

'Indoors Out' doctors a physician's yard

BY KIM BROWN
World Scene Writer

DRUMRIGHT — There's no doubt about it. A group of 15 men working in unison to move an 800-pound piece of flagstone is good TV.

You can watch this backyard makeover unfold as local physician Dr. Doug Brandt and his family home undergo an outdoor makeover on the DIY Network show "Indoors Out." The crew was in the area filming last weekend for an episode about incorporating stones and masonry, scheduled to air in September on the network as part of its third season.

Last August, when the Brandts moved into their custom-built dream house near Doug's medical practice, all he thought was missing was the grill. But after a few plot twists, the Brandts' outdoor room project got a little bigger.

"All I wanted was someone to put stones around the grill," Brandt said, as he stood among the ordered chaos that was day two of a three-day TV shoot. "I could grill out all year long. We have a lot of family gatherings. We'll now have the place for the family to congregate."

And a few phone calls and a couple of business connections later, Brandt was asked to open his doors for "Indoors Out."

The crew was hard at work transforming an empty space into

tv

INDOORS OUT

When: 9 p.m. Mondays
Where: DIY Network, cable channel 171
Online: tulsaworld.com/indoorsout

a fabulous outdoor room, complete with flagstone, pergola and an outdoor kitchen and grill.

"I'm absolutely shocked," Brandt said of the quick transformation. "It was literally a blank canvas on Friday."

"Indoors Out" hosts Dean Marsico and Derek Stearns — cousins who grew up in the Boston area learning the stonemason trade — said they've seen a lot of the country while filming their show, but this was their first chance to visit Oklahoma.

"We've been here three days, and we already can tell the people are awesome," said Marsico. "We come from Boston and never knew anybody from Oklahoma. It's such a different world and a very desirable one. People aren't as under the gun here as they are in New England."

And the hosts said they constantly get e-mails from viewers in Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma, which are ideal locations for their show. The trend of families spending money to update what they already have is part of the popular-



DIY Network's "Inside Out" co-host Dean Marsico (right) looks over a 12-foot, 2-inch-thick blue stone countertop weighing 600 pounds during a patio remodel in Drumright. SHERRY BROWN/Tulsa World

ity of "Indoors Out."

"Oklahoma is a great state for outdoor living space," Stearns said. "Most people aren't creating a higher end space. They want a rustic feel, a country-style feel. They

are cooking more. We want to stay true to the lifestyles of the people (who watch the show)."

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Patio primping

Here are some easy ways to make your patio fresher this summer. Whether you have less than \$100 or \$1,000 or more, you can spruce up your outdoor area for a season full of enjoyment:

- Add an outdoor rug. They're everywhere these days at most home improvement and discount stores, and they're durable and stylish. They can transform a not so pretty patio into a nice area.
- Add some lights. Twinkle lights make everything glow, and they are easy to hang. Plus, they come in so many styl-

ish designs these days.

- A fire pit can be fancy or simple. Whether you hire a mason or buy one from a home improvement store, people are attracted to outdoor fires like moths to the flame.

- Color is key when adding life to a dull patio. Now's a great time to change out those furniture pillows and you won't break the bank doing so.
- Take a cue from the herb festival, and use a wagon, wheelbarrow or other unusual item to make an interesting flower stand or container garden.

Area contractor draws DIY

One of the reasons the DIY hosts said they pushed for a show in Oklahoma was to re-team with contractor Joe Rider, who owns Stone Age Manufacturing, based in Collinsville and Bixby.

Rider manufactures pre-fabricated outdoor fireplace systems, including fire pits, brick ovens and cook island cabinets. DIY Network has used Rider's work in previous episodes of "Indoors Out," including one with country music star Trace Adkins, where he first met the "Indoors Out" team. Rider said business for outdoor construction is booming, despite the economy.

"Our business is going strong because we're not depending on new home construction," Rider said. "People are saying they're not going to travel as much and saying, 'We're just going to stay home.' As people realize this adds value to their homes, they're willing to spend more on better products."

As the transformation was completed, the crew made sure to add some personal touches to the Brandts' home, including some Oklahoma State University touches (Brandt's a huge Cowboys fan) and wine from Drumright's own Tidal School Vineyards.

And viewers definitely appreciate the details.

"People are paying attention to how manufacturers are taking the design from inside and bringing it outside," said Derek Stearns, an "Indoors Out" host. "It's not just a patio and two chairs and a grill anymore. People are putting their vacation money in their backyards."

"People are putting their vacation money in their backyards."

Derek Stearns
on outdoor construction

Colorful pillows, right, are perfect accessories for the summer patio scene. These pillows from Kohls start at under \$20. Courtesy



Simple or fancy, a fire pit (far right) makes a nice addition to a patio. SHERRY BROWN / Tulsa world

