



CATIO SPACES®

Designing Spaces for Safe, Healthy & Happy Cats

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Photos (credit: Catio Spaces)

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Cats agree: Building a catio proves to be a purrfect DIY project during quarantines

SEATTLE, Washington (August 5, 2020) – Sun lovers, wildlife watchers, and door dashers are just a few of the beneficiaries of Do-It-Yourself ([DIY](#)) pet projects for the home and garden during quarantine. With cats on their laps and laptops, pet parents found a solution for the indoor/outdoor dilemma by building a catio, an enclosed outdoor “cat patio” for their cats. Catios provide stimulation, exercise and other benefits while giving pet parents peace of mind knowing their beloved cats are safe while outdoors. Catios also help protect birds and wildlife.

“Cats naturally want to be outside where they can experience the sights, sounds and stimulation of nature. While dogs often have fenced backyards, cats also need fresh air and exercise,” according to Cynthia Chomos, founder-designer at [Catio Spaces](#). In fact, she noted, “The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) issued a [Position Statement](#) on catios in 2018, concluding, ‘By establishing a safe space outdoors, like a catio, your cat can gain the benefits of being outdoors without the risk of injury, predation, or theft.’”



Chomos said this year’s surge in pet adoptions attributed to the coronavirus pandemic created quandaries for many new and existing cat owners who were faced with lifestyle choices: keep their four-legged friends indoors or let them out to roam freely. “Catios help solve this dilemma while also addressing a cat’s physical, mental and environmental needs. And they’re proving to be a fun and rewarding family DIY project,” she added.

No longer confined to looking like unsightly cages, her [DIY plans](#) come in a variety of sizes and designs for a window, porch, patio, deck or garden to complement a home. Many are large enough for cat parents to enjoy too. The newest offering from Catio Spaces is a [Tunnel Catio](#) with various lengths, configurations and mounting options.

“We’ve all experienced being sequestered indoors without fresh air, exercise and the stimulation of the outdoors, all in the midst of uncertainty,” Chomos wrote in her [blog](#) on “cats in quarantine.” During quarantine she has fielded a surge of phone calls and emails from cat parents around the globe who were wrestling with the indoor/outdoor dilemma.

“There’s nothing I enjoy more than helping find solutions to improve the lives of cats and their humans,” Chomos reported.

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Oliver, “an avid bird watcher,” prefers the elevated corner seating in the [window box catio](#) built by cat parents Wayne and Ellen. Wayne painted it white to match their window trim and modified the length and height of the plan to fit the home’s double windows facing their patio and backyard “full of bird baths and feeders.” They also added a striped sailcloth cover for the wire mesh roof so Oliver can enjoy his catio year-round.



“Life has been pretty boring with the lockdowns so I needed some projects to keep me out of trouble. A catio seemed to fit the bill,” says Wayne.



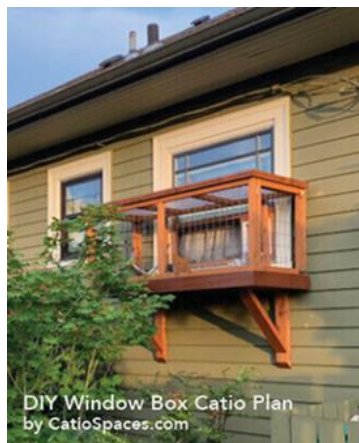
Like many cat owners, Kevin and Jenn in New York wanted an outdoor catio playground for their cats to hang out and enjoy birdwatching.

Over several weekends, Kevin built a series of catios including the [Oasis](#), [cat tunnel](#) and [window box](#) catios. Their seven cats exit the garage and travel to the main catio where the entire family enjoys bonding together outdoors.

As soon as Kevin finished the Oasis catio, the cats immediately went through the tunnel to get inside. Jenn added a bench, some big poufy pillows, cat beds, a rug, and installed a bird feeder near the catio so they can watch the birds and backyard activities.

For Jack, a year-old tabby in Oregon, a window box catio provides a commanding view of a backyard garden where homeowner Ann spends a lot of time.

Ann describes herself as a novice builder on a budget and said the DIY plans with detailed instructions and helpful illustrations “were perfect for me.” After adding a fleece hammock, a small wool rug and kitty art, she says Jack enjoys visiting the catio after dark to watch nocturnal garden happenings.





“While life during a quarantine has been challenging, these catio cats are enjoying many [benefits of catios,](#)” reported Chomos, adding, “They will continue to be safe and stimulated long after their owners resume working outside the home.”

Seattle-based Chomos, a passionate cat owner, founded Catio Spaces in 2014 to address the need for safe and aesthetically pleasing outdoor enclosures to enhance a cat’s life and to help protect birds and wildlife. When planning and creating catio designs she draws on her experience and professional certification as a feng shui consultant and general contractor. The DIY plans include a material and tool list, step-by-step instructions, and diagrams. Cat parents can build a catio themselves or hire a local carpenter to build the plan for them.



In addition to her award-winning DIY plans (available as downloadable PDFs) she and a crew of licensed carpenters build custom catios in the Greater Seattle area. Cynthia also provides [free catio tips](#) and offers phone consultations nationally with cat parents interested in design ideas for their catio project.

Catio Spaces also donates 10% from the sale of each DIY plan to animal welfare organizations through its [Affiliate Program.](#)

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