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INTERIOR DESIGN



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*10 Stylish Porch Railing Ideas to Level Up Your Outdoor Space*

*6 Small (But Mighty) Kitchens to Steal Inspiration from Right This Instant*

*4 Small Patio Ideas That Will Make You Want To Spend All Day Outside*

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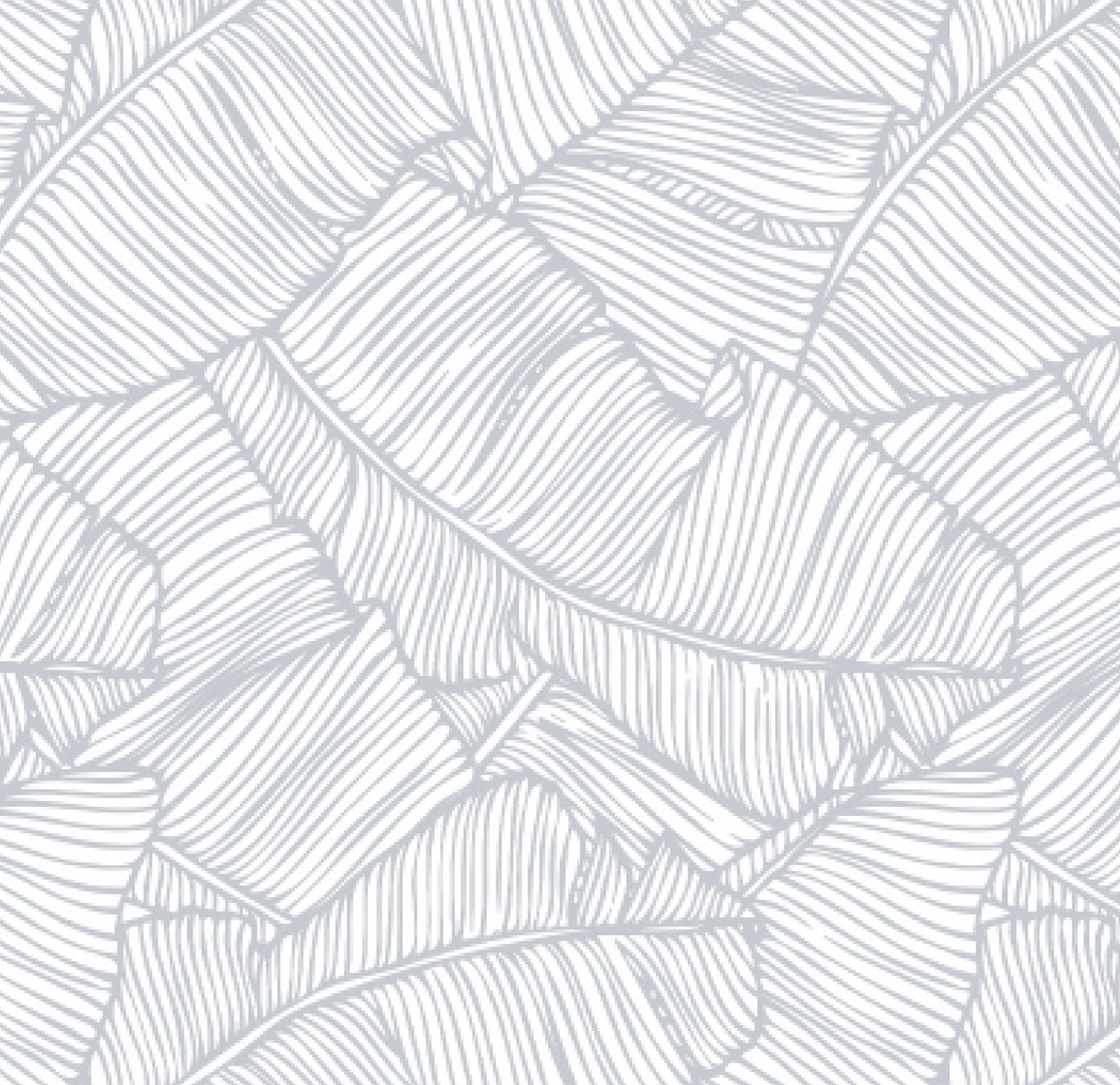


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**WHAT'S  
INSIDE?**

10 Stylish Porch Railing  
Ideas to Level Up Your  
Outdoor Space

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Kitchens to Steal Inspiration  
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# 10 STYLISH PORCH RAILING IDEAS TO LEVEL UP YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE

Italians love their piazzas, the French meet up for tête-à-têtes at sidewalk cafes, and Americans have their porches. First gaining headway in the U.S. in the mid-19th century, the front porch today epitomizes the American way of life—and offers a front-row seat to the rhythm of your neighborhood. Crucial to these sanctuaries—arguably as much as hanging chairs and sweet tea—are porch railings, which not only hem in your space but also reflect the vibe of your outdoor decor. From classically inclined baluster railings that resemble a country-style house to minimalist glass barriers that suit a more modern exterior, a railing can be that finishing touch that sets the tone for your house’s entire exterior.

Don’t know what to choose? Go minimal. “With thousands of railing design possibilities, homeowners and designers are leaning toward clean lines when choosing a railing for their porch these days,” says Ontario-based Art Metal Workshop’s Iryna Mediana, who says their customers are favoring modern, sleek, clean, thin, and geometric railing styles. “The less metal or wood, the better,” she adds, noting that a glass railing can make any traditional or modern house facade stand out.

Whatever your style, we’ve turned to the projects of our favorite designers for 15 porch railing ideas that are the picture of architectural flair.



1

## MEXICAN MODERNISM

A wrought-iron railing brings a minimalist look to this jewel of 20th-century Mexican modernism, Mark Grattan's home in Mexico City. The railing, which is original to the Luis Barragán-designed building, provides a clean, no-frills aesthetic that juxtaposes the red brick flooring. It's the ultimate escape from adulthood.



Maureen M. Evans



Ricardo Labougle

2

## PARED-BACK PRETTY

The second-floor sitting room in this festive Cartagena, Colombia, vacation home is a lesson in indoor-outdoor living. "The house is very fluid," says Chiqui de Echavarría. "I didn't want walls. I wanted it to be mostly open air." Mission accomplished. This baluster railing allows the spotlight to remain on the lush garden just beyond. While the railing design lies on the subtler end of the spectrum, its slight ornamentation gives it the feel of something extra.





Sylvie Becquet

3

### PORCH WITH A VIEW

To bring your porch to new heights—literally—take a cue from Bill Brockschmidt and Richard Dragisic’s terrace that overlooks Modica’s Cartellone district in Sicily. While the simple wrought-iron scheme might fall into the category of ubiquity, the surrounding foliage and floor tiles create a tranquil and stylish vibe that is anything but mundane.

4

### FLAT BAR BALUSTRADE

While a regular square railing can feel very industrial, the flat bar railing design on this Craftsman-style house in Ontario offers a light, slim look. “Vertical bars appear to be different sizes as you look at them at different angles (wide one side and thin other side),” says Art Metal Workshop’s Iryna Mediana. “Thus this style adds some interest to your railing and porch. The design suits both modern and traditional porches, so we can confidently say it’s universal.”



Yevgeniy Gorlov



5

## CLASSICALLY INCLINED

The porch is the only place where it's perfectly acceptable to wave at strangers, and this bright white, low wood railing is a classic example of one that exudes warmth and charm. Set against a ceiling painted in Benjamin Moore's Glacier Blue and a floor painted in California Paints' Bauhaus, this Connecticut country home is the ultimate summer escape.



Joshua McHugh



Ricardo Labougle

6

## RAILING ON SAFETY

The wrought-iron railing steals the show on this London townhouse, with Art Deco–esque details that bring sharp definition to the exterior and tie the old-meets-new design together. And for every concerned mother out there—here's proof that a tall railing needn't sacrifice looks or the view. Praise be.





William Abranowicz

7

**AMERICAN BEAUTY**

The front porch of this historic New York house is classic American style in all its glory, with a pair of parallel railings that add flair to the exterior of the house without taking away too much space or attention from the front entrance.

8

**CLASSIC THEMES**

This unabashedly classical Federal-style farmhouse in upstate New York features a charming white picket fence that is echoed in the design of the porch railings, accentuating the front-facing railings that guard the door beside two towering locust trees.



Joshua McHugh



9

## WOOD WONDER

Wood railings offer a rustic, warm aesthetic that, in the case of this back porch overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and Crockett Cove, blends into its surrounding forest backdrop seamlessly. Paired with a custom fir table by Brad Rice, this Maine vacation home has everything one would need to get some serious rest and relaxation.



Maura McEvoy



William Jess Laird

10

## IMPRESSIVE IRONWORK

This cast-iron balcony leading up the steps of Michelle R. Smith's 1865 Big Easy home in New Orleans's Garden District, has Southern charm in spades. The pattern, tangled with flower and leaf motifs, frames the space with fluid elegance.



# 8 SMALL (BUT MIGHTY) KITCHENS TO STEAL INSPIRATION FROM RIGHT THIS INSTANT

Living with a small kitchen is invariably frustrating, whether you're a diehard gourmand or the type of person who uses the oven as wardrobe overflow. Spatial gymnastics, like chopping vegetables on a counter the size of a postage stamp or sucking in your stomach to navigate the passage between your refrigerator and kitchen island, can get old—fast. But being short on square footage should never inhibit the design potential of your kitchen. In fact, you might be surprised by the myriad methods out there to make even the most pint-size of cooking areas look and feel grand.

“Always extend your cabinets to the ceiling no matter the size of your kitchen,” advises Lauren Buxbaum Gordon, a partner at Nate Berkus Associates. “It will make your ceilings feel higher and your kitchen bigger.” She recently incorporated this spatial trick into a Manhattan apartment with a tiny kitchen. If sky-high cupboards aren't possible (we hear you renters), Buxbaum Gordon recommends thinking small: “Invest in details that will add up visually and feel impactful. Whether beveling or adding a brass band to the face of the countertop or bringing in vintage hardware... use these little details to make your personal imprint.”

Swapping a dreary paint shade for a light-and-bright one on your cupboards can go a long way too, in addition to a bevy of other tips and tricks. So we've rounded up 81 small kitchens from our archive to show you precisely how. Read on to see gorgeous homes that make the most of their small layouts with bold cabinetry, double-duty accent pieces, sleek lighting solutions, and more. Bon appétit!







Rachael Smith

1

## PAIR SMART STORAGE WITH A FRESH HUE

This Victorian farmhouse in the Oxfordshire, England, digs of Toast CEO Suzie de Rohan Willner may be on the small side, but it sings with country charm. Bright green lower cabinets help the eye to zip around the space, while open shelving allows for smart storage and display of chic knickknacks.

2

## TOWERING CABINETS AND WHITE PAINT

The client of this Manhattan apartment doesn't use her small galley-style kitchen that often, but that didn't keep designer Lauren Buxbaum Gordon from making it a showpiece. Her signature move? To extend the cabinetry all the way up to the soaring period ceilings. Light countertops and a glossy white paint job let sunshine into the room, but it's the gleaming gold hardware and accents that really make this small kitchen a winner.



Maura McEvoy



3

## INKY BLACK BACKSPLASH

When you're working with a 16th-century townhouse, like French designer Eric Allart did, you have to embrace the period quirks. This kitchen came complete with terra-cotta tiles. Rather than rip them out, Allart kept them in place and designed a quirky kitchen in unexpected hues to complement them. Here, an inky tile backsplash refracts sunlight, and a Pepto-pink shade on the walls and ceilings works to move the eye upward.



Simon Upton



Chris Mottalini

4

## CREAM DREAM

This apartment, designed by New York firm Husband Wife, employs Buxbaum Gordon's towering kitchen cabinet rule. But rather than resort to the usual all-white, the designers clad the walls in a swirling marble and coated the cabinets in the dreamiest shade of glossy cream paint. It's the perfect combo of classic and contemporary.





Pieter Estersohn

5

## TINY DINING

A small area didn't stop Nate Berkus from incorporating a diminutive table and chairs (a vintage architect's desk and school chairs) into his former Chicago kitchen. The metal cabinets were original to the 1929 apartment and pack in just the right amount of industrial-chic storage.

6

## SHIPSHAPE CHARM

You'd never believe it, but this Provincetown, Massachusetts, cottage started life out as a humble fishing shack. Designer David Cafiero embraced the nautical theme throughout the house, including in this pint-size galley kitchen, which was modeled after a ship's cooking space.



Simon Upton





## 4 SMALL PATIO IDEAS THAT WILL MAKE YOU WANT TO SPEND ALL DAY OUTSIDE

In a perfect world, your home would have a sprawling backyard with designated spaces for a pool, an outdoor kitchen, and a lounge area. The reality for most of us (we're looking at you, city dwellers)? A small deck or a diminutive patch of grass. But, if the homes in ELLE DECOR have taught us anything, it's that big design opportunities can come in small packages—you just need to get a little creative.

Depending on where you live, your outdoor space might be a part-time setup that you furnish once sunny weather hits. Whether you treat your area as a seasonal retreat or a year-round hot spot for postdinner s'mores, it should be connected to the rest of your home decor. To help take your style outside, we've pored over the archives to find the small patio ideas that are big on style. From fire pits to fetching furniture, the spaces below make a case for embracing Mother Nature in all her glory.



1

## ACCENTUATE YOUR ANGLES

Calling all minimalists: Pared-back furniture is the perfect way to bring some modernity to the great outdoors. When designers Christine and John Gachot revived Paul Rudolph's former Manhattan home, they dressed the outdoor space in Blu Dot's sleek table, a set of custom chairs, and a classic Charlotte Perriand stool. The result? A winning combination of hard and soft elements.



Nicole Franzen



Joe Fletcher

2

## LOUNGE AWAY

For a small patio idea that looks as good as it operates, take a cue from Studio Schicketanz and add a set of matching chaise longues. The sleek style is fitting for this Silicon Valley home, while the Kerry Joyce performance fabric will keep stains and spots to a minimum.





Stephen Kent Johnson

3

### STUN WITH SYMMETRY

Think of a symmetrical setup as the furniture equivalent to ASMR; one that could look good in all spaces and sizes. This Hamptons, New York, home nails the look with a coordinating conversation set and Paola Lenti's patio table.

4

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