

Hearth to Hearth



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Q: These days I'm building smaller and smarter with an emphasis on innovative design. Fireplaces are an upgrade that most new-home buyers expect, but standard applications can be pretty boring. How can I make them more integral to my plans and show-stopping in their appeal?

A: A TRADITIONAL, SINGLE-SIDED FIREPLACE CARVED INTO AN EXTERIOR WALL CREATES INTIMACY BUT will often compromise usable living space, views, or natural light. A versatile alternative is the double-sided hearth, which is both luxurious and functional. This handsome feature can be used to delineate interior spaces in an open plan, to connect indoor and outdoor entertainment zones, or to liven up even the smallest outdoor retreat. **B**

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THE HEART OF THE HOME



Flanked by barrel-vaulted arches, this open fireplace breaks a large communal area down to a more human scale, yet preserves sight lines between kitchen and family room.

Wood-burning fireplaces require a hearth extension of 20 inches in front and a minimum 12 inches on either side. Although gas fireplaces are not beholden to the same code stipulations, a wide hearth usually wins points for good looks.

Stonework extends from the chimney surround to the entire wall, adding a rustic texture to the room.

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RETRO UPGRADE: A popular feature in 1920s bungalows, the inglenook (a small, fireside sitting area) makes a comeback in this open plan. It serves the same purpose as a formal living room but takes up less space and feels cozier.

THE ALL-WEATHER FIREPLACE

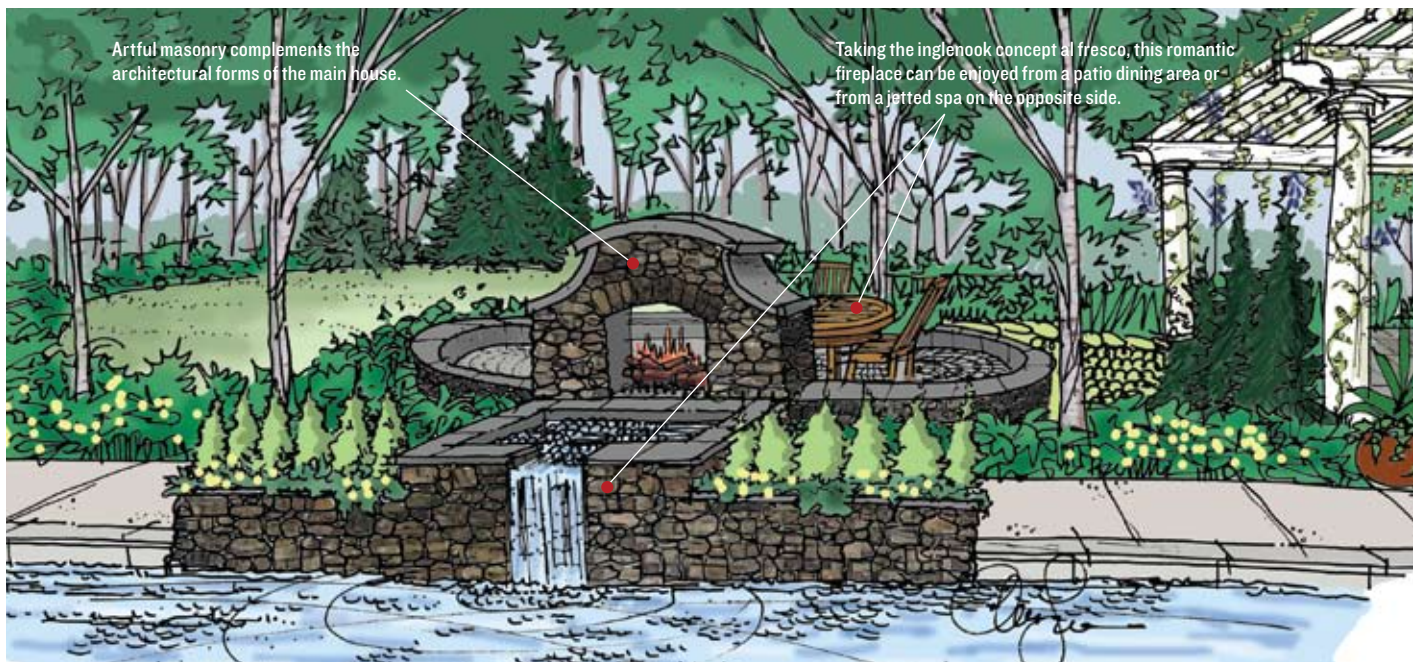


A double-sided gas fireplace with glass enclosures can provide ambiance both indoors and outdoors. This one vents out through the chimney and adds dimension to an otherwise flat exterior wall.

People have a natural tendency to congregate around the hearth. This graceful solution keeps foot traffic flowing between contiguous indoor and outdoor entertainment areas.

DOUBLE DUTY: This double-sided fireplace occupies a traditional spot on the side wall of a great room but then segues to an outdoor patio. This same approach could be used to connect a master suite to a private outdoor sitting area.

THE OUTDOOR RETREAT



Artful masonry complements the architectural forms of the main house.

Taking the inglenook concept al fresco, this romantic fireplace can be enjoyed from a patio dining area or from a jetted spa on the opposite side.

GAINING YARDAGE: Looking to offer added value on a small lot? An outdoor fireplace occupies relatively little landscape space while still making a big impression.

HAVE A DESIGN QUESTION?

SEND QUERIES AND CLEARLY READABLE PLANS (ON 8.5 X 11 PAPER) TO: JENNY SULLIVAN, FIRST DRAFT, ONE THOMAS CIRCLE, N.W., SUITE 600, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

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