



Clean lines and modern shapes

appeal to Angie Packer and Dan Bishop, but even they admit the old furniture on their Iowa deck was a tad austere. The two chairs and small table couldn't seat their family of four, let alone guests. Then again, no one wanted to sit on the sun-baked deck anyway. "It was just too hot," Angie says.

To claim the space as a usable outdoor room, the couple blocked out the sun's glare by attaching a retractable shade canopy system to the existing pergola. Beneath the airy ceiling they used streamlined furniture—armless chairs and backless benches—to make room for both a dining area and a lounge zone within the deck's 14×17-foot space.

Bright chartreuse-and-turquoise accent pillows, inspired by a pair of zesty lime chairs, add zip to the deck's new honey-hue stain. "The space feels refreshing now," Angie says. "It invites us to live outside."



LOOKING UP

Fabric shade panels that extend and retract on a sliding track system helped turn this deck into a livable family retreat.