

In General. We like contemporary and oriental styles. Clean lines, no ornate details. We'd anticipate a bevel or chamfer on the protruding part of joists but nothing like scrollwork. Think: Understated elegance. At the same time, looking at the house from the street I wouldn't call it remotely contemporary so it's more in the choice of furnishings. Since what we're thinking about will be partially visible from the street, I keep thinking that a traditional, fairly simple pergola design is what we'll pick. Now all we need is a plan that is both contemporary and traditional!

If seen ads that mention "Built to Look Original to Your Home." Well, duh. But I know what they mean and I think that's harder to do when you're attaching to the house.

Low Maintenance. I want to be able to walk out and use it, not walk out and take care of it. It's this sort of thing that makes me leery of moving parts - louvers, etc.

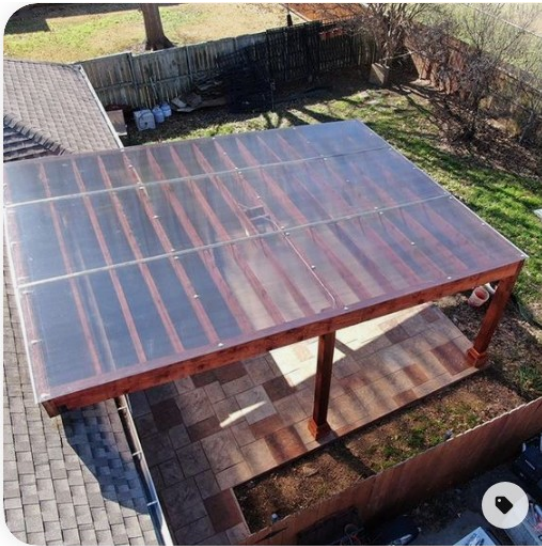
Slanted Roof. I've seen patio covers with slanted roofs that appeal to me and I wonder if they need sweeping less frequently enough to tilt us in favor of such a design. However, I can't picture anything but a flat roof that will look nice between the roof lines of our house and the neighbor's.

Electrical. I definitely want power for lights and fans. I like the light we have out there now and frequently turn the outside lights on with the inside lights off. It would be nice if the lights under the pergola were controlled by the same switch as the current floods. Don't skip on fans. I'm inclined towards oscillating fans. Put them in all four corners if that's what it takes. I doubt we'll hang a TV out there. It's worth anticipating how you might do it though.

Kitchen. I'm mostly interested in a decent built-in grill and storage to hide the propane supply and for BBQ tools. I'm not eager for a fridge. It's just not that far to the one in the kitchen and I have a big ice bucket. However, I do have a mini-fridge in my office that'll come home this fall. So I might change my mind.

Fire. I love some of the fire elements I see. I worry about that in terms of low maintenance. Would I use it enough? I have a little fire pit piece now and have very rarely used it. Do these things run on a propane supply like grills? Or do they need a natural gas feed?

Sails. Have you ever worked with canvas? Waterproof? How long do they last?



This one specifically mentions Regal Plastics. Is this the sort of cover we'd expect?



This one is my idea of a traditional pergola design. In particular, I like the three layers on the top.



Contemporary. Attached. Don't think it would work but is an example of something that appeals to me.



Contemporary again. I like the two-tone design.



Covered. Slanted.



I can't see this happening but I like it.



A lot of slant. Detached.



Two-tone again.



Note the bottom of the posts. It might be nice to tie in the stonework with the slate on the patio and whatever we do with a grill.



Here, I feel like the fireplace acts as a wall and the wall helps define the space as a room.



Here's a floor like ours and another treatment at the bottom of the posts. I don't think I like brick.



A low wall at the perimeter both defines the room and can provide overflow seating.



Metal posts and beams. Our deed restrictions say something like “no metal construction” but this looks really nice.



This looks cool.



Retractable awning?



Another slanted roof. Very interesting. A bit massive looking.



Designs with minimal posts make the structure lost almost like it's floating. Neat.



Ditto.