

SPACE OF THE MONTH
**A Cozy Spot for
 Outdoor
 Entertaining**

Low temps don't keep this couple from enjoying their great deck. With a few easy tweaks, they've managed to create a four-season backyard.

BY LESLIE CORONA



Photographs by Bryan Gardner

Meet the Owners

**HERMAN VEGA AND
 EDUARDO RODRIGUEZ**

This artistic couple has deep roots in the design world: Herman (below, left) is the creative director at *People en Español*, and Eduardo is an interior designer (dsgnr.nyc). They've furnished the deck and patio of their home in New York's Catskill Mountains to reflect their luxurious-but-approachable aesthetic and welcome guests year-round while practicing social distancing. Sure, it gets cold out there, but they stay warm the old-fashioned way, "with lots of firewood!" Here's how to bring their entertaining style to your own backyard.



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Get the Look



LAYER LIGHTING for a glowy, inviting atmosphere. Lanterns and an outdoor floor lamp add ambience and illuminate the steps for safety. **TO BUY:** Kent Wire Hurricane Candle Holder, from \$15; crateandbarrel.com.



CREATE "ROOMS" by arranging furniture in distinct seating areas. Hang string lights to form a "ceiling" overhead. **TO BUY:** Brava Dining Lounge Wicker Chair, \$329; cb2.com.

The firepit (Esschert Design Fire Bowl, \$250; amazon.com) makes 35-degree weather actually pleasant. Check out our safety tips at realsimple.com/firepit.

WARM UP your outdoor decor (and keep people toasty) with pillows, throws, and faux sheepskins. **TO BUY:** Buffalo Plaid Lumbar Pillows, \$37.50 for 2; qvc.com. Rens Sheepskin, \$30; ikea-usa.com.



To avoid smoke in your eyes, use very dry firewood, and stack logs in the shape of a teepee or log cabin to maximize airflow.