

Chalise Kanafani
and sister Stacia
Wood catch up over
a glass of wine at the
backyard hearth.

It's **October**. It's **Denver**. And thanks to an ingenious
all-season backyard, this family enjoys an ...

endless summer

BY KAREN WEIR-JIMERSON | PHOTOS PETE KRUMHARDT | STYLING KARIN LIDBECK-BRENT | PRODUCED BY ELAINE ST. LOUIS





DOUBLE DUTY

The outdoor table morphs from romantic dining area to kids' craft station.

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A pergola draped with sweet autumn clematis provides privacy and blooms from August to October. Kale, *Heuchera*, *Rudbeckia*, and coleus create an autumnal patchwork in a pot nestled into a flowerbed of *Heuchera*, lady's mantle, and Japanese forestgrass.

The Kanafani family can't get enough of the outdoors. "We live outside as much as possible," says Chalise, who—with her husband, Ghassan, and landscape designer Wendy Booth of Ivy Street Design—packed the yard with options for eating, playing, and lounging hearthside. Entertaining is a snap in this versatile space. Almost all their parties start in the dining area and end up by the big stone fireplace. The covered fireside seating area is the heart of the yard, with a front-row view of nature's show in all seasons. "I love being able to watch storms roll in, smell the air, feel the shifting temperature, and experience the cycle of plants through the seasons," Chalise says. "On cold nights, the entire hearth is filled with friends sitting close to the fire." There's no rush to go back indoors from a yard that makes you want to linger.



Once the kids are grown, Chalise plans to have two raised beds for veggies, but for now, one is a sandbox, *above*.

Karl Foerster grass and flowering shrubs form a visual screen around the basketball court, *left*.

A large pot filled with ornamental kale and black-eyed Susans, *far left*, will thrive well into fall.

"It's not always easy to connect to nature in an urban environment. Having a space that encourages us **TO REALLY BE OUTSIDE** as much as possible is so important to us."

Chalise Kanafani



Chalise changes mantel decor seasonally. In fall, gourds and pumpkins line the ledge, along with a voluminous bouquet of cut hydrangeas, *left*. Lanterns and votives set the mood year-round.

Limelight hydrangeas flank the outdoor seating area, *above*, and soften any hard edges around the garden. "I wanted the plants to frame the whole property, kind of like hugging it in," Chalise says.