



CATIO SPACES®

Designing Spaces for Safe, Healthy & Happy Cats

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Outdoor living spaces can cater to curious cats, too!

SEATTLE, Washington (January 9, 2018) – With home improvement and gardening season approaching, one avid gardener who specializes in creating surroundings for positive living is applying her skills for the benefit of family felines. Last month, her Do-It-Yourself (DIY) catio plans earned a “10 best cat products” designation by a prominent cat publication.

Cynthia Chomos, founder-designer at Seattle-based Catio Spaces, believes cats can live harmoniously with wildlife, stay safe from predators, and enjoy nature with the addition of a well-designed enclosure known as a catio. Whether attached to a window, appended to a patio, or free-standing in a yard, these attractive havens are the antithesis of a cage.



Drawing on her experience as a feng shui and color consultant, Chomos embarked on a home improvement project to create a visually-pleasing “cat patio” for Serena, her adopted tabby. Her beloved pet not only approved of the new enclosure, she is also credited with inspiring other designs and serves as the company’s “quality assurance expert.”

In addition to building custom catios, DIY plans were developed by Chomos (a general contractor and member of the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties) to take the guesswork out of building a catio. One of the initial DIY customers reported: “The directions are

great! Every detail was considered and the plans were easy to follow.”

DIY plans from Catio Spaces range from compact designs for windows to expandable sanctuaries for gardens and yards – even including designs with tunnels and space for human interaction. Each plan is a downloadable, multi-page PDF with detailed directions, illustrations, a materials list, and a tools list.

Bonus information includes guidelines to acclimate a cat to a cat door and new space, plus tips for cat-safe plants, décor, and accessories to promote exercise and enrichment.

Catios can be natural, painted and decorated to complement a home and garden, along with each owner’s personal style, and each cat’s personality and proclivities.

“You don’t need to be an expert carpenter,” Chomos promises, adding, “Each plan is easy to follow and rewarding to build.”

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Chomos and other animal welfare advocates who share a passion for cats emphasize the importance of being responsible pet owners and providing safe, healthy and stimulating environments for pets. Her website even lists [10 reasons](#) to have a catio.

“Providing cats with outdoor access in enclosures ensures we are good cat owners and good neighbors. It means being responsible for wildlife, responsible for community space and responsible for the safety of our cats,” stated Jennifer Hillman, vice president, grassroots outreach & engagement with The Humane Society of the United States.

A leader with a bird conservation organization agrees. “Cattios are a fantastic way to provide your cat with safe outdoor experiences that simultaneously protect birds and other wildlife,” said Grant Sizemore, director of invasive species programs at American Bird Conservancy. “These customizable enclosures will no doubt continue to gain in popularity as owners recognize the opportunities for cats and peace of mind for themselves that cattios provide.”

Prices for the DIY catio plans range from \$39.95 to \$69.95; gift certificates are also available. Catio Spaces donates 10 percent from the sale of each DIY plan to an animal welfare or wildlife organization. (She also offers an [Affiliate Program](#) to help animal welfare organizations generate revenue to support their cause.)

In addition to her DIY plans, Chomos builds and installs custom cattios around Western Washington, many with clever themes and décor. Last year, just in time for the [Seattle Catio Tour](#), Chomos designed a catnap catio in her garden, furnished with a daybed so she and her tabby can relax and test the widely-touted benefits of catnapping.

Other creations have ranged from a Seahawks-themed catio for a fan of Seattle’s NFL team and his game day lap cats to a spacious patio makeover for a pair of nature-loving felines who enjoy scaling fences to watch wildlife.

The DIY Catio Plans by Catio Spaces earned an “Editor’s Choice” designation as one of 10 best cat products of the year. Ingrid King, founder and editor of The Conscious Cat, included a firsthand account of a woman who used a Catio Spaces plan to build a catio for her three cats in her announcement of her “top 10” picks.

“I see a lot of new products each year. Between what I saw at Global Pet Expo and dozens of products that were sent to me over the course of the year, I saw thousands of pet products in 2017. It’s hard to choose only 10 favorites, but with help from my two product testers, and my cats (Allegra and Ruby), we’ve selected **Catio Spaces’ DIY Catio Plans** as one of our 10 best cat products of 2017,” she wrote.

Chomos has also become a go-to “CATalyst” and resource for feline owners. “On a daily basis, I work with cat parents, locally and globally on a variety of issues,” she stated. “It’s a joy to be involved every day with cat safety and enrichment while also protecting birds and wildlife.”

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More information:

[Newsroom](#) (with company backgrounder, photo gallery, FAQs, Chomos bio)

[10 benefits of cattios](#)

[DIY catio plans](#) (with considerations for choosing)

[Catimonials](#) (with before & after photos)

[Catio Spaces on “Evening Magazine”](#) (KING5 TV, Seattle)

