



### Outdoor nook for two

A filigreed gazebo turns this side yard in Davis, California, into an enchanting setting for alfresco dining. Landscape designer Michael Glassman and wife Kathleen found the airy, 11-foot-tall, rusted-iron structure at a local nursery for less than \$1,000, and added a candle chandelier and a pair of tall candle stands for nighttime ambience.

To make an intriguing “rug,” Michael glued 12-inch mosaic marble tiles to cast concrete squares, filling spaces between them with decomposed granite.

**DESIGN** Michael Glassman & Associates, Sacramento ([www.michaelglassman.com](http://www.michaelglassman.com) or 916/736-2222)



#### QUICK IDEA

### Fourth of July tabletop

Combine a tablecloth, table runner, napkins, and lanterns in patriotic colors for festive outdoor decor without the holiday kitsch.

First, cover your table in blue (we used the Hemstitched tablecloth from Williams-Sonoma, \$122; [www.williams-sonoma.com](http://www.williams-sonoma.com)). Lay a white runner (ours is the Classic Hotel table runner from Pottery Barn, \$19; [www.potterybarn.com](http://www.potterybarn.com) or 800/922-5507) down the length of the table.

Fold and iron red

napkins (we used buffet ones from Cost Plus World Market, \$9.99 for 6; [www.worldmarket.com](http://www.worldmarket.com) or 877/967-5362) to make them about the same width as your table runner; lay them down to use as placemats, tucking each top edge just under the runner.

To finish the setting, float red blooms in clear bowls and add a row of lanterns (such as Roter lanterns in white from Ikea, \$3.99 each; [www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com)) to set the table aglow.



#### HOT ITEM

### Backyard chicken coop

Raising chickens started out as a hobby for architect Elizabeth Quinto, vineyard consultant James Stamp, and their three children. But they had so much fun designing and customizing chicken coops for their neighbors that they decided to make their handcrafted poultry palaces available to the general public.

Based in Sebastopol, California, Wine Country Coops produces efficient, durable, and aesthetically pleasing coops in three sizes. Choose the materials, color scheme—even shutters—to match your own home. Assembled and then delivered straight to your yard, the low-maintenance coops have wire-mesh floors that don't require cleaning, with deluxe additions like weather vanes, shingle siding, and heat lamps. Best of all: A basket full of fresh eggs any time of day—no noisy rooster required. From \$1,500; [www.winecountrycoops.com](http://www.winecountrycoops.com) or 707/829-8405.

### BIODEGRADABLE PLATES

The eco-conscious among us are phasing out “disposables” from our summer picnics. Try Branch's biodegradable plates, cups, and utensils; made of sugarcane fiber or potato starch and vegetable oil, they're surprisingly sturdier than standard Styrofoam and plastic tableware. From \$7 for a pack of 50 12-oz. cups; [www.branchhome.com](http://www.branchhome.com) or 415/341-1824.