



THE AUSTIN BACKYARD STYLE GUIDE

Find your *dream backyard.*

Styles, color palettes, the difference between a pergola and a pavilion, fence styles explained, and a backyard bucket list.

✿ Plus free bluebonnet seeds by mail. Plant them this fall.

START HERE

Find what you *love first.*

No plans, no measuring. That's John's job. Yours is the fun part: noticing what makes you stop and say "that one."

Pick a style.

Page 3 has four Austin backyard looks with their color palettes. Screenshot the one that feels like you.

Choose your colors.

Page 4 shows wood tones and what goes with your house.

Learn the lingo.

Pages 5 to 10 show fences, shade, decks, patios, gates and lighting, drawn out so you can point to exactly what you want.

Think about the feeling.

Lazy Sunday, big party, quiet coffee? That tells us more than any sketch.

WHERE TO FIND INSPIRATION YOU'LL LOVE

Save anything that makes you smile: a neighbor's fence, a restaurant patio, a photo online. Try searching these on Pinterest or Houzz:

Hill Country patio horizontal cedar fence modern pergola covered patio ceiling fan
screened porch ideas farmhouse back porch pool pavilion string light pergola
stained cedar fence black metal deck railing

Then text your favorites to John at **(512) 587-3914**. Screenshots are perfect.

PICK YOUR STYLE

Four Austin *backyard looks.*

Find the one that feels like home. Mixing two is completely normal.

Texas Hill Country

A ranch evening with a cold drink



Limestone Natural cedar Galvanized Sage Cream

- ✓ Cedar posts and beams
- ✓ Standing-seam metal roof
- ✓ Limestone or stone accents
- ✓ Split rail where there's a view
- ✓ Warm string lights

Modern Austin

Clean lines, warm wood, black accents



Honey Matte black Concrete White Charcoal

- ✓ Horizontal cedar fence
- ✓ Black metal railings
- ✓ Low, simple roof lines
- ✓ Broom or stamped concrete
- ✓ Step and wall lights

Modern Farmhouse

Rocking chairs and a ceiling fan



White Matte black Natural pine Greige Sage

- ✓ Tongue-and-groove ceiling
- ✓ Black ceiling fan and fixtures
- ✓ Classic picket railing
- ✓ Wide front-porch steps
- ✓ A porch swing

Classic Cozy

Warm, rich and timeless



Chestnut Red brick Cream Forest green Bronze

- ✓ Stained cedar, board-on-board
- ✓ Pergola with a lattice privacy screen
- ✓ Brick or stone columns
- ✓ Lanterns and warm bulbs
- ✓ Potted plants everywhere

COLOR GUIDE

Wood tones, and what goes with your house.



Natural cedar

Fresh and warm. Left unsealed, it slowly weathers to a soft silver.

Pairs with: Limestone, white, cream



Honey

A golden glow that makes cedar grain pop.

Pairs with: White, black accents, modern homes



Chestnut

Rich and classic. Hides wear well.

Pairs with: Red brick, cream, green trim



Weathered gray

Calm and coastal, the look of aged wood on day one.

Pairs with: Gray brick, charcoal, white



Espresso

Dark and dramatic, with a modern edge.

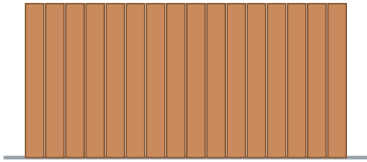
Pairs with: Light siding, limestone

MATCH IT TO YOUR HOUSE

Your house	Try this wood tone	Metal accents
White or light siding	● Honey or natural cedar	Matte black
Red brick	● Chestnut	Bronze
Limestone	● Natural cedar	Galvanized or bronze
Gray or charcoal	● Weathered gray or espresso	Matte black
Greige or tan	● Honey	Bronze or black

Good to know: many Austin HOAs approve only certain stain colors, and lighter colors stay cooler underfoot in July. We check your HOA's rules before you fall in love with a color.

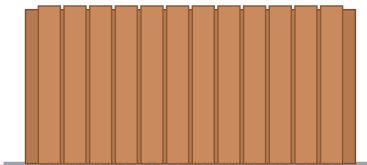
Which fence *is which?*



Side-by-side

Classic and the most common privacy fence.

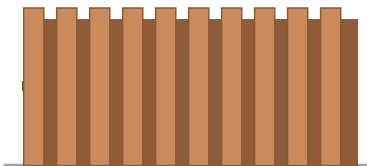
Privacy ●●●●● Best for: Most backyards



Board-on-board

Overlapping boards, so no gaps open up as the wood dries.

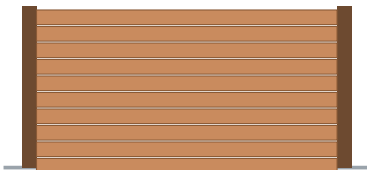
Privacy ●●●●● Best for: Total privacy



Shadowbox

Boards alternate sides, so it looks good from both yards.

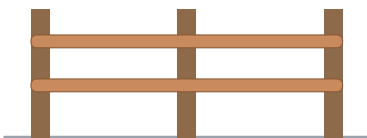
Privacy ●●●●● Best for: Happy neighbors, breezy yards



Horizontal

Long, clean lines with a modern look.

Privacy ●●●●● Best for: Modern homes



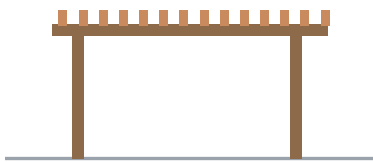
Split rail

Open and rustic. Add wire mesh to keep the dogs in.

Privacy ●●●●● Best for: Acreage and views

Whatever the style, the posts decide how long it lasts. We set them deep for Austin's clay and rock, and steel posts are an option.

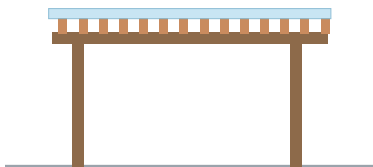
Pergola, patio cover or pavilion?



Open pergola

Dappled shade and a gorgeous frame for string lights. Rain gets through.

Shade ●●●●● Rain gets through · Best for: Evenings and atmosphere



Pergola with a clear roof

Keeps rain off but lets light in, so the space stays bright.

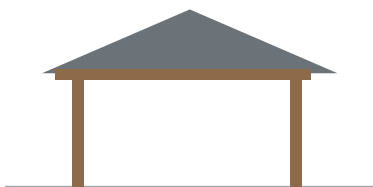
Shade ●●●●● Keeps rain off · Best for: Grilling in any weather



Solid patio cover

Real shade, attached to the house, often with a ceiling fan.

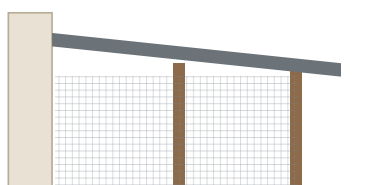
Shade ●●●●● Keeps rain off · Best for: Everyday use, all summer



Freestanding pavilion

A roofed room anywhere in the yard, like next to the pool.

Shade ●●●●● Keeps rain off · Best for: Pools and big yards



Screened porch

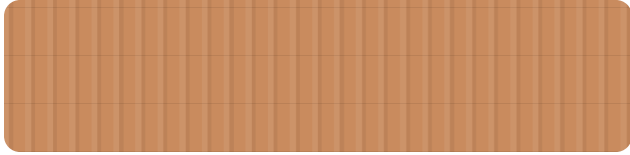
A covered room with screens, so the bugs stay out.

Shade ●●●●● Keeps rain off · Best for: Mosquito-free evenings

Add-ons that make shade even better: ceiling fans, lights, a tongue-and-groove ceiling, outdoor curtains.

DECKING, EXPLAINED

What should *you walk on?*



Cedar

Warm color and a real wood feel. Naturally resists rot.

Easy upkeep ●●●●● Best for: Natural wood lovers

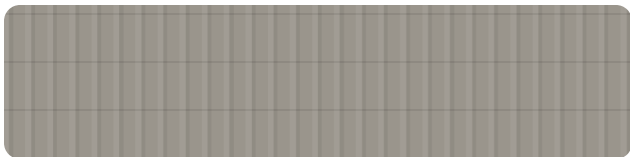


Pressure-treated pine

Sturdy and the most budget-friendly. Stain or seal it every couple of years.

Easy upkeep ●●●●●

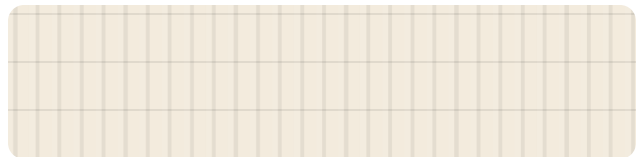
Best for: Getting the most deck for your money



Composite

No staining, ever. Pick a lighter color, because dark boards get hot in the sun.

Easy upkeep ●●●●● Best for: Low maintenance



PVC

The lightest, and the best around water. No wood inside at all.

Easy upkeep ●●●●● Best for: Pools and wet spots

Austin tip. Every deck board gets warm in July, and color matters more than brand. Light boards and a little shade overhead make the biggest difference.

FINISHING TOUCHES PEOPLE LOVE

String lights

Ceiling fans

Step lights

Built-in benches

Privacy screens

Outdoor curtains

Wide, easy steps

Hidden fasteners

A matching gate

Stone or brick columns

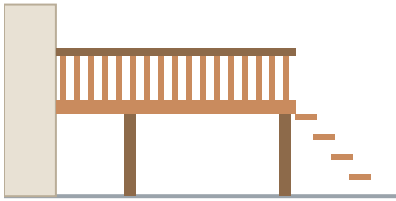
DECKS, DRAWN

Deck shapes *and railings.*



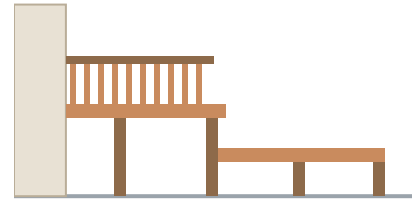
Ground-level

Low and simple. Under 30 inches, no railing needed.



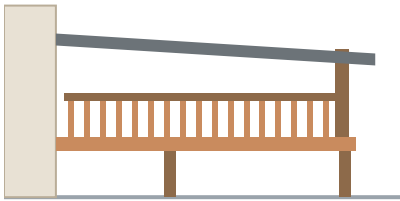
Raised with stairs

Steps right out of the back door on a sloped lot.



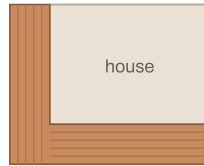
Multi-level

Two levels: one to dine, one to lounge.



Covered deck

A roof overhead for shade and rain.



Wraparound porch

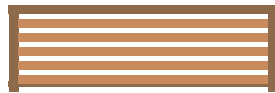
Wraps around the house, front to back.

RAILING STYLES



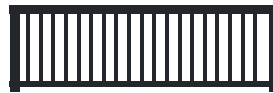
Classic picket

Timeless, and it matches any wood deck.



Horizontal wood

Clean and modern.



Black metal

Slim balusters that open up the view.



Wire panel

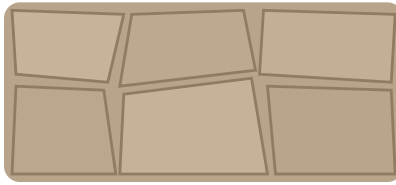
Rustic and almost see-through.

Patio finishes *and roof shapes.*



Broom concrete

Simple, clean and not slippery.



Stamped concrete

Pressed to look like stone.



Stained concrete

Warm color soaked right in.



Pavers

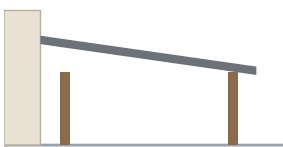
Individual stones in a pattern.



Limestone flagstone

The classic Hill Country look.

ROOF SHAPES FOR PATIO COVERS AND PAVILIONS



Shed roof

Slopes away from the house. Simple and clean.



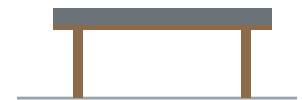
Gable roof

A peak in the middle, like a little house.



Hip roof

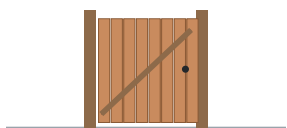
Slopes on all sides. Polished and sturdy.



Low-slope roof

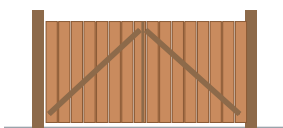
A modern, low profile.

The details people *notice first.*



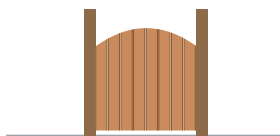
Walk gate

A single gate with a brace so it never sags.



Double drive gate

Wide enough for a trailer or mower.



Arched gate

A curved top that feels like an entrance.



Modern slat gate

Horizontal boards on a black metal frame.

LIGHTING IDEAS



String lights

Instant evening magic.



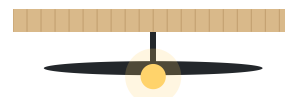
Step lights

Safe steps after dark.



Post cap lights

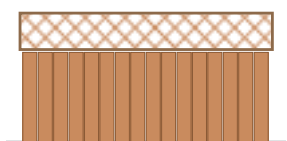
A soft glow along the fence or rail.



Fan with a light

Breeze and light in one.

PRIVACY AND COZY EXTRAS



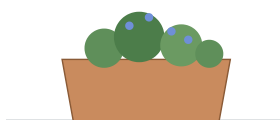
Lattice topper

A little extra height and charm.



Privacy screen

Blocks one view without a whole fence.



Planter boxes

Built-in color, maybe even bluebonnets.



Outdoor curtains

Shade and privacy you can pull closed.

Five backyards *to get you dreaming.*

Each one is a mix of the pieces in this guide. Pick a favorite, or invent your own.



The Weekend Hangout

"Saturday, 8pm, string lights on, nobody wants to go inside."

Open cedar pergola + string lights + a concrete patio



The Pool Day Pavilion

"Kids in the water, grown-ups in the shade."

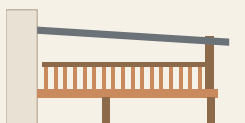
Freestanding pavilion + metal roof + ceiling fan



The Bug-Free Evening

"Windows-open weather without the mosquitoes."

Screened porch + pine ceiling + ceiling fan



The Morning Coffee Deck

"First light, coffee in hand, a roof overhead."

Covered deck + light-colored boards + wide steps



The Private Backyard

"Close the gate and the yard is yours."

Board-on-board or horizontal cedar + a matching gate

Your Austin *backyard year.*

Jan – Feb

Plan spring projects. Winter has the shortest wait for builds, and HOA approval takes 2 to 4 weeks.

Mar – Apr

Bluebonnets bloom. Hail season starts, so look over the roof and fence after big storms.

May – Jun

Shade season. Aim sprinklers away from fences and decks. Constant water is what rots cedar.

Jul – Aug

Too hot to stain. Plan fall builds now, because fall fills up fast.

Sep

Get on the schedule for fall. Pull mulch and soil back from fence pickets.

Oct – Nov

The best building weather of the year. Plant your bluebonnets. Stain or seal cedar while it's mild.

Dec

Sweep leaves off the deck and out from between boards. Check that gates still latch.



Planted your seeds? Look for blue in March.

The Austin backyard *bucket list.*

☐

Watch a Texas sunset from your own chair

☐

Dinner under string lights

☐

Spot the first bluebonnet you planted

☐

A July afternoon in real shade

☐

Morning coffee before the heat hits

☐

Backyard movie night

☐

Stargaze on a clear winter night

☐

Grill something on a Tuesday, just because

☐

A kids' campout in the yard

☐

Watch a spring storm from a covered patio

☐

Host Friendsgiving outside

☐

A nap in a hammock

Snap a photo when you check one off. We'd love to see it.

FROM OUR NEIGHBORS

Don't take *our word for it.*

★ 5.0 on Google

🏆 Nextdoor Neighborhood Fave 2025 & 2026

Family-owned · Licensed & insured

★★★★★

"If I could give more stars I would. John was the only person who understood my request, quoted me a fair price, and did excellent work."

Theresa B. · Patio cover

★★★★★

"Whole job start to finish went smoothly. Crews were fantastic and professional, and John was in communication start to finish."

Terry M. · Fence, roof and paint

★★★★★

"Fair, reliable, and honest. They gave us an honest assessment and a great price."

Reid C. · Fence repair

★★★★★

"John did a great job replacing my wood privacy fence, keeping both my tenant and neighbor happy."

Tanya D. · Privacy fence

★★★★★

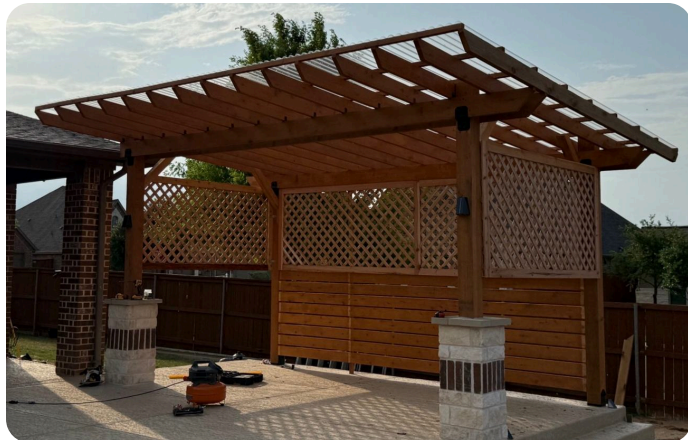
"John is a super nice guy and very pleasant to work with!"

Brian M. · Siding

Good now, good later. A backyard you actually use is extra living space for most of the year here, and outdoor living tends to return more of its cost at sale than most big interior remodels.

A FEW OF OUR BACKYARDS

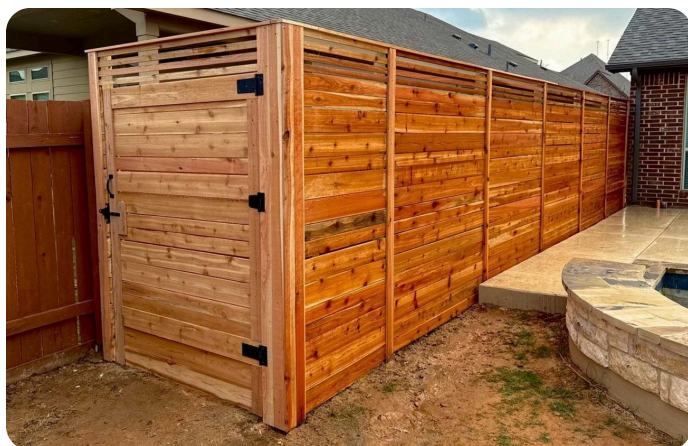
Built by JB *around Austin.*



Cedar pavilion with a privacy screen



Metal-roof pavilion by the pool



Stained horizontal cedar fence



Covered deck with a view



Covered patio with columns



Split rail with stone posts



A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOUR YARD

Plant your bluebonnets *this fall.*

1. **Plant in October or November.** They grow through winter and bloom in spring.
2. **Soak the seeds overnight** in warm water to soften the hard coat.
3. **Pick full sun and soil that drains.** They like our rocky ground just fine.
4. **Press them in lightly**, about 1/8 inch deep, and keep the soil damp for a few weeks.
5. **Then leave them be.** Look for blue in March and April.

Found what you love?

Screenshot the ideas you love and text them to John. He handles the measuring, design, HOA and permits.

(512) 587-3914 · jbcontractingatx.com