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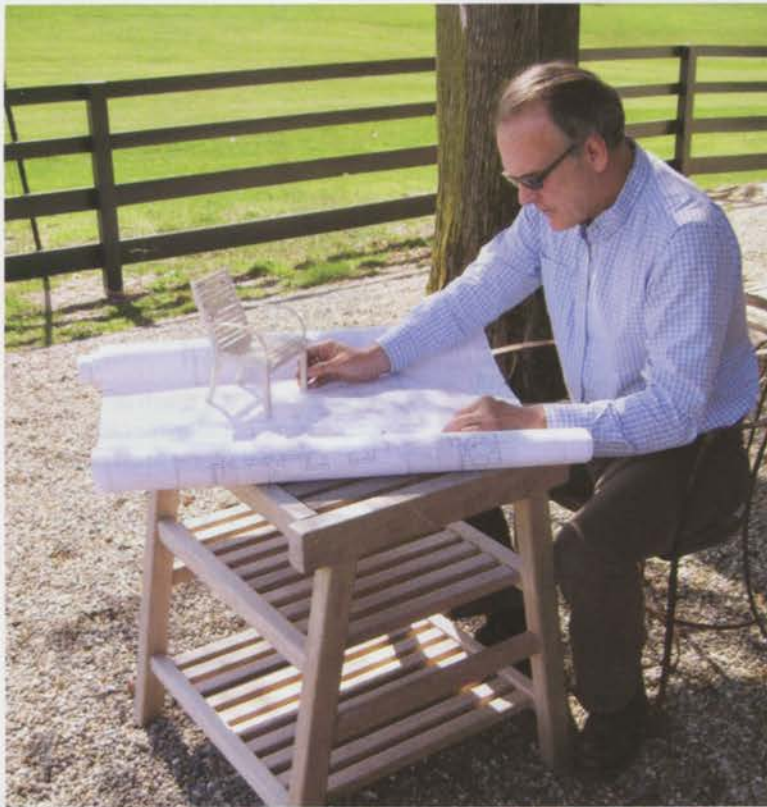
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# 11 BARE ESSENTIALS

Outdoor furnishings guru John Danzer, of New York-based Munder Skiles, looks to the history of the genre to craft his timeless, well-built offerings. Here, he shares his tips for effortless outdoor living.

**Take stock:** Think about how you use your home, not only when you're there with your immediate family but when you're entertaining extended family and friends, too.

**Simplify:** Don't overcomplicate your life. My job is complex, but my furniture is not. Look for well-designed furniture that

fits the shape of your body and is naturally comfortable.

**Let nature shine:** I can't stand furniture being too prominent in a garden. Everything you bring into your outdoor space should be able to recede so you can enjoy the real reason you're out there: to be closer to nature. [munder-skiles.com](http://munder-skiles.com)

# BENCH PLAYER 12

Anyone who thinks that being made to sit on the bench is a bad thing probably hasn't watched the sun set from one in the midst of an elegant garden. With a classic silhouette and intricate scrollwork, this sophisticated bench from McKinnon and Harris may just be better than hitting the game-winning home run. [mckinnonharris.com](http://mckinnonharris.com)



# 13 POT OF GOLD

Container gardens continue to increase in popularity, as water becomes more of a valuable commodity, especially in drought-prone areas like Southern California. Just because they're practical, however, doesn't also mean they can't be fun. Los Angeles-based designer Kathleen Ferguson suggests using pots in unexpected shapes, colors and textures to add interest to your outdoor space. "Succulents and cacti are my favorite plantings for container gardens," she says, "but I love fitting them with herbs and other edibles, too. They allow you to truly enjoy your garden year-round." [kathleenferguson.com](http://kathleenferguson.com)

