

In the News



The lower patio area features an eight-foot, custom-built fire pit.

Willow Valley Retirement Communities' New Redesigned Courtyard Brings the Inside Out

Willow Valley Residents can now enjoy the new outdoor living space located in the Lakes Community with a unique courtyard design that is virtually nonexistent in the retirement industry.

The objective of the Lakes Courtyard project was to utilize the outdoor space to a greater extent during both the day and nighttime hours. The courtyard previously consisted of a gazebo and a small patio where just a few people could sit. The area was mainly used as a walkway from the community core area to the individual Resident apartments.

8,000 sq. ft. outdoor living area

The redesigned layout consists of an elegantly modern 8,000 sq. ft. outdoor living area that complements the almost one acre of natural environment contained within the realm of the courtyard. Designed for cooking, dining, and gathering, the outdoor living area is anchored by a cedar pergola that houses an intimate seating area. The furniture layout encourages conversation and is made cozy by a custom-built fire pit.

Custom-built eight-foot fire pit can be used year round

The eight-foot diameter fire pit is a custom-built structure and the focal point of the lower patio area. The pit flame is controlled

by a simple toggle switch. The gas fire pit provides a soothing ambience and extends the use of the outdoor living space by chasing away the chill on a cool evening. After all, what's more comfortable when stargazing than sitting around a "campfire" and warming your toes by the fire?

The contemporary-style furniture surrounding the fire pit is all-weather wicker and made from 100% recyclable material. A fully functional outdoor kitchen is discreetly tucked into its own area for ease in entertaining and dining outdoors. The kitchen includes a BBQ grill, refrigerator, and sink mounted within a granite countertop.

“The Landing”: a custom-designed, stylized swan sculpture serves as a focal point

Located at the entrance to the outdoor courtyard is a cascading water feature anchored by “The Landing”, a custom-designed, stylized swan sculpture created from copper and brass by local sculptor Alan Swanson. The soothing sounds of the water flow enhance the tranquility of the outdoor living area.

Cast aluminum furniture is used in the terrace area. The furniture colors and style extend the ambiance of the Lakes Community common area into the outdoors, while the overstuffed, all-weather cushions provide comfort and relaxation.

Residents give “The Landing” a thumbs up

Resident reaction has been extremely positive with several people reserving the outdoor space for private functions. Residents, their family and friends can enjoy each other’s company in an outdoor setting while preparing meals and dining together. The space also accommodates large groups.

Top right: Residents and their families enjoy the casual comfort of the terrace area.

Below: “The Landing,” a stylized swan sculpture was custom-designed by Alan Swanson.

Several Willow Valley Community functions have been held thus far each with over 200 people in attendance. A sign has been commissioned for the upper terrace that will define that space as “The Landing” giving the space a destination quality as opposed to just another courtyard. And, obviously “The Landing” is not just another courtyard.

