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# The Ultimate Guide to Your Next Outdoor Structure

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Thinking of adding an outdoor structure to your landscape, but not sure which type is best for you? Learn more about the differences between an arbor and pergola, a cabana vs a pavilion, and a pergola vs a trellis by exploring the comparison chart below. Then, use our easy flow infographic to determine the best structure for your landscape.



# Trellis

Structure	A trellis is an open framework of interwoven or intersecting pieces that's used to support climbing plants.
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Support climbing plants and shrubs.</li><li>- Add privacy to your landscape.</li><li>- Add beauty to your landscape.</li></ul>
Can it be moved or repositioned?	YES
Design	Can stand alone or be attached to fences, exterior walls of a building, or even a roof.
Ideal for	Gardens or farms especially when growing grapevines, climbing roses, climbing vegetables ivy and clematis.
Materials	Wood, bamboo, metal.
Tips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Often used as a vine training system.</li><li>- Ideal for garden or agricultural use for grapevines, climbing roses, ivy and clematis.</li></ul>



# Arbor

Structure	An arbor is a free-standing, straightforward structure.
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To define where a garden or patio begins.</li><li>- Often serves as an entrance to a garden area.</li></ul>
Can it be moved or repositioned?	YES
Design	Usually has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Two to four posts</li><li>- A slatted roof spanning the posts (straight or arched roof)</li><li>- Sides that are either wide open or closed in with a lattice/trellis.</li></ul>
Ideal for	Planting and growing climbing vines.
Materials	Wood, vinyl, metal.



# Pergola

Structure	Pergolas are usually built over an existing landscape feature like a patio or deck and have a defined roof which people can sit under.
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Provide shade.</li><li>- Provide a seated area for backyard entertaining.</li></ul>
Can it be moved or repositioned?	Depends. A pergola can be a stand-alone structure or a structure that's attached to the back of your house.
Design	Usually has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Four or more posts or columns</li><li>- A flat roof that you could close or leave open to the sky</li><li>- Minimal openings designed to allow a gentle breeze or sunlight to pass through.</li></ul>
Ideal for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A large backyard that needs a shaded seating area.</li><li>- People who entertain frequently.</li></ul>
Materials	Wood, vinyl, fiberglass, aluminum, brick, natural stone
Tips	You can weave a weather-resistant fabric through a pergola's slatted roof to provide more shade when needed.



# Cabana

Structure	A traditional cabana is usually a simple hut.
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Cabanas are built for function rather than relaxation.</li><li>- These structures are for quickly changing into a bathing suit or grabbing a quick drink.</li></ul>
Can it be moved or repositioned?	YES
Design	Usually has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A triangular or angled roof</li><li>- At least one open wall.</li></ul>
Ideal for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- People with a swimming pool or hot tub.</li><li>- People who entertain frequently.</li></ul>
Materials	Wood, vinyl, fibreglass, aluminum, brick, natural stone
Tips	Curtains can be used over the open side for additional privacy.



# Pavilions

Structure	Pavilions are buildings that are separate from your main home or which are attached to your home.
Purpose	A pavilion is a versatile building that can be used to/for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Cook and prepare food</li><li>- Dine</li><li>- Entertain guests</li><li>- Enjoy conversation outdoors</li><li>- Performances or speeches.</li></ul>
Can it be moved or repositioned?	NO
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The shape can vary but it's often a long, rectangular structure with pillars, open sides (no sidewalls) and a pitched roof</li><li>- The size is usually large enough to accommodate many people</li><li>- Can include small stages or outdoor kitchens.</li></ul>
Ideal for	People with a large property. People who entertain frequently or host large events like weddings.
Materials	Wood, vinyl, fiberglass, aluminum, brick, natural stone
Tips	Consider how you'll use the pavilion to help determine if you'll need a kitchen, stage, or seating.

