

What's on deck

Refurbish docks and outdoor rooms with timeless materials, bright colors and eco-savvy style.

Outfitting DOCKS and other waterside areas with sturdy, durable, fade-resistant furnishings constructed of envirowood or marine-grade polymers is a choice that makes sense, said Ashleigh Kosin, owner of Richland-based Bell Tower Outdoor Living Company.

"Many people are looking to create a patio space around the dock area or enlarging their dock area," Kosin said. "They're looking for furniture that won't blow off or move around with a strong wind."

She recommends chaise lounges from Telescope Casual.

"They're very durable year-round," she noted.

Also meeting the need for earth-friendly outdoor furnishings are mission-style tables, bars and chairs constructed of reclaimed pine, oak and hickory barn wood.

"Reclaimed wood has been pretty popular," said Tammy Kluting of Marne-based Fence Row Furniture. The family-owned company met with such great demand for reclaimed barn wood furniture they were selling exclusively online, they opened a showroom in October of 2010.

"The look isn't a look you can get everywhere," she said. "It's definitely unique; we hand-build each piece to order."

Wicker furnishings reminiscent of a by-gone era are expected to be sought out this spring. Menominee-based Lloyd/Flanders offers heirloom-quality traditional and contemporary designs constructed of durable, weather-resistant materials.

"We're seeing a lot of the basics — the wicker, the classic teak furniture, the wrought iron," said David Pobuda, operations manager for Edward's Home Furnishings in Sutton's Bay. "In the right setting they take us back to a simpler time when things weren't so hectic and fast-paced."

Paired with these classic materials are bright pops of color, Pobuda added.

Umbrella fabrics are fantastic now, and they're available in every print and color of the rainbow," he said. "Options are limitless."

- Cyndi Lieske

