entire kitchen can be made weathertight by closing wooden doors on two sides. A long table nearby can accommodate a variety of outdoor projects. Decking surrounds the kitchen; teak chairs, benches, and tables invite relaxation. ▶



A COMBINATION FIREPIT/FOUNTAIN

Near the deck is a unique, dual-purpose garden feature, in which a large, thick copper disc sits on a cylindrical stone base. To use it as a fountain in warm weather, the pump is turned on, and water from the base of the unit flows from the top of the stone and down its sides. The water is caught in a basin and pumped again to the top of the stone cylinder. In cooler weather, the fountain can be turned off and a fire built in the copper disc on top. Circular stone coping surrounds the entire installation.

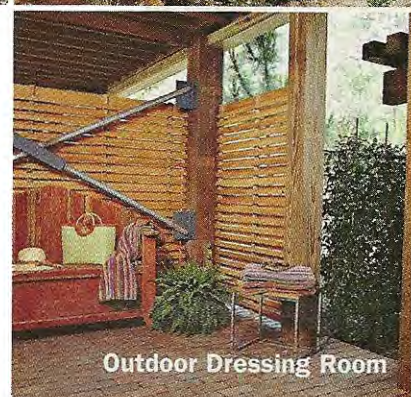
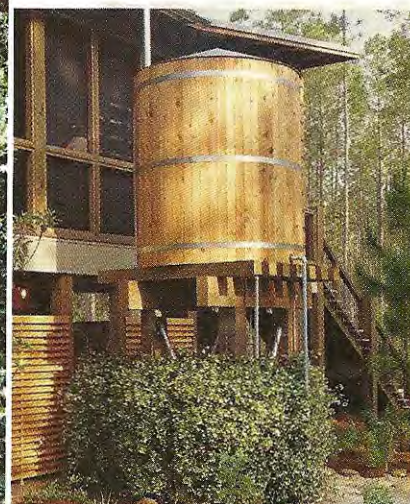




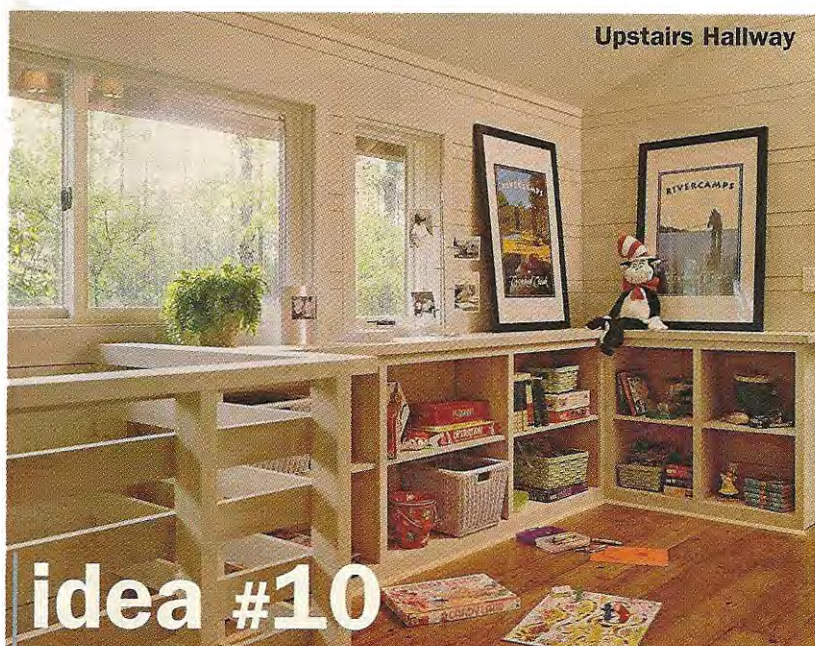
idea #9

Build an Outdoor Shower

An outside shower is a practical and fun feature. Trelliswork made from copper rods and wire and planted with rapidly growing Asian jasmine vines encloses the shower and connects it to a nearby dressing room. Above the shower, a cistern collects rainwater from the roof for use in the garden.



Outdoor Dressing Room



Upstairs Hallway

idea #10

Create a Play Space With Built-ins

Equipped with shelves for storage of games and toys, the upstairs hallway outside the children's room functions as a mini playroom. Kids can spread out board games or coloring books and enjoy

a sunny spot to play or color. Painted baskets attractively organize and store small items, making cleanup a breeze. Framed prints and family photos bring visual interest to the neutral space. ►

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For directions to West Bay
Landing and the dates that it is
open, turn to page 112.

Landscape Design

EcoPlan, Inc.,
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John Harrigan

Charity

The Woman's Club of Panama City

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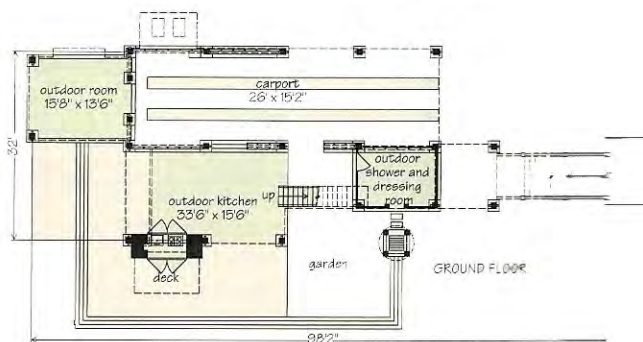
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