

Choosing Between a Pool House and Cabana: Enhancing Your Outdoor Space

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-- When enhancing an outdoor space
with a luxurious addition, the choice
between a pool house and a cabana
can be a significant decision. Both
structures offer unique benefits and
can transform a backyard into an
inviting, functional area for relaxation
and entertainment. Understanding the
differences between a pool house and
a cabana can help homeowners
determine which option best suits their
lifestyle, needs, and the overall design



<u>Elwin Ordoyne</u>, Vice President of <u>E.C.O. Builders Inc.</u> in Slidell, Louisiana, provides insights into the key factors to consider when choosing between a pool house and a cabana.

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of their outdoor space.

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Elwin Ordoyne

Understanding the Basics: What is a Pool House?

"A pool house is a more substantial, enclosed structure typically equipped with amenities similar to those found inside the home. It often includes a bathroom, changing area, storage space for pool equipment, and sometimes a small kitchen or bar. Some pool houses even have living or guest quarters, making them a versatile addition to any backyard," explains Ordoyne.

Pool houses are designed to serve as an extension of the

main home, providing a private, indoor space where homeowners and guests can retreat from the sun or inclement weather. "The fully enclosed nature of a pool house allows for year-round use, offering protection from the elements while still being close to the pool and outdoor entertainment areas."

What is a Cabana?

A cabana, on the other hand, is generally a more open and less permanent structure than a pool house. Cabanas are usually partially enclosed, with one or more open sides that allow for a direct connection to the outdoor environment. They are often designed with a more relaxed, resort-like feel, featuring shaded lounging areas, a bar or refreshment station, and sometimes an outdoor shower.



"Cabanas are ideal for creating a shaded, breezy spot to relax by the pool while still enjoying the open air. They are typically less expensive to build than pool houses and can be more easily customized with various materials and design styles to match the aesthetic of the backyard."

Comparing the Features

When deciding between a pool house and a cabana, several key factors should be considered, including the intended use of the space, budget, and the overall design of the backyard.

Functionality:

Pool House: Offers a range of amenities that can include bathrooms, changing rooms, kitchens, and even living spaces. The enclosed nature makes it a practical choice for those who need a versatile space that can be used throughout the year. It provides privacy and a comfortable indoor environment, making it suitable for entertaining guests, accommodating overnight visitors, or simply offering a quiet retreat by the pool.

Cabana: Primarily serves as a shaded, outdoor lounging area. Its open design makes it perfect for those who want to stay connected to the outdoor environment while enjoying protection from the sun. Cabanas are ideal for casual gatherings, offering a relaxed space to sit, eat, and socialize.

Aesthetics:

Pool House: Typically designed to match or complement the architectural style of the main home. Pool houses can be customized with various finishes, materials, and design elements, allowing them to blend seamlessly with the overall landscape. The enclosed design gives it a more formal, permanent appearance, often making it a focal point in the backyard. Cabana: Offers a more informal, resort-like aesthetic. The open design and use of natural materials like wood, bamboo, or canvas create a laid-back, tropical vibe. Cabanas can be more easily integrated into various landscapes, offering a flexible design that can be adapted to different styles and preferences.

Budget:

Pool House: Due to its more substantial construction and the inclusion of indoor amenities, building a pool house is typically a more significant investment than a cabana. The cost can vary depending on the size, design, and features included, but it is generally higher due to the need for plumbing, electrical work, and possibly even heating or cooling systems. Cabana: Usually a more cost-effective option, as it requires less construction work and fewer materials. The simpler design and lack of extensive indoor amenities make it a budget-friendly

choice for those looking to enhance their outdoor space without a major financial commitment.

Maintenance:

Pool House: Requires regular maintenance similar to that of a home, including cleaning, HVAC system upkeep, and possibly repairs to plumbing or electrical systems. The enclosed space also means that it needs to be protected from moisture, pests, and other environmental factors. Cabana: Generally requires less maintenance than a pool house, as it does not have the same complex systems or indoor spaces. Maintenance typically involves cleaning the structure, refreshing finishes, and ensuring that outdoor furniture and materials are protected from the elements.

Which Option is Right for Your Space?

The choice between a pool house and a cabana ultimately depends on the homeowner's needs, lifestyle, and the desired use of the outdoor space. For those seeking a versatile, year-round retreat with indoor amenities, a pool house offers a more comprehensive solution. It is ideal for those who frequently entertain guests, need additional living space, or want a private escape by the pool.

On the other hand, a cabana is perfect for those who prefer a more open, outdoor experience. It provides a shaded area for lounging and socializing, making it an excellent option for casual gatherings and relaxation. The lower cost and maintenance requirements also make it an attractive choice for many homeowners.

In conclusion, both pool houses and cabanas have their unique advantages, and the decision between the two should be based on the specific needs and preferences of the homeowner. E.C.O. Builders Inc. in Slidell, Louisiana, specializes in helping homeowners create the perfect outdoor space, whether it involves constructing a pool house, cabana, or other outdoor living features.

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