

A photograph of a luxurious outdoor pool area. On the left, a stone house with a red-tiled roof and a covered patio is visible. The patio has stone columns and a hanging light fixture. In the foreground, there is a large, curved stone wall that acts as a retaining wall for a green artificial grass lawn. A series of stone steps lead down from the lawn to the pool. The pool is a large, irregular shape with a stone border and a small waterfall feature. The water is a deep blue. In the background, there are large, leafy green trees under a blue sky with white clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

A PROPANE-HEATED POOL
ALWAYS MAKES A SPLASH

PROPANE
EXCEPTIONAL ENERGY®

AN EXCEPTIONAL BUILDER Case Study



TEXAS-STYLE OUTDOOR LIVING

PROJECT: Create 2,000-square-foot outdoor living space

DEVELOPER: Seven Oaks,
Austin, Texas

HOMEOWNERS:
Ron and Lori Olfers

BUILDER: Jon Luce Builder,
Austin, Texas

**PROPANE INSTALLER AND
SERVICE PROVIDER:**
Sharp Propane, Austin, Texas



WHEN IT COMES TO DESIGNING their outdoor living spaces, today's homeowners are making choices that go well beyond a charcoal grill and basic patio furniture. In fact, high-quality outdoor living now includes complete outdoor kitchens, hearths, fireplaces, pools, spas, and heating units.

What is the one energy source that can help savvy homeowners power all of these amenities? Propane. Here's how:

It's reliable. As a premium energy source, propane is unaffected by rolling blackouts or storm-related outages that sometimes plague electrical service.

It's clean and efficient. Propane gives off less than half the greenhouse gas emissions of electricity in many applications considering that most electricity is produced by a coal-burning plant.

It's convenient. Propane's exceptional energy is easy to install for indoor and outdoor applications. With today's underground and community propane systems, homeowners can receive all of propane's benefits — with no visible tanks.

For these reasons, savvy builders and remodelers are finding new ways to incorporate propane into their most demanding projects. That's because they know that sound energy decisions fuel higher customer satisfaction for new indoor or outdoor living spaces.

EXCEPTIONAL OUTDOOR LIVING. When Ron and Lori Olfers say they love to entertain, they mean it. The couple, who live in the Seven Oaks subdivision in Austin, TX, use their expansive 2,000-square-foot outdoor living space for a wide range of functions, including church events, concerts, fundraisers — even a wedding. The Olfers and their close friends also use the space for smaller, more intimate gatherings all through the year.



Jon Luce, Builder



Ron Olfers, Homeowner

Today's lifestyles demand **EXCEPTIONAL ENERGY.**



The key features of the outdoor living space include a kitchen with a Wolf grill, a spa, two pools, and a fireplace. Those appliances have helped make entertaining a breeze, thanks to energy supplied by metered gas service from a community propane tank. "With propane, I never think about it not being there," says Ron Olfers. "I just turn it on."

Another propane characteristic that appeals to the family: It's clean and efficient. Those important environmental benefits are a selling point for consumers who seek to balance value with "green-conscious" building or remodeling investments. "It's less expensive to heat a home with propane than electricity," says Michael Bodine, area manager for Austin-based Sharp Propane, which provides service to the Olfers' neighborhood.

While propane offers many remarkable attributes, Ron and Lori Olfers especially appreciate the convenience it provides for their exceptional outdoor living space. When their 20-year-old son is home from college, he and his friends gather around the outdoor fireplace and grill. Their 9-year-old daughter, meanwhile, has a birthday party each February where she and

her friends hang out in one of the family's heated pools. "Our friends say, 'How do you not spend every night out here?'" says Ron Olfers. "We're getting great use out of the space."

PREMIUM BENEFITS. As a builder or remodeler, you can add value to your business by discussing energy options with a nearby propane retailer. These professionals can provide sound tips on integrating propane heating and appliances into large- or small-scale remodeling jobs — all while minimizing potential disruptions to homes and yards.

Understanding propane's benefits also allows you to meet — or even exceed — client expectations for interior or outdoor remodeling projects. "As the market has gotten more sophisticated, outdoor living space has become at least as important as the interior of the house," says Jon Luce, president of Jon Luce Builder, which built the Olfers' home. "These days, the outdoor gas grill is just expected. People will cook and prepare meals in their outdoor kitchen as many as 30 to 40 times a year."

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Want to learn more? Go to buildwithpropane.com.



In outdoor living spaces, propane products can deliver greater comfort and convenience. Here are a few examples:

POOL HEATER. A propane pool heating system is energy efficient and a great way to extend the swimming season in temperate climates.

SPA HEATER. Whether it's for a full-blown outdoor spa or a simple hot tub, propane quickly warms the water for fun and relaxation.

OUTDOOR FIREPLACE. After the warm days of summer are gone, a propane fireplace will take the chill out of the air, providing a perfect spot where family and friends can gather for outdoor enjoyment.

OUTDOOR GRILLS. When 96 percent of professional chefs say they prefer gas cooking, that's a recipe for success. In an outdoor kitchen, household cooks can fire up the propane grill for barbecue creations that satisfy even the most demanding palate.

BUG ELIMINATOR. No chemicals. No high electric bills. Those are just two of the advantages of a propane bug eliminator, which can protect outdoor living spaces as large as one acre in size.

DECK AND PATIO LIGHTING. Propane outdoor lighting fixtures and lamps are available in portable, wall-mounted, and post-mounted styles. They are easy to use in remote locations, such as outdoor rooms.

For more information and to find a propane retailer in your area, visit buildwithpropane.com.

To learn about installing propane in your next project, take a continuing education course at architectces.com.



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