



## Bringing the Outdoors In – Stone and Granite trends for Home Recreation

People have always enjoyed the outdoors and strive to bring the outside in by filling rooms with plants and statuary. The trend has been further enhanced by designing homes and buildings with broad expanses of windows. Just as homeowners have made an effort to create an “outdoors in” area, a newer trend is also emerging – to enjoy the actual outdoors more by bringing the “indoors out.” More homeowners are creating outside areas that contain everything from refrigerators, cooktops, televisions and all-weather furniture to carpeting. Granite countertops and stone fireplaces have taken center stage from a design standpoint. Tabletops made from all types of natural, eco-friendly stonework are all the rage. “This trend represents an extension of the beauty and enjoyment that natural granite and marble have provided inside our homes all these years – to outdoor areas,” says Dena Williams of IFPC’s Stone and Granite Division. “In fact, as an incentive for homeowners, we are actually giving away a sink for our customer’s outdoor kitchens! The natural appeal of outdoor granite and stonework brings a new dimension to get-togethers with family and friends,” she adds. Dena invites all interested homeowners to stop by IFPC’s granite yard to choose their specific stone.