

# Designing the Deck for Indoor Outdoor Living

by architect Dion Seminara



The design of decks and terraces is very dear to me because most, if not all, of our designs cater for our sub-tropical climate and the indoor-outdoor lifestyle.

So your deck or terrace could also include indoor-outdoor rooms. As the economics of creating an addition to your home now, more than ever, must be considered very closely, multi-using space is extremely important. We have designed a large number of decks as well as indoor-outdoor spaces that also function as internal living

spaces. This allows people to control the elements more effectively so spaces can be used all year round.

With all the building work around Brisbane decks often get very dusty so being able to close down spaces is a clear advantage.

The humble veranda, now the deck or terrace, is a little bit wider and grander than the space of yesteryear. These spaces have developed into very special areas, with built in BBQs, full shutter screening with insect screening, heating systems, audio systems and even full roof insulation. Some outdoor spaces have been transformed into rooms and some living rooms have become decks with multi-folding or sliding doors or windows. Louvres can be used for privacy and wind control.

What is essential for any great deck or indoor-outdoor space is aspect. Without a good aspect your space just will not be as pleasant as it should be. There are ways to introduce or create an aspect in a home.

To create a seamless transition between indoor and outdoor living, design is of paramount importance. The relationship of the outdoor/transition space to the hub of your home – your kitchen – is crucial. The outdoor space must be accessible to the kitchen. If design is overlooked or compromised the outdoor/transition space will not blend into the home and it won't be used to its potential

An outlook can make a deck or terrace something special ... and these



spaces do not have to be at the back of a house; they can be up front if treated properly. It is also a great advantage if your deck or terrace or indoor-outdoor room can flow out into a garden area. In effect your garden becomes an extra room of your house or apartment.

**Phone: (07) 3899 9450**

**Email: [architects@dsarchitecture.com.au](mailto:architects@dsarchitecture.com.au) or**

**Web: [www.dsarchitecture.com.au](http://www.dsarchitecture.com.au)**

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