

# Elle Cole's Five Tips on Creating the Perfect Retreat

Texas-based interior designer Elle Cole brings us her five tips on creating the perfect retreat at home!

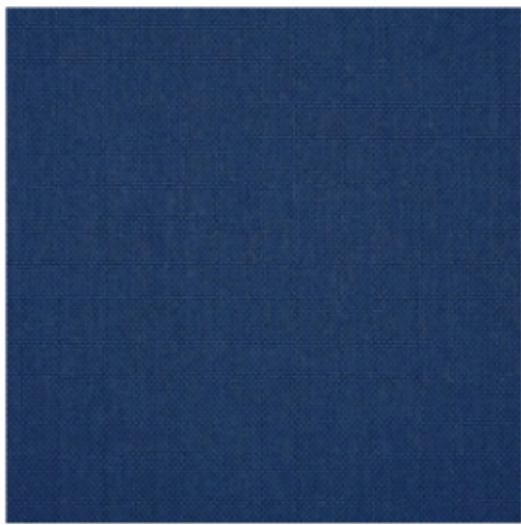
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The Perfect Retreat.

A stretch of Highway 1 and blue skies, where Tom Petty's got your number and the airwaves are a salty mix of old school rock, easy listening, and a touch of magic. Summer has its way of transporting us to melodious places where we drown out the noise of everyday, and take in the coolness of the season. A wish to explore the fun side of our lives, taking ourselves less serious. In your attempt to want to ditch the office for a nice drive along the coast, let's talk about your outdoor space being summer ready before you jump out of your office chair. As a lover of summer, and designer; curating outdoor spaces that provide an escape for our clients is our specialty. Are you wishing right about now you could have easy quick tips to elevate your outdoor space? So do we! This is why we've put together five design tips to help you create the ultimate retreat.



A few of my favorite patterns. Left: Cabana Regatta. Right: Spotlight Galaxy.

### Invest in Weather-Resistant Fabrics

There are dozens of durable, but beautiful outdoor fabrics for upholstery. They will give your space a polished look, and wear well through the sometimes harsh elements. One of our go-to textile lines is **Sunbrella**—they are known for their outdoor fabrics. And, they have a wonderful selection of color choices and patterns, making it easy to choose a fun color palette.



Interior



Exterior

### Create a Seamless Flow

Furnish your outdoor space with weather-resistant pieces that flow with, and are similar in style to the design of your indoor space. This creates a seamless flow from the interior to the exterior spaces. Otherwise, the exterior will feel disconnected and out of balance compared to the rest of your home.



Keep it Cool



## Keep it Cool

As much as we hesitate to use them, your outdoor space should have a fan to move the air throughout the space. This will make the space comfortable for your guests. There's nothing worse than seeing your guests start fanning themselves because it's too hot. There are too many great options on the market to settle for an unattractive fan. **Big Ass Fans**, no pun intended here, offers a wide range of styles and finishes. We love their fans because they are quiet and powerfully efficient in cooling off spaces.

## Let There be Light

Take advantage of summer night breezes by outfitting your outdoor living with ample lighting. When you're entertaining in the evening, your space should be as well lit as your interiors. It won't be pleasant if you're trying to entertain, and your guests are sitting in the dark! Kichler is a great outdoor line, their lighting has a high quality finish that's fabricated for outdoor use.



Maximize Your Seating

## Maximize Seating

Create multiple seating areas to make sure that there is ample room for your guests to casually mingle. While some guests are dining, others can be lounging out of the way of the rest. The image below is a great example of creating a comfortable space for multiple activities.

Get out of your office chair, and don't let this fun season go to waste. Make your outdoor living your new favorite escape!

*Elle Cole embarked on her interior design career after her stint in Economics at Southern Methodist University, honing her skills with luminary architect James Langford and decorator Betty Lou Phillips. In 2012, she opened her own design firm in the Dallas, Park Cities neighborhood. She is known for her classic brand of cozy glamour. Her unique aesthetic vision is characterized by playful mélanges of high and low, invigorated with splashes of color and modern gestures. Drawing on inspirations ranging from Richard Avedon fashion photographs to Mita Corsini Bland illustrations. Cole has crafted interiors for a wide array of venues. Her trademark approach to design has brought to life rooms infused with classics, modernism, and sophistication. She has a strong Art History background that is infiltrated with a love of classicism.*  
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