

Cooking with **Paula** deena™

**Paula
& Jack**
Make Fun
Halloween
Treats

97

RECIPES,
TIPS, AND
IDEAS

Morgan Freeman

Shares His Hometown,
Good Food, and the Blues

5 EASY MENUS
for **Sunday
Suppers**

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008

\$4.99 US



Jack-o'-Lantern Apples
page 46

The Party Is Moving

Fall weather, two teenage boys, one daughter, two dogs, and two parents—it's time to take the fun outdoors.

BY LINDA WRIGHT / PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAC JAMIESON AND MARCY SIMPSON



outdoor rooms



An area rug adds comfort and color to a porch design.



The screened porch has been a staple for generations. Porches provide cool shade on sunny days and a protective cover on rainy afternoons. Wicker or leftover furniture that found its way to the porch was once common décor. Wicker is still a popular choice for furniture, but hardly the only choice. A variety of weatherproof furniture and cushions such as these La-Z-Boy sectionals can be found at home-improvement stores, as well as speciality outdoor furniture shops.

Area rugs add comfort and color to a porch. Many designed for the outdoors can be washed with the spray of a hose, making cleanup easy. Whether a Paula Deen floral design by Kaleen or a solid color from Homespice Décor, rugs provide a block of color and an anchor for the furniture.

With small refrigerators and grills nearby, dinner can be enjoyed while watching the ball game on the big-screen TV hanging on the wall—all the comforts of home, on the porch. The family playroom, once delegated to the basement, now seems to have moved to the porch and made itself right at home.

See Resources page 92 for more info.

fire pit was placed off to the side where the dogs had worn away the grass. To stabilize the area around the pool, concrete was poured to form a retaining wall. A section of metal fence was installed, allowing cooks and partyers to enjoy a view of the pool.

And in the middle of all this hustle and bustle the contractor's wife had a baby. But with only a short break, the work went on. New furniture was added to provide more seating. And pots of herbs and flowers added the final touch of color.

The people at Alfresco say, "After a busy work week, there's nothing better than relaxing in the backyard—the sizzle of the grill, the smell of seasoning, and the promise of a good meal to come." This family isn't waiting for the weekend. They step outside as often as possible and say they are wowed each and every time. 🍃



Left, The fire pit provides a gathering place for family and friends to solve the world's problems—and it rejuvenates the side yard that had been run down by the dogs. *Above*, A colorful umbrella over a new dining table and chairs by Summer Classics creates an inviting place to gather for meals and snacks. And positioned with a view of the pool, it's easy to keep an eye out for the swimmers below.