

* BRIGHT NEW LOOK! *

Southern Living®

OCTOBER 2009

Fresh & Fabulous!

38 Foolproof Delicious Recipes

GLAZED MINI
PUMPKIN
CAKES
PAGE 140

HALLOWEEN PARTY IN 30 MINUTES

WEEKEND INSPIRATIONS

- BULBS TO PLANT NOW
- DONE-IN-A-DAY ORGANIZER



MAMA'S WAY or YOUR WAY?

Quick and classic
takes on warm
apple dumplings



**MADE BY
SOUTHERN HANDS**
GORGEOUS GIFTS & FINDS FOR FALL



Here's how well this fireplace works: On shoot day, we stayed warm though the temperature was in the 30s.


Build an Outdoor Fireplace

A big project that will reward you for years. Expert Will Goodman tells you how to create an aah-inspiring outdoor sanctuary.

BY **REBECCA BULL REED**

We've shown you many outdoor fireplaces over the years, but we've never really told you how to *build* one. Then we found Will Goodman, landscape architect and fireplace guru. Here, the Marietta, Georgia, native gives his guiding principles for building an outdoor fireplace. A little daunted by the idea? Read on—you'll be hooked: His tips are the keys to creating a great outdoor space.

1 Create a destination that takes advantage of a view. When you add a fireplace, you gain a retreat. Perched atop a ridge, a valley of hardwoods below, Will's fireplace is located nearly 30 yards from his home. Defined by stone sitting-height walls and a pea gravel floor, the area is roomy enough for half a dozen chairs and a picnic table. "Fireplaces are people magnets," says Will, "so plan on visitors." A 20- x 20-foot space is ideal.



Opt for a firebox that has at least a 48- or 52-inch opening.

2 Maximize heat by building a fireplace with the proper dimensions. This helps the fireplace draw and produce more heat. “Skilled fireplace craftsmen are hard to find,” Will says. “I recommend using a kit.” The Isokern brand (www.isokern.net) tops Will’s list because the Danish company’s fireplaces are guaranteed to draw. Buckley Rumford Company (rumford.com) is also a good source. Veneer the kit’s block with a favorite material, such as stone or brick.

3 Tell a story by personalizing your design. “A unique, decorative keystone is a must,” says Will. The hand-carved arrowhead keystone is a respectful bow to the Cherokee Indian trail that ran atop the ridge where his fireplace sits today. The acorn mantel brackets, also made by a craftsman, are a nod to the name of his home, Oakton, the oldest continuously occupied residence (1838) in Marietta.



Detail
WE LOVE:
A so-Southern millstone set into an economical pea gravel patio

THE SPARK THAT STARTED IT ALL

Will was inspired by this fireplace crane he purchased from a Chicago estate off eBay. He designed the firebox—55 inches tall, 50 inches wide, and 20 inches deep—to accommodate it. For a similar crane try rumford.com/store.



More Great Advice FROM WILL

- **Research your municipality's outdoor fireplace codes.** They'll dictate what you can and cannot do in your yard.
- **Consider scale.** An outdoor fireplace should be at least 8 feet tall to have presence and to direct smoke away.
- **Budget between \$12,000 and \$16,000,** depending on the complexity of your design.
- **Start with a strong base.** Always get an engineer to size your footing.
- **Install natural gas,** even if you don't think you'll use it. Fire starting will be easier, and a gas line would cost more to add later. If a grill or outdoor kitchen is in your future, you'll already have gas access.
- **Include a mantel.** It's perfect for displaying art. Look for chunky, rustic beams salvaged from old homes or barns. Sawmills are a good source.
- **Cap the top** to keep out rain, disperse heat, and arrest sparks. Remove overhanging limbs so they don't become fire hazards.
- **Consider a hearth.** They raise the firebox 18 to 20 inches above the ground, maximizing heat. Plus, you'll gain extra seating and a place to prop your feet.
- **Add a roof**—you'll enjoy the space even in rain. Will's chimney is 22 feet tall to accommodate a roof later on. *

 LOVE IT? GET IT! PAGE 168



TURN YOUR OUTDOOR ROOM INTO A COZY RETREAT FOR FALL.
SEE 20 INSPIRING ROOMS: southernliving.com/october2009