

Mexican Themed Outdoor Room

Step-by-Step Guide

Whether you are designing your outdoor room yourself, or working with a landscape architect, use this ten step guide to help you create the perfect Mexican courtyard.

Step 1: Determine the purpose of the space.

- A Mexican courtyard garden is all about people. Design your space for socializing, cooking, and dining.

Step 2: Walk your property.

- Think about how you can section off your space to create the intimate courtyard feel.

Step 3: Start a wish list.

- Browse images online of Mexican gardens and courtyards.
- Check out some of these great design idea books:
 - *In A Mexican Garden: Courtyards, Pools, and Open-Air Living Rooms*
 - *Hacienda Courtyards*
 - *Mexican Tiles: Color, Style, Design*
 - *Mexican Textiles*

Step 4: Go window shopping.

- Visit a retail location or showroom to see what's available.
- Be sure to check out chimineas, grills, and water features in person if possible.

Step 5: Think from the ground up.

- Decide on the best paving option for your patio. Will it be stamped concrete that mimics terra cotta tiles, a colored concrete patio with an authentic Aztec design, or warm earth toned concrete pavers?

Step 6: Make a plan.

- Sketch out your Mexican garden.
- Include patio layout and dimensions as well as positioning of cooking element, dining furniture, water feature, and hearth.

Step 7: Find a professional contractor.

- Visit ConcreteNetwork.com to find a concrete contractor near you that can help bring your vision to life.

Step 8: Add patio furniture.

- Place a rustic wooden, wrought-iron, or equipal dining set in a centralized location.

Step 9: Accentuate with landscaping.

- Plant cacti, fruit trees, broad leafed and tropical plants in flower beds and terra cotta planters or Talavera containers.

Step 10: Add the final details.

- Accessorize with bright primary colors – add a Mexican blanket or rug, paint a door bright blue.
- Add hammered metal light features to provide warm lighting for evening gatherings.