

And it's not just for the spatially challenged. "Bulli-in seating is a way to define the architecture of the space," says Jon Hamfley of New York's Pulltab Design. "By using fixed seating areasy ou establish an anchor point that beligs to define an area, be it for a group of people or a hideaway for an individual." Obviously, built ins area to not refer movemitment and may not be the best choice

for someone who regularly hosts both enthore dimens and cocktail parties with mingling guest. "Is a fined leam," say occurately Michically, principal of Three Sixty Design, a landscape architecture firm in Demoer. "So sometimes it can be too limiting for a space that requires more flexibility." A recent upsurge of stylish, fluctional outdoor formiture has some garden professionals gravitating toward the versatility of movable seating. "There is so much amazing outdoor furniture and so many faircist och colors from today," say New York Indicape designer fails

> ing than built-ins." But there is space for compromise: A built-in bench on the border of a deck, garden, or patio, for instance, can double as a dining area when combined with a portable dining table and chairs. While built-in seating is there to stay, its

accountrements are not — pillows, cushions, finishes, and decorative accessories can be swapped out to freshen a space. Reworking the accompanying plantings can overhaul a space if it begins to feel stale, as can adding an arbor and climbing vines or exotic potted plants.

stretches far beyond its ability to maximize outdoor living space or extend an archivariant structure to the landscape. It provides a place to nestle into the retreat we so lovingly tend to and survey our work from the inside out. "Using built-ins gives the feeling it down in a garden bed," says Kamoon. "I think it's lovely."

## FOR FOCUS

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A sunken senting area to sid Cubero and James tong devised for the 2011. Its Chelsea Flower Show allows uninterrupted stems of the garden in a cool, shaded extension of the main building—entirely encircled by a centrely encircled by a

