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SELECTING YOUR PERGOLA OR PAVILION STYLE

Search online for a pergola or pavilion kit and you’ll get thousands of pages of results. There are countless products on the market, some of which are very good. You’ll also find plans to build your own structure from scratch, which is a lot of fun, we know! You can also go into most big-box stores and see inexpensive mass-manufactured pergolas in standard, smallish sizes (under 200 sq ft).

But, if you’re looking for a truly premium product, a special shape, a relatively large structure, or you need to attach your pergola to a building, your choices drop to a handful of manufacturers. By taking the time to consider your options, you can be sure your pergola will be perfectly designed and handcrafted to provide a balance of shading, visibility, privacy, and proportions for years of enjoyable use. Our most popular shade structure styles are shown on these pages.
POPULAR PERGOLAS

Tired of seeing low-quality pergolas that look flimsy? Want a structure that will last decades? We have been the leaders in this industry for many years because we get it.

We are here to support you and make your plans a reality without wasting your time. From design and sizing, to building and installing, reach out at any point to see how easy it is to make your vision possible.

Arched Pergola
This customer favorite includes a beautiful, heavy-duty, framed lattice panel roof that maximizes shade.

The Traditional Garden Pergola
This classic pergola style features traditional post-and-beam construction. It is a design that goes back to ancient Greece. No need to fix what isn’t broken.

Modern Louvered Pergola
With a sleek modern design, this pergola comes with heavy-duty louvers as the main roof component. These adjustable louvers allow you to control the amount of sunlight passing through.

Silverado Modern Pergola
This pergola is a no-frills, thick-timbered, clean-cut beauty. Any size you need. Any alterations you can think of. Just let us know what will work for you and it will work for us. You can order the Silverado with a cantilevered roof as shown in the photo or you can have the posts out to the very edge on all sides.

Marin Outdoor Kitchen Pergola
The playful, arching roof design is a customer favorite. The curves are the same as those of the Backyard Pavilion (pg. 4), but with an open roof. Can be used for any outdoor function—not only for kitchens. As with all our structures, you can size as needed.
When you place an order with Forever Redwood, you are hiring an architectural and engineering firm also. We have an engineering department in-house that is staffed by experienced architects and civil engineers. Instead of hiring an architect and then searching for an engineer and a builder, choose Forever Redwood. We have all three under one roof.

**Popular PAVILIONS**

Forever Redwood pavilions are our most loved structures. We build to fit almost any space and in any climate. Pavilions provide expansive, beautiful, open-air outdoor spaces protected from the sun and rain.

Here are some possibilities to get your creative juices flowing.

---

**Del Norte Kitchen Pavilion**

While this design can accommodate any outdoor use and has been known to double as a carport, it's especially preferred for outdoor kitchens and dining areas.

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**Toledo Pavilion**

If you are looking for a massive thick-timbered pavilion with a tall, high-pitched, expansive ceiling, the Toledo is for you. This extra-large structure is perfect for events and gatherings and doubles as a hefty, beautiful carport too. We don't cut corners. For example, the handsome black plates on the trusses are made from stainless steel.

---

**Backyard Pavilion**

Featuring a graceful, curved roof, the Backyard is an all-around favorite. Perfect for year-round use, rain or shine. For an open-roof version of this structure, see the Marin Outdoor Kitchen Pergola (pg. 3).

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**Cardinal’s Nest Pavilion**

Our most expansive pavilion combines a high-pitched roof with huge timbers and curved supports to create a memorable natural intimate setting for your most special occasions.
We are a custom woodworking shop. We are happy to fulfill your special requests. Here are some details about our products and service:

• Redwood is the most decay-resistant natural wood available in the North American market with warranties of up to twenty years for our shade structures. Your pergola will last for decades in any climate with minimal maintenance.

• We mill our own lumber extra thick for up to 36% more wood compared to standard lumber. All hardware is stainless steel and comes included with your order.

• All joints are notched so your pergola will never sag, warp, twist, or shrink. Each timber is finely sanded to a smooth-to-the-touch feel and sealed with what we believe to be the best sealant on the market (Sikkens Brand).

• We offer dozens of possible configurations and customizations for pergolas and pavilions including shading options, privacy screens, custom stains, accessory bases, electrical trims and more.

• Every structure can be customized. You can choose from our standard sizes and options or if you don’t see a size or detail you’d like just let us know. We have built structures as small as 6’ x 3’ and can go up to 150’ L x 44’ W. If you dream it, we can build it.
More Pergolas & Pavilions

Arched Open Sky Pergola
The Arched Open Sky Pergola is a popular variation on our best-selling Arched Pergola. The main difference is that the lattice is removed to create a more open feel. Its open roof design can be built in almost any size and configuration imaginable. For example, we can even change the radius of the arch if you want it a bit more vaulted.

Sebastopol Pergola
The graceful arch of this massive pergola is designed to allow for extra wide spans. We can build the Sebastopol to go over a pool if need be. Whether you’re hosting a party, dining outdoors, or lounging by the pool—the Sebastopol Pergola has you covered.

Montvale Pergola
A grid roof is achieved for the Montvale by joining the timbers perpendicularly in a cross-notched fashion. This allows the timbers to line up at the same height. Curved diagonal braces complete this breathtakingly beautiful design.

Hexagonal Park Pavilion
The Hexagonal Park Pavilion was originally created for a city park. But you don’t have to be in a city park to enjoy its large exposed timbers and curving, diagonal braces. This pavilion adds elegance to any occasion.

Del Rio Pavilion
The Del Rio is designed to house your entire outdoor kitchen needs under one roof with enough space for dining and bar areas too. Entertain your guests all year long with this classic pavilion designed to showcase the beautiful, thick-timbered, post-and-beam construction and its natural longevity.
Victorian Trellis Pergola

Walk back in time to when Queen Victoria was sovereign and electricity the wonder of the times. As a respectable member of society, you understood the importance of designing and placing your Victorian Trellis as a focal point of your estate.
Asian Fusion Pavilion
A child of a custom project, the beautiful open-walled Asian Fusion can be customized further to fit your every whim. Ring us with your outlandish ideas and consider it done.

Viking Pergola
Conquer your backyard blues with a design from another time when quality timber was plentiful and woodworkers spent lifetimes honing their skills.

Fan Pergola
A unique design for unique outdoor spaces. Two or three smaller Fan Pergolas can accent a larger landscape. A single large Fan Pergola can serve as a full outdoor great room.

Breezy Small Pavilion
Breezy is light on the eyes. She is a bit more svelte then her thick-timbered pavilion siblings. But make no mistake, she is no pushover and is plenty strong.

Dome Pergola
This curvaceous design is the instant centerpiece of any landscape. Meticulously handcrafted wood graces every inch of the structure. We can build this masterpiece in diameters from 8’ to 20’ or more.

The Sunset Pavilion
Create a central gathering spot with this multi purpose, open-air pavilion. With our design support, you can personalize it to make sure it will work as planned.

Wide Selection + Design & Engineering + Installation
From the small Pergolas to our huge Cardinal’s Nest Pavilion, let us know what you have in mind and consider it done.
Small PERGOLAS

Each of our smaller pergola models are available up to 14’ x 12’ and quickly ship anywhere in the continental U.S. And, while they cost considerably less than their larger counterparts, you’ll still enjoy our warranties of up to twenty years.

Small Lattice Pergola

Need a lot of shade for your investment? Want a traditional, beautiful, all-natural wood pergola? The Small Lattice pergola’s classic lines will create a shaded, comfy gathering area for decades to come.

Small Arched Pergola

Small Arched Pergola kits are a popular, easy way to transform any space on your property into a beautiful gathering spot; with the added benefit of providing almost complete shade.

The Small Traditional Garden Pergola

The smaller brother of our Traditional Garden Pergola, the Small Traditional Garden Pergola will enhance your space without breaking the bank.

Small Arched Open Sky Pergola

The Small Arched Open Sky Pergola is your answer if you are looking for strong yet elegant curves to shelter your gatherings for years to come.
Any of our pergola or pavilion designs can be modified to be attached to an existing structure. Attached Pergolas or Pavilions are sometimes preferable because they use fewer posts and create immediate transition spaces from indoors to outdoors. Since each building is different, we’ll need to know the height of your eaves, and whether there are windows, sliding doors, or light fixtures that have to be considered. What type of siding or other wall construction exists? What types of hardscaping make up the ground (undeveloped, wood, stone, pavers, concrete, etc.)? Yes, there are few extra details to consider. We do it all the time and can help you get exactly the measurements needed.
The photos above and on the following page are examples of how we can convert any free standing pavilion or pergola into an attached structure. When we convert a freestanding pavilion to an attached structure, it becomes an instant porch, hence the name Del Norte and Backyard Porch Pavilions....
Custom attached structures

The Silverado Modern Pergola

Custom L.A. Modern Pergola

Modern Louvered Garden Pergola

Sunset Patio Pavilion
Once we receive your attached shade structure order, we'll email you requesting a few photos of the install area. Once we have the photos, we'll email (or call if you prefer) and ask a few questions. This level of service is standard with every Forever Redwood order.

From your answers, we will design and create drawings of your order so we can both be sure everything will work prior to building.

After many years, we've learned this attention to detail is the best way to ensure your project will work perfectly.

https://www.foreverredwood.com/ pergolas-gazebos.html

Low eaves?

Low eaves may be a limitation for pavilion and pergolas that will be attached to your home. There are several ways to get around the height limitation. One solution is have a free standing pavilion that hovers atop your roof line some and drains into the house gutter, see example photo below.
The standard method for attaching a pergola or pavilion to an existing structure is via a Ledger Board (see photo on left). If our assembly team is installing for you, we use lag bolts on every framing timber (16” on center in most cases). Sometimes common joist hangers are added for additional strength, but in most cases, they are not necessary.

Sometimes obstructions or other wall details make a ledger board unworkable. We then design and build custom metal anchors (see photos below).


You can download the assembly instructions for any of our structures right from the product’s webpage. Just go below the images to the Assembly & Care tab to download the pdf file.
Attached pergolas and pavilions are always custom jobs in some way. A pergola can be built with as few as one post (see photo below). This 24’ pergola is attached with three custom steel anchors to the building using short ledger boards. The ledger boards are sized to bolt into at least two framing studs behind the siding for added strength while sized similarly to one another to maintain aesthetic balance.

The photos on this page are included to show examples that highlight the range of variations possible in design for what is essentially one product: The Attached Garden Pergola.
As a traditional woodworking shop dedicated to the principles of old-world craftsmanship, we specialize in custom work. Our standard customizable options include: timber sizing, roof styles, rafter and slat spacing, privacy panels, premium finishes, waterproofing options, accommodating accessories of all kinds, personalizing design details, and limitless sizes to choose from. We often create hybrids from standard pergola or pavilion designs and regularly receive conceptual drawings from architects and designers to convert to finished products.
This custom job started with the masonry columns already in place. We built a better, thicker, and more decay-resistant new pergola roof in Mature Redwood for this villa in Mexico City. The prior pergola—from another manufacturer—had only lasted six years. The new Redwood timbers are massive, full-dimension 3x6” and 2x6” timbers, and the arc is built using rounded 4x8’s that are bolted together. This pergola’s center arch is 16’ in diameter and the overall length is over 50’.

We custom designed this 22’ entryway arched pergola, with overlapping 16’ sides, that is 22’ deep and partially attached to the house. Photo Courtesy of Kelly F. of Okotoks, AB, Canada.
We can also build sunrooms in any shape by hybridizing our designs. We can design the walls to accommodate windows, which you can purchase locally. So, you can have dual-paned glass sunrooms constructed in three days instead of a month-long local construction job from scratch. Any size, any personalized detail, and the sawdust stays here.
We make very large PERGOLAS AND PAVILIONS too!

Larger structures often require thicker wood and additional posts to support the extra weight. We will work with you to determine the optimal mix of supporting elements to meet your aesthetic and functional needs. For example, instead of adding additional posts to a larger structure, we can sometimes increase the size of the roof support beams to use 2x10’s or larger. Our staff engineer will ensure structural integrity and provide drawings for your permitting process.

In 2015, we installed this majestic 60’ x 30’ oversized custom Del Rio Pavilion at the Grace Gardens of El Paso, TX.
Meet another of Forever Redwood’s big, custom, fat-timbered pavilions.

Designed as a massive protected entry area for a home in California, this custom pavilion measures 51’ x 47’, with a tile roof installed by Forever Redwood.
So, there was an outdoor wedding and all had to be perfect...

The Cardinal’s Nest Pavilion was our answer. Luckily, we don’t insist that you must have a wedding to get one built. You don’t have to go with the original 60’ x 34’ size either.

If you dream it, WE CAN BUILD IT...

WE CAN BUILD IT…

…in any size, or configuration, and with all the bells and whistles you like.

Photo courtesy of Stan & Monica H. of Sevierville, TN.
I just wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and our company. We have been in the patio furniture business for 26 years. Our underlying mission is to restore California Redwood forest lands to their ancient state—full of very old, very large trees.

We use the proceeds from sales to fund our forestry work. Our ethic when it comes to building patio furniture and shade structures is to create something that, like the trees, will last virtually forever.

We would love the opportunity to hear more about your project. It usually just takes one or two quick conversations to work out the details of a project and give you a quote. Once you put down a deposit, our engineers will create your custom drawings, making sure everything will be built exactly to fit your location and fulfill your vision.

Please feel free to reach out anytime. Ask for me directly.

Raul Hernandez
Founder, Forever Redwood
(866) 332-2403
sales@foreverredwood.com
With all of these options there is bound to be a little complexity in the process. What follows is a handy guide which will help you to get pricing, shipping information, specifications on any product, assembly support, and even discounts. We will walk you through navigating this large site efficiently toward the garden oasis, outdoor great room, or site development project of your dreams.

Forever Redwood is proud to offer extensive product customization and flexible purchase options.
The Design process is the first step and the key to a successful project. It should not be hurried. Some projects are straightforward and can be designed in one or two revisions over a week or two. Larger projects can take a month or more depending on the details customized and the revisions made.

Our process integrates design and engineering with high-end carpentry, specializing in custom projects and the use of big timbers. Our emphasis on a thorough design process is the key to ensuring that each job exceeds expectations. The time it takes to complete a complex design can be substantial and we encourage you to order early and take your time with your assigned design engineer to get the details just right. Many projects involve coordinating with local contractors to create seamless backyards that include new pools, hardscapes, outdoor kitchens, outdoor classrooms, meeting rooms, places of worship, workshops, barns, wedding venues, etc. You will benefit from our years of focused experience building custom shade structures.
Purchase Options

**Project Timing & Coordination**

If your plans involve getting other projects completed in your yard (pool, outdoor kitchen, fountain, new hardscape, etc), we encourage you to place your order with an extra month or two built in so you can take as much time as needed to make sure every detail is worked out. It is typical for customers planning projects for the spring to place an order in the fall because they are also coordinating construction of a pool or outdoor kitchen. You may be planning a carport, a barn, a workshop, an outdoor classroom, a boat house, or a small gym. The variety of uses for our pergolas and pavilions has surprised us over the years.

Adding a pergola, pavilion, or gazebo often needs to be coordinated to ensure the hardscape and footings needed for the structure are incorporated in a seamless manner and not as an afterthought. If you are planning a new hardscape with your new shade structure, do yourself a favor and hold off on the hardscape until you finalize your shade structure plans. This will allow you to take drainage, structure anchors, and other factors into account. Before you lay a new hardscape, decide - are you going to run electrical, gas, water, internet, and other utilities to the site? If so, your conduits will not only need to be run under the hardscape, they'll need to be run right to the posts of your shade structure to achieve a clean design. So, in order to achieve an optimal design and installation process, you will want to consider what amenities you will ultimately be adding within your structure. Our process will take you through the steps to get all of these details accounted for. The larger and more detailed the project, the longer the timeline for design you'll want to set aside. Unsure of your project's complexity? Give us a call.

Pergola and Pavilion projects are often ordered 3–5 months before you want them up and functioning. This way, you can take your time and make sure the drawings are exactly what you want. And you can take advantage of the Free Shipping option.
On any pergola or pavilion product pages, you can choose the drop down options for length, width, privacy options, etc. and get to a price quickly. Just make sure to start at the top and select from each drop down menu, without skipping any, and the pricing will adjust instantly at the top. Try as many different options as you like, until you find the best configuration to meet your needs.

If you have questions about an option, go to the right of the drop down menu and click the ‘Help Me Choose’ link to review more details about that option.

A side panel will open with diagrams and detailed information to help you make the best possible decision for your ideal space.

Another great option that you can find in the shopping cart area is White Glove Assembly. Choose this option to have a Forever Redwood crew come to your home and assemble your structure, including tear down of a previous structure, assembly, anchoring, and details like adding flashing and curtains. When you select White Glove Assembly in the shopping cart area you’ll get one bottomline for the design, construction, roofing materials (up to $3/ sq ft) and installation of your custom shade structure.
Erecting a beautiful long-lasting shade structure is not a decision to be made on a whim. If you aren’t ready to buy, there’s a quick way to get a quote for the structure you’re envisioning.

Once your desired structure is configured and in your shopping cart, click the shopping cart icon at the top of the page.

The shopping cart should slide open. Click on ‘Edit Cart’.

You’ll be taken to a screen where you’ll be able to enter basic contact information and get a quote right away.

Have questions? contact us at:
1 (866) 332-2403

or email us:
sales@foreverredwood.com
Getting DETAILED INFORMATION

Product Details

On every product page, you will see a carousel of photos at the top left with thumbnail shortcuts just below. The photos shown will include diverse variations we've produced for clients over the last twenty-five years of delivering custom work.

Just below this, you will find a richly populated section with details split between seven tabs, including all of the product information from drawings, assembly instructions, specifications sheets, wood grade information, shipping options, and many more details.

Finding the Right Product

Whether you're trying to find a specific pergola you saw a while back or wanting to find the right set of furniture to include in your new pavilion, there are enough possibilities that we made sure to include ample routes to get you there. You can browse through the product categories or try the search bar. You can search for a particular product name you may have heard about, like Silverado or Kikue, or search keywords, like pergola or gazebo. Any way you get there is fine, we've done our best to set you up for success on your way to the perfect outdoor oasis.

Save 3% When You Pay by Wire or ACH Transfer

For big ticket items like Pergolas, Pavilions, or Gazebos, you can save 3% by choosing to not pay by credit card or mail in check. Instead, if you pay by ACH or wire transfer, we save on credit card processing or check handling fees and pass the savings on to you automatically. Just choose to pay by wire transfer and the cart will automatically add the 3% savings to your product, shipping, and White Glove Assembly.

If you wish to only place a quote for now, but want to include the 3% wire transfer discount in your quote, then select the wire transfer option. Before checking out, add a note in the comment box that reads “Preliminary Quote Only”. This way, we will not be looking for your wire transfer deposit anytime soon and will reclassify your pending order as a quote when it comes in.
PROCESS OVERVIEW

Investing in an additional structure for your property is a project with several distinct stages. Here’s a walk-through of what to expect from your process with Forever Redwood.

Getting started is the hardest part. We are happy to get on a call with you to discuss your plans. But in the end, nothing replaces the drawing process to bring out your ideas in full. If you are not sure you have made the correct selections, we recommend you do not worry too much about it. All we need is a starting point. If you know you want to go with Forever Redwood, we recommend you go with the size and style you like the most and we will fill in the fine details over the coming weeks. When you place your order, you’ll have a Design Engineer assigned to your project. They will ask you for some photographs of your space and rough size estimates. That’s all we need to get started.

Within a week, you will receive your first set of drawings. We recommend printing them out and spending a few minutes with them outside in the intended spot. Being at the “construction site” with your drawings will allow you to see what needs changing quickly. And, of course, if you have questions, reach back to your designer by email or phone.

Turnaround time for a well-considered complete job from deposit to complete on-site assembly varies according to the shipping option you choose. For example, a Rush Order can be completed within 30 days, but the typical turnaround is 4–5 months—to take advantage of the low cost shipping options and not rush any step.

Imagine your shade structure as it will eventually be accessorized. Then let your Design Engineer know the specifications for the accessories and where they will go. We will add them to your drawings, so you can see how they look and make adjustments as needed before signing off on the pavilion. We want to be sure it will all work as you are envisioning.

If you are in a low water table area, be sure to let us know so that this is taken into account for the footing design work.

Expect a few rounds of design draft emails to make sure we get the proportions you want and the design details you need in the drawings.

There are three critical measurements we want to get perfect before the process is done:

- **Placement of posts**
  Where are they best located to be out of the way and provide the overall desired roof size?

- **Overall roof size**
  How long and wide will the roof be?

- **Height**
  What will be the clearance height of the structure?

Upon completion, your structure’s design should be perfect in every way possible. Take the time to consider not only the structure’s dimensions, but what accessories you envision for the space. Consider how your family and friends will spend their time in the space. Will you want counters, ceiling fans, lights, heaters, misters, audio equipment or television, or possibly a smoker or grill? Each of these inclusions can enhance the design of the space. We can add wire-concealing trim, custom housing for smokers and entertainment appliances, and more. For features such as outdoor kitchens, post piers, custom hardscapes, and pools, a local mason, landscape contractor, or concrete specialist is usually part of the project.
Deposits

To get started, a one-third deposit is needed for orders under $100,000. For larger orders, the initial Design and Engineering Deposit is 20%. You will be assigned a Design Engineer within two days of receiving your order. They will email you to get started and will correspond with you to fine-tune all of the details. Once in a while, for unforeseen reasons, a project cannot continue. If, during the Design and Engineering phase of your order, you must cancel prior to giving us the green light to begin production, one-half of your Design and Engineering deposit is refunded. The remainder of the deposit is kept to cover our staff costs.

Permits & HOA Approval

You will also have our support with obtaining permits from the city and HOA approval. We deal with these entities regularly. There is no such thing as a quick drawing when it comes to an HOA or municipal authority. They will want a lot of details. We can make changes to satisfy both your interests and their rules by adjusting measurements, roof pitches, design details, etc.

To get all of this taken care of, once you complete the design process with your order, you will want to have the Design Engineer who prepared your drawings mark up the drawings with all of the specifications. The specifications usually clutter up the drawings and many are left off so that you can see the design clearly as you are fine tuning it. However, if you are going to present the drawings to the city, details such as timber size, bolt size, span, angle, footing information, etc. should be visible. Two sets of drawings will go to the permitting office and one set will be for your records.

Outdoor Kitchens

Outdoor Kitchens can be designed by specialists and you can hire masons to pour your counters, etc. You can also avail yourself of modular, do-it-yourself companies that help you lay out your whole space. Many customers have spoken highly of RTA Outdoors as a source to help with your outdoor kitchen plans:

https://rtaoutdoorliving.com/

Custom Woodworking

Once your order has been finalized, it is sent to our workshop floor. Your order is completely hand-built except for the bolts. We harvest, mill and dry the lumber, craft the structure, and weld the footing anchors—all from scratch. Before shipping, we fully erect your structure at our site to ensure that it perfectly meets specification. Then, we disassemble and package each box in double cardboard and plastic to make the boxes waterproof. Smaller structures ship ready for assembly in sturdy crates which are also handmade in our workshop from recycled wood.

Installation

All of our structures ship with assembly instructions and stainless steel hardware, fully sanded and finished and ready for you to install on your own. If you prefer, we can take care of installation for you. Our White Glove Installation crew will handle everything from setting the anchors to final roofing and clean up. The advantage of working with us is that you will have our crew on site for a few days total. They’ll be re-erecting a structure that has already been fully built in our shop. If you go with a local contractor, your property will turn into a construction site for weeks.

Outdoor Kitchens

Outdoor Kitchens can be designed by specialists and you can hire masons to pour your counters, etc. You can also avail yourself of modular, do-it-yourself companies that help you lay out your whole space. Many customers have spoken highly of RTA Outdoors as a source to help with your outdoor kitchen plans:

https://rtaoutdoorliving.com/
The Custom Workshop Difference

For a household looking to improve their outdoor space with a shade structure, there are four common routes:

- You can walk into a big box store and buy a general, premade structure that isn’t customized for anyone.
- You can do it all yourself.
- You can work with an architect and building pro to get it done.
- You can work with an integrated firm specializing in outdoor structures that has full design and engineering support and complete carpentry support.

Pros and Cons of Each:

The big box store will give you a flat price, but any efforts and expense incurred to make the structure fit your unique needs are unknowns you’ll have to figure out on your own.

An architect plus a contractor is the traditional high end custom solution and in some cases is your best option. The downside is that you rarely have access to the best quality big timbers and it will be a time consuming process on-site.

The advantages of working with a specialist firm like Forever Redwood is that you have design, engineering, construction, and on-site assembly all in one place. Our workshop has produced thousands of structures. We can give you a solid quote and timeline as soon as we have the broad details of your project.

In the following sections, we cover other details of the design process, the benefits of our traditional craft method, and installation. And, always, feel welcome to call or write us with any questions.
Once you’ve decided on the style you like, it’s time to focus on exact sizing and roof configuration of your structure.
All of our shade structures are fully designed, engineered, and built in-house.

First, we use oversized timbers for posts made from real wood.

For additional long-term structural strength, we use boxed timbers to support all of our structures. A boxed timber is a triple timber that has an outer and an inner support timber notched into the posts with a solid timber blocking between the dual support timbers (see lower image on the right). With this blocking, the dual supports are, in effect, converted into one solid 7 ¼" x 6 ½" timber. We add knee braces at a 45° angle (or hidden stainless steel L-brackets depending on the design you choose). These steps ensure that all of our structures are rated to a minimum 100 lbs/sq ft snow load.

On each product page on our website, foreverredwood.com, you’ll find a product configurator that lets you mix and match sizes, styles, and other options for an instant price quote. However, if you don’t see exactly what you’re looking for, you can always contact us to find out if we can make it for you. Odds are, we can.

We can mimic the roof lines of your home by adjusting the roof pitch and even finish your pavilion or gazebo with the same roof style and color as your home. If you are increasing the pitch to create a more vaulted ceiling it does increase the amount of wood used in the roof, which incurs some additional expense.

Since each Forever Redwood pergola, pavilion, and gazebo is handmade, custom sizing and shaping are our specialties.
Garden Pergola

Roof Styles

The Traditional Garden Pergola was the first pergola we built. It is the traditional flat roof design built with large timbers that goes back thousands of years. We offer a variety of roofing configurations to meet your needs.

To maximize the shading capabilities of the standard open roof design pergola, you should orient the rafters north and south. This way, as the sun moves across the sky, the rafter height will maximize shade most of the morning and afternoon, giving you almost total shade for half the day and substantial sun only a few hours during midday.

Standard Open Roof

This is our strongest roof configuration and our most popular. It uses 1 ¾” x 1 ¾” roof slats with 1 ¾” x 5 ¾” rafters perpendicular to the slats below. We usually recommend 18” on center spacing for rafters and slats initially.

We keep your pergola details on file. If you realize, after installation, that you still need more shade, you can add slats to create the spacing that works best for you. We’ll have all of the details of your structure on hand to produce the addition.

15' x 12' Traditional Garden Pergola with open roof with slats and rafters at 18” and widthwise roof support timbers.
Slats at 18” Apart, Rafters at 18” Apart

This is our most recommended arrangement. You get excellent visibility and more shade than you would think—due to the height of the rafters—and because the sun is rarely directly overhead.

Slats at 12” Apart, Rafters at 18” Apart

Not enough shade? The second most popular open roof configuration includes slats spaced 12” apart, keeping the rafters spaced at 18”. This increases shading substantially and makes the structure even stronger.

Slats at 6” Apart, Rafters at 18” Apart

For substantial shade in extreme climates, we offer this layout.
Lattice Roof

Creates the most shade and privacy. Adding a lattice is the lowest cost option for maximizing shading. Lattice panels are built doubled up using 3/8” x 1 ¾” slats with 1 ¾” x 1 ¾” openings and 1 ¾” x 1 ¾” framing (34” total thickness). Each panel is fastened in-between the rafters (see image below). Rafters are normally set at 24” on center when lattice panels are ordered.

Arched Pergola Roof Styles

Arched Pergolas are made with lattice panels, while Arched Open Sky Pergolas are made without lattice panels.

Our Arched Pergola Roof with lattice panels is below. Rafters, and the slats above them, are normally set at 24” on center.

For Arched Open Sky Pergolas, the rafters, and the slats above them, are normally set to 18” on center.
Timber Notching
For Superior Strength

If you want a shade structure that will hold up well and look great for decades, be sure that it is fully notched. Our shade structures have every timber notched into every other timber. Everywhere two timbers touch, we add a notch. This is time-consuming, but it accomplishes two important things:

1) It distributes the stresses throughout the structure for a stronger pergola that will not sag or warp.

2) It ensures that no timber ever moves even an inch. The timbers cannot move since each is tied into its neighbor. This keeps the pergola straight and beautiful through the decades. Not notching (or incompletely notching) will inevitably lead to twisting, turning and shrinking timbers that will throw the alignment off as the years go by.
Shade structures break down into four general categories: Pavilions, pergolas, gazebos, and arbors. Each of them solves a somewhat different need. Pavilions are just like pergolas, but with a solid roof to keep out the rain and snow. Pavilions are especially favored for hot tubs and outdoor kitchens. However, many people searching for a pergola find out that they really want a pavilion—and vice versa.

Our pavilion roofs are waterproof and beautiful, but do require an additional roofing surface to be complete. The pavilion roof does not need plywood placed over it; it is thick enough as is. We recommend first adding tar or felt roofing paper with either 5/8” staples or 1/2” roofing nails. After the tar paper is attached, most customers then add 30 yr warranty asphalt shingles. It is the least expensive option. Total roofing material costs are less than $3/sq ft in almost all cases, and there are a wide variety of colors to choose from.

Besides asphalt shingles, you could go with cedar shingles. They add time and expense, but have a gorgeous look. For gable or hip-roofed structures, a metal roof is a good option. You can also opt for the added investment of a ceramic tiled roof—a perfect pairing with the heft and substance of a thick-timbered pavilion.

We don’t normally ship roofing unless you have selected to have Forever Redwood do your on-site installation. If you want to add the final roofing materials to your order, let your designer know the roofing you wish to use. A good place to start looking for roofing options is the Best Buy Metals website (www.bestbuymetals.com). Once you make your selection, we will calculate the quantities needed, add the cost to your order and ship it complete with all the hardware.

Our White Glove installation option comes with a standard composite asphalt shingle roof or standard metal roof included in the price. See the subsection on White Glove Service in Section 9 for more details.
STANDARD ROOF PITCHES FOR PAVILIONS

Forever Porch Pavilion

Del Norte Outdoor Kitchen Pavilion & The Del Norte Porch Pavilion

The Illuminati Porch Pavilion

The Thick Timber Toledo Pavilion & Del Rio Cathedral Ceiling Thick Timber Pavilion

The Cardinal’s Nest Pavilions

The Granada Pavilion

Hexagonal Park Pavilion

The Loreto Pavilion

Kikue’s Pavilion & Asian Fusion Pavilion

Andrea’s Cupola Pavilion

Up to 44’ W

Up to 24’ W

Up to 20’ W

Up to 24’ W

Up to 20’ W

Up to 22’ W

Up to 20’ W

Up to 20’ W

Up to 20’ W

Up to 36’ W

Up to 20’ W

Up to 36’ W

Up to 24’ W

Up to 20’ W

Up to 24’ W
Rooftop Installations: Our recommendations for creating ballast when we cannot bolt to the roof.

This photo features a rooftop installation for a Manhattan skyrise. The photo was taken just after installation. The light-colored wood is holding the planters together while the concrete hardens. This example illustrates how aesthetically attractive ballast can be created to hold the pergola in place without bolting to the roof.

Each planter is filled to 60% capacity with concrete. Soil, plants, or decorative material can be added above the concrete.
Pergola and Pavilion projects are often ordered 4–5 months lead time. This way you can take your time to make sure the drawings will be exactly to your specifications, and you can take advantage of the Free Shipping option too.
Pavilions can serve many functions. Sometimes they make the perfect Carport...
RETRACTABLE SHADE CANOPIES

We build most of our retractable pergolas using Infinity Canopy Retractable Canopies. We have used other canopy manufacturers like ShadeFX for motorized and waterproof solutions also. Depending on your needs, we will recommend the most appropriate one. Let us know when ordering, or during the design phase, that you would like to include a retractable canopy. Once you have your design drawings finalized, you can send the drawings to the canopy manufacturer ensuring your canopy will fit snugly and attach to our pergola perfectly. You will purchase the canopy direct from the shade manufacturer, and they will ship the canopy directly to you for installation.

For more information about their retractable canopies, see:
www.infinitycanopy.com
www.shadefxcanopies.com/retractable-solutions/

RAIN GUARD OPTION

Wondering about adding a polycarbonate roof to your pergola to keep out the rain? Our Rain Guard option works well if you are looking to keep sunlight coming in while making the space 100% waterproof. The Rain Guard can be added to any of our pergola designs. Depending on your tree cover, you may find yourself wanting to hose down the panels every couple of weeks as leaves tend to collect on the guard and look messy from below. Switching to a pavilion is another option to consider. We’re happy to discuss your options and help you come to the best decision for you. Most Rain Guard options add around 20% to the overall cost of a pergola project. And, these durable polycarbonate Rain Guards come with a ten year warranty.
LOUVERED SYSTEMS

You can bridge some of the gap between a pergola and a pavilion with a louvered roof. The louvers are made from high-quality, thick wood, and are held in place with a recessed set of aluminum hardware that will never rust or decay. They can be set to any degree between fully opened and fully closed. Our Modern Louvered Pergola gives you the option to allow more sunlight to enter during low light months—or portions of the day—and less sunlight during hot periods. Louver systems can also be added to other pergola models or as privacy panels on the sides of pavilions.

The most effective layout for a louvered pergola is to set the louvers running east and west so that the sun stays in the same trajectory and the shade changes little during the day. A light drizzle can be handled by closing the louvers—it is partially water resistant, but it is not waterproof like a pavilion or a pergola with a Rain Guard (polycarbonate roof).

Watch the louvers in action at:
www.foreverredwood.com/modern-louvered-garden-pergola.html
Whatever you choose

we believe you’ll be pleased with the improvement of your space. A Forever Redwood shade structure can remove the harsh transition from indoors to outdoors on those days when the sun is beating down; or provide a tranquil retreat as a part of a dynamic landscape design.

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The Traditional Wooden Garden Pergola

Before

After
The design process is best handled in stages to keep it simple. First, focus on getting the basic skeleton the way you want. Make sure you have the posts where you need them and determine the post height that works best, the overhang of the roof beyond the posts, and the pitch of the roof. Once you have the basic skeleton, then you move into the bells-and-whistles phase.

How are you going to use this structure? What accessories will you eventually add to it? For example, will you be adding a ceiling fan or two? Lights, heaters, misters, bug zappers, audio, a tv? What about gutters to control the water flow? Are you adding a kitchen that will need a hood to be vented out of the roof?
If your structure will include any special features at all, you want to let the designer know what accessories you may be adding in the future and where you think they will go. The designer will look up the specifications for the accessories and draw them in so you can see how they look. You can then double check that you like the look and layout and make adjustments to either the accessories or the pavilion lines or dimensions to make sure it will all work as planned.
If you are planning a fireplace or wood-fired pizza oven, a common practice we encourage is a chimney cutout in the roof line. For example, let’s say the chimney is 4’ wide and 3’ deep. You can choose to cut out a 4’ x 1’ portion of the roof beyond the posts so that you can tuck the chimney in a bit under the pavilion roof line. We usually make these cutouts removable, as a separate bolt-on portion of the roof, a placeholder until you get around to building the chimney down the road.
Privacy panels are a great way to create more intimacy in your space. They’re especially appropriate for hot tubs, but lend themselves well to any outdoor living room where having one or more partially closed sides is desirable.

Forever Redwood offers a variety of custom panels, allowing you to create the perfect mix of openness and privacy for your structure.
Lattice Panels

An inexpensive traditional solution, lattice panels let partial air and light through with no moving parts. The lattice slats are \(3/8\)" thick x \(1\frac{3}{4}\)" wide with \(1\frac{1}{4}\" x \(1\frac{3}{4}\" openings. The panels can be up to 48" tall. If you prefer a shorter height, just let us know. To have your privacy panels extend from the ground to the roof on one or more sides, you'll need two panels to cover the approximate 8' height.

Horizontally, privacy panels can be made long enough to fit between posts up to 17' 4" apart (which is for roof sizes of up to 20' x 20'). Add as many panels as you like to achieve the perfect balance between visibility, privacy and additional shade. Your custom drawings will allow you to verify that the placement and sizing are correct.

Orientation of the slats is diagonal by default, but they can be placed vertically or horizontally by request.

When ordering privacy panels, please let us know in the Comments box at checkout what distance you'd prefer between the ground and the bottom of your panels. We'll drill installation holes in the posts to achieve the height you specify. If no height is specified, we'll ship your posts without holes so you can determine the best height during installation.

18' x 15' Custom Pergola in California Redwood with two Lattice Panels as well as two Rory's Swing Seats by custom request. Lexan roof panels added by customer. Photo Courtesy of Tina P. of Palo Alto, CA.
15’ x 15’ Traditional Garden Pergola in California Redwood with Lattice Panel (full side by custom request). Furnishings also by Forever Redwood. Photo Courtesy of Susannah S. of New York, NY.

16’ x 8’ Traditional Garden Pergola in Douglas-fir (delivered with Off-White Oil-Based Primer) with Lattice Panel. Photo Courtesy of Leo and Genevieve K. of South Amboy, NJ.

10’ x 12’ Traditional Garden Pergola in California Redwood with three Lattice Panels of different sizes. Photo also shows a Napa Planter. Photo Courtesy of Bill & Sandy G. of Coeur d’Alene, ID.
You will love our louvers! This option offers the ultimate in privacy and openness. Simply adjust the angle of the horizontal slats to let in the right amount of light and air. They can be made in any configuration imaginable, including a solid wall on the bottom and louvers above, or all louvers.

Louver panels can be made any height and up to 5' wide. If you require louvers for only a portion of the height of the wall or a special size or shape, please let us know.

Open/Closed: 12' x 12' Arched Pergola in California Redwood with Louver Privacy Panel. 8x8" Posts by custom request. Photo Courtesy of S. H. of Fort Smith, AR.
16’ x 14’ Arched Pergola in California Redwood with Louver Panels and solid wall under. Photo Courtesy of George J. of Commerce Township, Mi.
Del Norte Pavilion with a Sunset Patio Pavilion attached and solid overlapped wall on rear side.
Shutter Panels

Solid, yet adjustable, shutters let you create sections of paneling that open and close on hinges. Shutter panels are normally made full length, starting 6’ above the ground and extending to the height of the first timber in the roof. The bottom half is normally designed as a solid wall, while the top half opens inward. Of course, you can skip the shuttering part and simply have a solid panel wall all the way up. As always, we are happy to accommodate custom configurations.

20’ x 18’ Custom Arched Pergola in California Redwood with Shutter Panels and Solid Wall at the bottom.

Photo also shows a San Francisco Patio Table Set with Ruth Chairs.
Curtain Rods

For a softer look, add curtains to your pergola or pavilion. We can add heavy duty Curtain Rods with strong, stainless steel hangers. The rods are made with a husky 2 11/16" diameter, so they’ll never snap on you.

Forever Redwood does not provide curtains, and our thick curtain rods do make it tough to find off the shelf curtains that will fit. We strongly recommend Sunbrella fabrics available through Trivantage, and hiring a local cut-and-sew shop for assembly.

https://www.trivantage.com/fabric

20’ x 16’ Custom Wooden Custom Fat Timber Pergola in Old-Growth Redwood with Curtain Rods on four sides. Retractable canopy designed in cooperation with Infinity Canopy of Los Angeles, CA.

Photo Courtesy of Darren & Elva L. of San Jose, CA.
Silverado Modern Pergola with Coffee-Stain Premium Sealant.

Photo Courtesy of Brian A. of Lincoln, CA.
Whether you’re creating a unique backyard oasis for intimate family occasions or a bold gathering space in a corporate office park, Forever Redwood is prepared to listen, and help clarify your vision.

Here we have a sampling of custom privacy panels and structure details that we’ve developed with customers over the years.

40’ x 14’ Arched Pergola in California Redwood with privacy stalls added by custom request.
Photo Courtesy of D. H. of Lewis Center, OH.

40’ x 18’ Custom Pergola with custom trellis panels between corner posts and custom copper caps on all posts.
Photo Courtesy of L. H. of Greenwich, CT.
8’ x 6’ Small Pergola in Mature Redwood with custom gates by custom request. Photo Courtesy of M. R. of Carpinteria, CA.

12’ x 10’ Catalina Cabana with Coffee-Stain and Transparent Premium Sealant. Installed in Catalina Island, CA.
Above: 9’ X 9’ Custom Pergola in California Redwood with three custom, solid privacy panels and two shelves.

Below: 12’ x 22’ Custom Arched Pergola in Douglas-fir with Coffee-Stain Premium Sealant. Photo Courtesy of Wanlass Park of San Pablo, CA.

Above: Custom privacy panels wrap around two and a half sides of the pergola. The wood is finished in Transparent Premium Sealant. Photo Courtesy of Wanlass Park of San Pablo, CA.

Below: 18’ Arched Pergola with a deck, two hanging Bench Swings, and Custom Railings. Photo Courtesy of Bob and Jill of Los Angeles, CA.
Mosquito Hell?

Add screening. It is not on our website as an option, but if you need screening, just let us know when you order!

Photo shows the original Asian Fusion Pavilion installed without screens.
Asian Fusion Pavilion (Options: 22 ft L x 16 ft W, Mature Redwood, 6 Asian Fusion Anchoring Selts, 10 ft H, Coffee-Stain Sealant). Custom Screens Added: Customer called 5 years after original order was installed to add screens all around. You can see the different finish between the newly added screens and the original structure.
For more privacy, 
Consider a Gazebo

Add walls to a pavilion and it becomes a Gazebo. Gazebos are outdoor rooms that can serve as a private getaway and an intimate gathering space.

Our gazebos come in many configurations and styles. They can be built up to 20’ x 20’. Special features include sliding doors, hinged doors, sunroofs, and floor-to-ceiling windows. You can even add electrical conduits for lighting, a fan, a space heater, or an entertainment center.

Gazebos can be made to adjust with the changing of the seasons. Our Sun Gazebo, for example, comes with sliding doors. Additional doors can be provided with screens in place of solid panels. They’re easy to swap out.

Ask your Design Engineer about seasonal options for your project. You may also want to discuss other options, such as window tinting and wire concealing trim.

10’ x 14’ Dream Gazebo in Mature Redwood. Photo Courtesy of Gail Edelman of Rockaway NJ.
Since 1995

14’ x 12’ Sun Gazebo in California Redwood with skylight and complete floor. Photo Courtesy of P. G. of Sammamish, WA.

12’ x 10’ Kikue’s Tea House in California Redwood with interior and exterior decking.
Sun Gazebo with Sliding Doors
Sun-filled space with sliding and removable polycarbonate window panels on all sides. This long-lasting, light-infused gazebo can include a skylight that opens for ventilation and more sun.

Kikue’s Tea House
When nothing but a traditional Japanese Tea House will do, there’s the Kikue’s. The gorgeous, flexible design takes you from complete privacy to a sun-filled open pavilion in seconds.

Dream Gazebo
The Dream Gazebo is our finest. The cupola roof, the finely finished interior walls, the flooring, the shingle roof…the list of detailed craftsmanship doesn’t fit in this tiny space!
Octagonal Sunroom Gazebo

Bring light and beauty to your yard with this gorgeous octagonal-shaped sunroom. This sun-friendly design showcases the natural long-lasting beauty of California Redwood.

DIY Gazebo

Create a new indoor space in your backyard for private relaxation. The DIY, like most of our gazebos, can be customized with dimensions up to 20' x 20'.

Spa Gazebo

Perfect for your hot tub, massage table, meditation room, or even hammocks and comfy chairs. The Spa Gazebo Kit includes a sunroof option to let in all of those beautiful rays in any season.

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Create a Gazebo or even a Cabin

We can add walls to enclose any structure. While partial paneling can add privacy and extra shade to a pergola or pavilion, fully enclosing a pavilion in rich heartwood creates a gazebo or a cozy cabin for more sheltered and secluded moments.
Custom Spa Gazebo Kit (Options: 18’ L, 16’ W, California Redwood, Sugar Pine Internal Walls and Ceiling, Windows Purchased Locally, With Two 3’ x 5’ Skylights, Custom Roof, Horizontal Siding, Custom French Door without Screens, Complete Floor & Deck, Custom Metal Railings and Wood Steps, Electrical Wire Trim on the Walls, Transparent Premium Sealant). Photo Courtesy of A. Ramon of South San Francisco, California.
Another special option we offer is adding vertical or horizontal trim pieces to the standard posts to give them a more multifaceted appearance.

Our standard heights range from 8 ½’–12’. Most customers choose post height in proportion to the longest side of their structure. Generally, structures smaller than 15’ tend to go with posts 9’ or less in height, while structures 20’ or longer (and structures planned through existing decks) go with 10’ or longer posts. If you require posts over 12’, add a note in the comment section at checkout.
Decorative Architectural Columns

Some customers choose to add architectural columns (or pillars) to their pergola or pavilion. Columns may be load-bearing or non-load-bearing. Load-bearing columns sustain the weight of the roof, replacing the wooden posts that would otherwise be there. Non-load-bearing columns are hollow and made to hold a 6x6” timber within them. They are installed around the wooden posts, which are anchored to the ground.

Although Forever Redwood does not manufacture architectural columns, we support you in crafting a pergola or pavilion to incorporate the style of columns you choose. If you’re interested in load-bearing columns, we recommend you purchase them locally, as shipping costs are substantial. If you’re interested in non-load-bearing columns (the most popular option), you can find many examples on the Internet. Google “architectural columns” to see many options in fiberglass, wood, PVC, and other materials. One company we’ve successfully worked with repeatedly is Pacific Columns. If you are going to add non-load-bearing architectural columns, just let your designer know which ones you want and we will design them to fit the structure and add them to your order once we have worked out all the details with you.

Masonry Work

If you have existing masonry work in place, or would like masonry work to serve as part of your pergola or pavilion support, the post length can be customized to accommodate the existing height of the masonry. Or, we can simply provide you with a roof, without posts. As with decorative columns, your masonry work can be load-bearing or non-load-bearing. In the former case, the posts are anchored to the top of the column. In the latter case, the masonry is built around the standard pergola posts after they are anchored to the ground. When masonry work is added after the posts are installed, it is a good idea to create a barrier between the wood posts and the masonry work. We recommend Hardiboard to do so. It is a small investment that will add longevity to the posts.

Clockwise from top-left:
15’ x 20’ Arched Pergola in Mature Redwood with Lattice Roof Panels, 10’ Post Height and Anchor Kit for Stone (non-load-bearing columns).
20’ x 20’ Arched Pergola in California Redwood, customized with two extra posts (some wrapped in masonry).
14’ x 18’ Attached Arched Pergola in California Redwood with both posts wrapped in masonry.
19’ x 32’ Custom Pergola in Mature Redwood (non-load-bearing Tuscan columns).
You can also combine an Attached Pergola with masonry columns. The possibilities are endless!

A slight variation on combining a pergola with masonry columns involves building your pergola atop a pony wall or crib wall. The pergola shown is finished with our cherry stain.
The Montvale Pergola, finished with our coffee stain, comes with 8x8" posts and 2x8" roof timbers.
In addition to customizing your post trim, you can customize the end cuts of the roof rafters to get the exact aesthetic you desire. The Crescent end cut is our standard option.

Here are several examples, but you aren't limited to these variations as you can see reflected in our custom projects.
HEATER DETAILS

If you plan to add heaters under your pavilion, let your designer know the specifications for the heater you wish to use and where you’d like to place them. We can then draw them in the design, add bases as needed, and make sure they are set at the appropriate distance for safety.

Sometimes we have to add a bit of height or adjust the size to create adequate spacing between the structure and the heat source. It is important to use common sense when incorporating heat sources near a wood structure. For example, it is not a good idea to let your teenagers throw a winter party under the pavilion unsupervised.

REMOVABLE ROOF CUTOUT

A fireplace can be the cozy focal point of your pavilion.

You can place a fireplace anywhere under your pavilion.

A popular option is to abut the chimney to the pavilion’s roof line with a cutout so the fireplace is partly under the roof.

If you are planning a fireplace in the future, we recommend the removable roof cutout. When you’re ready to add the chimney, just unbolt the cutout. This eliminates the need to cut the roof or make structural changes.

The following drawings and photos show typical perimeter removable roof cutouts and how they bring the fireplace under the roof line:
SOLAR PANELS

Yes, any of our structures can be customized for solar panel installation. Just let your assigned designer know the specifications of the panels you wish to add and the amount and they will prepare drawings for your review.

Solar panels are not too heavy and since our structures tend to be oversized, minimal customization is usually needed. One customization that is often requested is to adjust the pitch of the flat roof pergolas to maximize sun exposure as illustrated by the image on the right.

In the sample below, we prepared a Cardinal’s Nest Pavilion for solar panel installation. The tongue and roof boards were increased to 1 3/8" in thickness to accommodate the huge array. But the rest of the structure remained unchanged.

Introducing
The Solar Panel Pergola
FASCIA BOARD

If you are planning to add gutters to your pavilion to manage water runoff, we offer a fascia board option that is made with the same wood and finish as the rest of the structure. The fascia board closes up the rafter ends, creating a better surface for attaching the gutters.
Accessory Bases & Shelving

Once you finish the design of your shade structure’s basic elements (height, length, width, roof pitch, trim details, etc.), it’s time to consider whether any accessories you’re planning to include will require shelving or bases. For example, to beat the summer heat, you might wish to install a ceiling fan or two. If so, we’ll provide a matching base to make it easy. Typically, the base is bolted between the rafters. If you’re ordering one ceiling fan, the default position for the base is the center of the ceiling. But you can place the base anywhere, as long as you have sufficient clearance. For larger structures, you may want to add two or more ceiling fan bases.

When a ceiling fan is part of the project, please let us know the specifications in advance. This way, we can include the fan’s dimensions in your drawings. You’ll get a good sense of how the fan (or fans) will look as well as whether or not you’ll have adequate clearance — before you buy it.

Many of our customers have had good experiences with Big Ass Fans, a manufacturer out of Kentucky. Funny name, great fans! These fans circulate a lot of air while remaining quiet: https://www.bigassfans.com/ Alternatively, many customers go to Amazon and find an infinity of options under “Ceiling Fans Outdoors.” Consider fans with comparatively high CFM (cubic foot per minute rate of air movement). Fans with LED lights are popular because they often create generous lighting.

We recommend Accessory Bases if you are planning stand-alone lighting, television mounting, speakers, heaters, and/or a hood to vent your outdoor grill. Whatever accessories you have in mind, tell your Forever Redwood designer the specifications and planned location. The designer will then update your drawings so you can then review and adjust your accessories or the structure to accommodate them.
Trim Kit
To Hide Electrical Wiring

If you plan to run wiring to add lights or fans to your pergola, we can add a cutout to your posts and place a trim piece so the electrical wiring will be invisible, see diagram. The trim is on the interior side of the posts and is attached with finishing nails for a smooth finish. When you order a structure with an electrical trim kit, your first set of drawings will include numbered posts, so you can then let us know on which posts you would like these accommodations made. If you are installing patio pavers, concrete, or a deck along with your structure, you will want to make sure that a conduit is run underground to the posts first.

14’ x 14’ Arched Pergola in Mature Redwood with electrical wiring trim on two posts and one ceiling fan base. Photo Courtesy of Steve W. of Hoboken, NJ.
DECKING

We can design, build, and install a deck of any size and shape along with your pergola, pavilion, or gazebo. Decking can be added inside your structure, outside, or both. We do not offer standalone decks. Those are best done by a local contractor. If you are combining one of our shade structures with a new deck, it is a good idea to design and build both as an integrated project. We don’t normally attach our shade structures to the deck because it is best to keep them closely related but structurally separate. This is usually done by having the shade structure’s posts go through the deck to their own footings below. The deck openings are trimmed out in a handsome way so as not leave an unsightly opening. In this way, structurally, they are fully independent of one another. Decades from now, if the deck needs some work, you don’t have to touch the shade structure to replace any deck timbers.

If you have an existing deck on which you would like to place a pergola, pavilion, or gazebo, we’d be happy to have a look. We determine feasibility for such projects on a case-by-case basis. Generally, we recommend going through the existing deck and keeping the structures independent of each other. However, depending on the quality and age of the deck and the overall weight and design you envision for your new shade structure, in some cases it can be bolted to an existing deck. In such cases, the main timbers under the deck must be aligned to the posts above the deck for anchoring purposes. These details will be fine-tuned during the design phase of your order.

Remember to let your Design Engineer know what accessories you’ll be adding to your structure so that we can draw them into your design to help you make the best decisions with fan bases, heaters, audio, lights, television mounts, and more.
Accessories you may want to consider

**Big Ass Fans**

Whether it’s a porch, a portico, or a lakefront lanai, fans from Big Ass Fans keep your outdoor space comfortable year-round.

https://www.bigassfans.com/

**Sunesta Screens**

Retractable screens from Sunesta are a delightful way to enhance your favorite living space. When it’s bright out, extend one of these patio screens over your pergola and enjoy some much-needed shade, then roll the screen back up when you need less protection from the elements.

https://www.sunesta.com/blog/retractable-screens/
All shade structure purchases include custom drawings. You will have an assigned Architect from our Engineering office who will prepare detailed drawings for your review and final approval prior to beginning construction. This ensures that everything has been considered and all details are to your liking. The drawing process adds time to the production process. But it is the key to making sure your dream outdoor structure is exactly as you envision it.

Custom drawings help you:

- Double-check your project site to be certain that the proposed sizing will work. We will ask you for photos from at least two angles of the site area so that your Architect can see what you are seeing and offer input as needed.

- Make any required changes to your plans to incorporate details you didn’t think about when you first ordered.

- Ensure that nothing is left to interpretation: every detail will be assessed from different angles so you can check proportions, joints, spans, and heights; and confirm that the accessories you have in mind will work functionally and aesthetically.
Creating personalized structures is the focus of our process. For many projects, a clear-cut standard design will work and you will approve your drawings with just a few minor revisions. But in some cases, it is difficult to visualize a solution for a space. You can spend months thinking about it and never get a project started because you are not clear what will work. You can hire an architect, landscape designer, and/or an engineer to prepare conceptual drawings, but you still need to find a builder. With Forever Redwood, you have Design, Engineering and Manufacturing all under one roof.

If you are not clear on what will work for your space, don't let it stop you. One advantage of working with us is that you don't need to have it all figured out in advance. Let us know your basic idea and we will create a drawing. After spending a few minutes in the area with the drawing, you will have ideas for improvement. You will then send us the changes and we'll prepare another drawing, continuing the process as needed.

The example below illustrates this process. The customer started with an arched pergola and via emails with his assigned Architect, the project, step-by-step, changed completely. The design began as a standard arched pergola with 2 shorter posts. The pergola was then sized and resized over a couple of months. A privacy panel was added and then louvers, a swing, and planters. The metamorphosis of this design highlights the tools we offer you to fine-tune an incomplete, hazy initial idea until you arrive at something you love and have confidence will work—before giving us the green light to build.
MORE CUSTOM DESIGNS

The possibilities are truly endless!

https://www.foreverredwood.com/custom-wooden-pergola.html
VISUALIZE YOUR STRUCTURE

As you’re winding down the design process with your assigned Design Engineer, you can position placeholders where your structure’s posts will be to help visualize the completed project. Customers often use potted plants for this purpose. For example, if your posts are set at 18’ x 18’ spacing, place a potted plant where each of the posts will be. Then take photos from the two or three angles with the views that you are most concerned about. Be sure to take photos from a distance which shows how the structure will line up with your house and other major elements. Send the photos to your designer and ask them to drop the drawing into the photos. This mock-up will give you a precise feel for the final installation. If needed, you can request last minute adjustments before signing off to begin the next stage — building.

PERMIT & HOA SUPPORT

Most pergolas, pavilions, and gazebos we build are done without permits. Simply order and install. About 20% of our customers pull permits because their structure is relatively large. In all cases, you have to take into account the local set back rules that limit how close to your neighbor’s property line your structure can be. And there may be other limitations. You can usually research this on the Building Department’s website for your local jurisdiction.

In most areas, structures up to 120 sq ft are exempt from permit requirements. In some areas, 150 sq ft (or even up to 200 sq ft) structures have no or minimal requirements. When you are over 200 sq ft, or you are in a high snow load or hurricane wind zone, in many cases you are required to secure structural drawings and calculations, including a wet stamp signature, from a licensed structural engineer from your State. In some areas you may need prior approval to put any new structure on your property—whether from your Homeowners Association, your municipality, or both.

If you do need to pull permits, once you approve the final drawings, we will send the working drawings to a Structural Engineer licensed in your state to stamp and sign them in the required format and to prepare the necessary structural calculations. You will have to pull your permit yourself, but we will organize and prepare all the needed documentation. We have relationships with Structural Engineering firms with licenses in all 50 states. There is an additional cost of $2,000 for this service for most structures up to 500 sf. Structures over 500 sf can be as much as $3,000. Your assigned designer will handle all the paperwork. This amount is added to your invoice total. You will receive three sets of Structural Drawings in an 18” x 24” printed format with a wet signature, stamp, and structural calculations. The structural documentation will include every timber size, bolt size, span, angle, and detailed information concerning footings as well. It takes 2–3 weeks in most cases to convert your final approved drawings into the three sets of stamped and signed structural drawings and structural calculations. You’ll need to submit these sets to the county permitting office to pull your permit. Keep one copy for your records so you can document how everything was built.

Once you have your permit in hand, reach back out to us and we will place your order into the production queue.

Unfortunately, there’s no way for us to guarantee that your municipality or HOA will approve the construction. However, we do have a success rate of over 98% over the past 10 years. In the couple of cases where the orders weren’t approved, the reason was fire risk and not due to the structures themselves. In certain areas, the fire risk has increased, resulting in much stricter rules and the need for approval from the local Fire Marshall. Also, in some hurricane-prone areas, we do need to do more extensive structural engineering and use more extreme construction techniques. But, we have yet to fail at getting our customers the documentation needed to pull permits in these cases. If your order is unable to proceed due to a strict fire code, or if you change your mind for any reason and do not want to proceed, we will cancel your order and refund half of your initial one third deposit. The other half of the deposit is retained for the design and engineering costs incurred.

We understand that, especially for large structures, this bureaucratic portion of the project may be a pain. Our process does ensure, though, that when your project is at last finished it will be in complete compliance with local authority which protects and adds value to your home equity.
So you have an irregular space that needs a shade structure...

Sample of an irregular shaped deck:

We can help. Working with irregularly shaped houses and decks is how we got our start building custom projects. The details may take a bit longer to fine-tune. And you may need a site visit to confirm measurements once the design phase is completed. But rest assured — we work with irregular spaces everyday. Your designer will assist with ideas until you have the look you love.

Drawing and photo above feature a pergola designed to match the irregular shape of the patio.
CUSTOM L.A. MODERN PERGOLA

The Custom L.A. Modern Pergola (Options: 42' L, 20' W, California Redwood, 10 ft Post Height, Electrical Wiring Trim for 1 Post, 8 Post Anchor Kit for Concrete, 1 Ceiling Fan Base, Rain Guard [1/16” Polycarbonate], Transparent Premium Sealant for Louvers & Rafters and Black Stain for Posts & Supports). Photo Courtesy of L&M Oliverio of Bridgeport, West Virginia.
The first Victorian Trellis Pergola being built to order in our custom woodworking shop.
One of the most important decisions you’ll make about your structure is what material to use to build it. For hundreds of years, wood has been the traditional and favored material for pergolas. Many wood species are available and your choice of wood will determine how your pergola will look, what maintenance will be required, and whether it will last just a few years or many decades.

The six most abundant woods available for outdoor use in the U.S. and Canada are Cedars, Pressure Treated Woods, Pines, Teak, Exotic Hardwoods, and California Redwood. This chapter will review the pros and cons of these woods specifically for use in pergolas.

The Traditional Wooden Garden Pergola (Options: 20’ L x 14’ W, Mature Redwood, Slats at 6” and Rafters at 18”, 4-Post Anchor Kit for Stone, 9’ Post Height, Transparent Premium Sealant). Photo Courtesy of Mary Louise and Gerry Neugent of Des Moines, IA.

**THE TRUTH AND FICTION OF TEAK**

Teak (Tectona Grandis) is a deciduous hardwood renowned for its elegance, durability, and longevity even under severe climate conditions. Teak is becoming the most widely used outdoor wood in the U.S. and Canada. It’s a good economic choice for outdoor furniture and structures you want to last. It has some maintenance issues, but it is reasonably priced and well-distributed.

Environmentally, teak is a mixed bag. Teak sold in the U.S. and Canada is 99% plantation grown. There are teak plantations all over the world now with a growing concentration in Central and South America. These plantations grow teak in rows and harvest in 20–40 yr rotations in most cases. The highest quality teak plantations have up to 80 yr rotations, but they are rare. Teak is marketed as a “sustainably harvested” alternative to exotic woods taken from rainforests. The teak industry is large and strongly markets this environmental angle. It’s part truth, part fiction.

The truth is that teak does take pressure off of native forests as a source of good quality wood. However, a significant percentage of these plantations are grown on lands that were once forests. And, teak tree farms are not native to the Americas (they are from Asia). They often replace native biologically diverse lands with an imported monoculture that is known to degrade the wildlife habitat for many species.

So, it’s a mixed bag with teak—good quality wood and better than logging the Amazon, but not green in any real sense either.
WHAT ABOUT REDWOOD?

Old-Growth Redwood

All Reclaimed Wood (Available for all furniture but only upon special request for Pergolas, Pavilions and Gazebos). Choose from Heart Grade (or better) Tight-Grain.

Mature Redwood

20 year warranty
Premium quality and excellent weather resistance.

California Redwood

15 year warranty
High quality and very good weather resistance. Most popular.

Mosaic Eco-Wood

12 year warranty
An eye-catching contrast of colors and grains.

Douglas-Fir

10 year warranty
Good quality and good weather resistance. Money saving option.

Redwood was the outdoor wood of choice for most of the 20th century. Like teak, it is a beautiful wood with an excellent reputation for outdoor durability. It was available nationwide and used for anything outdoors until the early 1990s. But, the Redwood forests were over-logged and in the 1990s, lumber production collapsed to one third the level of prior decades. It has not recovered and will not unless major changes are implemented in the way the privately owned forests are harvested. Today, Redwood is available only in California and a few western states. The overall quality has dropped because the average size of trees being harvested is smaller than in prior decades.

In 1995, Forever Redwood purchased and began to restore its Redwood forestland. We offer pergolas and pavilions in three grades of wood, two grades of Redwood and Douglas-fir. California Redwood, our most popular grade, has a 15 year decay warranty and is higher quality than the standard Redwood available on the West Coast market today. The Mature Redwood, has a 20 year decay warranty and is comparable in durability to the highest grades of teak.
Western Red Cedar is native to the west coast and is the most common cedar. It is more decay and insect resistant than the Eastern varieties. Western Red Cedar is a fine option because of its naturally strong decay and insect resistance. It is lightweight, dimensionally stable, relatively strong, and has a beautiful grain that is easy to work. Tables, pergolas, and other outdoor structures built from all-heartwood Western Red Cedar can be expected to last 15 years or more in most climates with minimal maintenance. With some maintenance, they’ll last longer. The heartwood is a fragrant red/dull brown and the sapwood is nearly white. If the manufacturer won’t specify all-heartwood, then it has sapwood in it and you can expect decay issues within 10–12 years if you live in a moist climate.

Port Orford Cedar is a West Coast native of Oregon and California. It is also relatively strong and highly decay-resistant. It’s similar to Western Red Cedar, but not as abundant. If you can purchase an item made with all-heartwood Port Orford Cedar, you’ll have a long-lasting beautiful piece at a reasonable cost.

The other North American Cedars—Atlantic Cedar, Incense Cedar, Northern White Cedar, and Southern Red Cedars—are not recommended for any large project like tables, pergolas, big benches, or planter boxes. They are beautiful, aromatic, and have good to excellent decay and bug resistance, but they are relatively weak in structural, compression, or bending strengths. They will not hold up well to wind, weight, or other structural stresses unless you significantly overbuild in terms of the amount and size of the timbers used.

In general, for any large project involving cedar, we recommend:

1) Make sure all the timbers are heartwood-only for maximum durability.
2) If you’re ecologically minded, ask where the wood is coming from and how it was harvested.

Western Red Cedar has become about 5% more expensive than Redwood due to tariffs placed on Canadian imports in 2017. This caused U.S. suppliers to take advantage of the higher Canadian pricing and increase their costs. Now WRC is more expensive than Redwood. Redwood will last about 25% longer than WRC of a comparable grade. You are better off with Redwood especially now that it is a bit less expensive. However, if—for any reason—you would prefer that your project be completed using Western Red Cedar, all heartwood timbers, we can and will happily provide you with a beautiful Cedar structure that will hold up well for years.

There are six cedar species available in the U.S. and Canada. We only recommend Western Red Cedar and Port Orford Cedar.
Western Red Cedar competes mostly with Teak, Redwood, and exotic hardwoods like Ipe for the higher-end outdoor market where appearance and durability are the main points being considered. Exotic Hardwoods are not considered in this chapter because they tend to be harvested in ecologically murky ways and are not widely or consistently available.

Cedar is just as beautiful, dimensionally stable, and easy to work as Redwood. Like Redwood, it works well with just about any stain. However, even though it is highly decay and bug resistant, a pergola built with the best all-heartwood Western Red Cedar will not last as long as the same structure built with the best all-heartwood Redwood.

Redwood has more decay and insect resistant tannins in its wood. For outdoor applications, it is the longest lasting wood that grows naturally in North America. Comparing the same wood grades, Redwood tends on average to last 25% longer than Western Red Cedar.

Western Red Cedar is relatively strong in terms of compression, bending, and overall structural strength, but Redwood is about 10% stronger in all strength categories.

We have built a few projects using Western Red Cedar over the years for Cedar enthusiasts. If you’d like to design and build with Western Red Cedar, we can do it, but generally your cost will be 15 to 20% more than building with a comparable grade of Redwood that will last longer. Also, please keep in mind the Cedar timbers will be a bit thinner than the photos on our website because we cut our Redwood timbers on average 25% thicker than standard lumber sizes.

12’ x 22’ Custom Arched Pergola in Douglas-fir with Coffee-Stain Premium Sealant. Deck and stairs added by custom request. Photo Courtesy of Steve and Heidi J. of Windsor, CA.

https://www.foreverredwood.com/arched-pergola-kits.html
WHAT ABOUT PINE?

In dry climates, you can build outdoor items from untreated pine and either paint the wood or use a good quality oil finish. But most pines have minimal insect or decay resistance naturally. For example, Southern Yellow Pine is a beautiful wood that is readily available at a good price, but it won’t hold up in the moist outdoors for more than 5–7 years unless you are constantly refinishing or resealing it.

In almost all cases, much work is required to maintain any outdoor item built using pine, regardless of how dry your climate may be. Planter boxes in particular will not hold up well because of the constant moisture from the inside out. By contrast, anything built from Western Red Cedar, California Redwood, Teak or Pressure Treated Pine will require minimal maintenance.

A BETTER ECONOMICAL ALTERNATIVE: DOUGLAS-FIR

Blonde or light-brown colored, Douglas-fir is structurally very strong, with substantial decay resistance (though not as much as Redwood). It’s ideal for drier climates, where a 20-year lifespan with little maintenance is possible. In wetter climates, we recommend resealing your Douglas-fir pergola to help the wood last longer. Forever Redwood offers all our products in a Douglas-fir option with a 10-year warranty.

MOSAIC ECO-WOOD

Mosaic Eco-Wood is a beautiful wood grade manufactured in our shop since 2009. Each board is a mosaic of small reclaimed pieces of all Redwood Grades and Douglas-fir. The contrast of colors and grains is eye-catching. But best of all—this wood grade is 100% recycled material. Mosaic Eco-Wood is made via labor intensive hand-jointing techniques in our shop to convert small pieces back into beautiful, strong, thick-timber boards. Although Mosaic Eco-Wood is labor intensive, we are thrilled to finally stop sending these small beautiful pieces of wood to the local landfill and instead to have created 100% post-manufacturing recycled material.

The Mosaic Eco-Wood is ideal for structures and furniture, but we do not use it for decking. We believe that solid wood is the best option for the kind of impact and wear that a deck must endure.

Even if left out in the harsh year-round sun, rain and snow without maintenance, our Mosaic Eco-Wood is guaranteed not to decay in any climate for 12 years.
Pressure Treated Timbers are popular because they are inexpensive, long-lasting, and available widely in any size you need. They are made from average-quality pine lumber of several species processed chemically into timbers resistant to both decay and insects. Pressure Treated Pine has improved in appearance over the years and is heavily marketed. This industrial wood product can last for several decades and, structurally, is relatively strong. While Pressure Treated Pine will work well for some installations, there are a few drawbacks worth considering:

- The surface tends to dry out and develop splinters in a few years unless regularly maintained.
- The wood is toxic due to the chemical processes used to make it decay-resistant. This makes it a poor candidate for seating areas or eating surfaces.
- The appearance just can’t match the natural beauty of Teak, Cedar, Redwood, or an exotic hardwood.
- The wood grain is punctured and of an unnatural color. It requires more staining and other finishing work to create a decent surface appearance.

**A note about aluminum**

Aluminum is a popular solution for pergolas and pavilions. It is marketed as ‘Alumawood’ and made to look like wood. Its strengths include longevity and functionality. There are several louvered aluminum pergolas that are quite popular and available in almost any size. However, there are a couple of disadvantages. Unlike natural wood, aluminum gets hot to the touch in summer and cold in winter. It is also noisy when it rains. That said, we can add an aluminum or other metal roof as the final roofing skin on many of our pavilion designs (see § 3, *The Planning Stage —Sizing and Roof Options*), and this does work well because the solid-wood, tongue-and-groove ceiling muffles the sound of the rain.
Now that you’ve chosen the optimal wood for your structure, it’s time to protect the surface and get it looking its best.

All of our furniture and shade structures ship finely sanded to 220 grit for a smooth-to-the-touch finish.
Stains

We offer the Transparent Premium Sealant with the following stains added: Cherry, Coffee, Black, and White Wash (see image above). There is a small charge for adding these stains. Different finishes may be used for different parts of the structure.

You can make a note of this preference in the comments box when placing your order and go over it with your Design Engineer. We will not build the structure until you have signed off on all details of construction as well as the finish details you’d like to see.

Our most popular finish is our Transparent Premium Sealant, which is recommended for outdoors. This sealant leaves your furniture looking natural. It is a non-shiny, penetrating oil finish that helps keep the beautiful wood surface colors from fading. We will send your pergola completely sanded and sealed with two coats of the best penetrating oil finish on the market (Sikkens Brand). We wait 24 hours between coats to make sure they fully dry and cure for best results. Packaging is also always delayed by a minimum of 24 hours for the same reason. We recommend adding one more coat after 3–6 months in dry and hot climates like southern Arizona or the high Rockies. In climates with more moisture, reseal in a year or two. This allows the wood to adjust fully to its new environment before adding the final coat that will seal the surface.

This is also the best option if you want to let the wood’s finish fade over time, as is traditional for wood pergolas. Most of our customers like the traditional ‘I have been here forever’ look that a quality wood pergola develops over the years. If you go this route, hose and brush down the pergola every once in a while. Otherwise just enjoy it! Often customers choose to grow vines along their pergola as it weathers. Then, even the need for brushing or cleaning is eliminated.

For more on finish options and caring for your structure long-term, go to: https://www.foreverredwood.com/redwood-furniture/care-finish/

We offer the Transparent Premium Sealant for Old-Growth Redwood, Mature Redwood, California Redwood, Douglas-fir, and the Mosaic Eco-Wood. The color tones shown are close representations of the color your structure will have. There is no extra charge for the Transparent Premium Sealant.
UNFINISHED
You may be applying your own stain or want the surface color to fade to a ‘weathered look’ in a few months.

OFF-WHITE OIL-BASED PRIMER
A perfect choice if you are painting your structure a light color. We apply two coats so that it is ready for one final coat.

GRAY OIL-BASED PRIMER
Are you interested in painting your structure a darker color? We can apply two coats of this darker primer.

WAX FINISH
Recommended for indoor furniture. Two coats of Howard’s Feed ‘N Wax. Without maintenance the finish becomes a beautiful patina.

CUSTOM STAIN
If you need a specific stain, let us know. We can accommodate most requests.

Please note that with Douglas-fir, a dark stain creates a tiger-stripe effect. It is beautiful and most customers love it. If you are looking for a dark, uniform stain, we recommend any of the Redwood grades for a more consistent finish.

Learn more at: https://www.foreverredwood.com/redwood-furniture/care-finish/

Well, that’s the long and short of finishing your shade structure. In the next section, we’ll go back to the beginning, and take a deep dive into installation. Everything you could possibly want to know about securing your investment will be covered in detail. And, as always, if you do come up with a question we haven’t thought of, give us a call or shoot us an email. We’re always happy to hear from you.
Anchoring Options Explained

Ensuring that your investment continues to provide your family with comfort and enjoyment for decades to come requires deliberate craftsmanship from the ground up. Understanding the dynamics at work in establishing a lasting foundation is essential to your structure’s longevity.

All pergola and pavilion posts should be attached to the ground. We offer two different options: a Standard Anchor Kit or a High Wind Anchor Kit (rated to 150 mph). All anchor kits come with wood trim that will hide the metal of the anchor. Which anchor kit is best suited to your situation depends on a combination of what type of hardscaping you have (or intend to have), shade structure type, and how much wind you get in your area.

General Considerations

You may consider decking options. Structures can be sold with wood decking inside, outside, or both. Be sure to discuss your need for decking and facing components with your project engineer, especially in areas with inclines or stepped changes in elevation. On a substantial slope, footings and a deck are sometimes more sensible than a concrete pad. Footings and a deck can be designed, built, and handled by our White Glove Installation crew. Concrete pads are best handled by a local mason or landscape contractor.

Confirm your drawings before laying new foundations. All shade structure orders receive design drawings within five business days. In reviewing your drawings, you may realize that you overlooked something or want to make a change that will affect the position of the posts. For example, for a standard 10' x 12' Arched Pergola, the posts are recessed back 12" from the edge of the roof. This places the outside four corners of the posts at 8' x 10' and inside four corners at 7' 6 ½” x 9’ 6 ½”. It is not unusual for customers to change details after seeing their drawings, such as adding space between posts or adding a foot or two to the length or width.

It is especially important to confirm your drawings for structures that will require footings. Once footings are installed you will not be able to move post positions without undue complications. For structures atop decks, we recommend placing the posts through the deck onto their own footings. This way, your deck and shade structure are independent of one another and if the deck fails first, which usually occurs, you won’t have to take down the pergola or pavilion to replace it.

If you’ve selected our White Glove Assembly service, it is important to confirm the details of your surrounding landscaping. We usually use fast drying concrete to avoid a second trip. However, if you are also installing a new hardscape, we will come out to do the footings first. Let us know what your plan is in this regard and we will schedule the footings as needed.
Concrete & Pavers

If you are installing your shade structure on an established concrete pad, there are a few things to consider. How old is the concrete pad? If it is less than two years old, is it sealed? Concrete pads less than two years old need to be sealed to avoid staining issues with Redwood. The wood contains tannins which are actually a major component of Redwood’s incredible longevity, but these tannins can stain concrete that is not fully cured.

Is the concrete pad at least four inches thick? For pergolas, this is all that is needed. For pavilions, the pad will have to be cut to make openings for deeper footings. For gazebos, in some cases footings will be needed and in others the pergola standards will apply.

Is the concrete sloped? If so, we include the slope calculation in the design details to ensure the roof is level by making posts longer or shorter as needed.

Additionally, if you desire a paver or stone patio, or if you live in a high-wind area, a little pre-planning for installation of the footings will be necessary to achieve a seamless surface. Read on about the different scenarios and the best anchors for each, and learn how installation works.

If you have either tile or stone work above your concrete pad, please take the following steps to avoid damaging your tile or stone work:

1. We drill first through the tile or stone work with a 5/8" sized drill bit. We use the Diamond Plus Hole Saw. Just drill through your stone or tile only. Don’t drill into the concrete.

2. Then change to a ½" sized bit and drill into the concrete for 3 ½ inches or more.

3. The slightly larger holes in the tile or stone surface protects them from cracking as you ratch down the expansion bolts. The bolts expand only in the concrete below and don’t stress or crack your surface hardscape.

Stone or Paver Patios

For stone or paver patios, you’ll also need footings. If you don’t mind seeing them, you can pour the footings to the level of your existing or future patio and use the anchor kit best-suited to your structure and wind levels. For a seamless look, use the High Wind Anchor Kit, even for pergolas. The footings are poured to align with the top of the final patio surface, and the anchor is set in the wet concrete. After the footings cure, a portion of each footing is removed so it is not visible once the wood trim is installed. See diagrams below.

Want a seamless look and need help with the footings? We can help. Inquire about our installation services.

UNDERDEVELOPED GROUND

You’ll need to install footings (concrete foundations for the posts) to ensure you have zero issues long term. For pergolas in most areas, you’ll install the Standard Anchors on the top of the footings once the concrete has cured. For pergolas in high-wind areas and all pavilions, the High Wind Anchors are set in wet concrete within the footing. The size of the footings is determined by post size. See the detailed tables in the following pages for specifications of standard and high wind anchors.
ANCHOR SOLUTION FOR MOST PERGOLAS (unless in high wind areas)

If you have an existing concrete pad that is in good shape, in most cases you can use it without the need to dig footings. Our standard metal anchors are attached to the surface of the concrete pad or a wooden deck using either four anchor bolts (for concrete) or four lag bolts (for a wood deck). The posts are then attached to the anchors with lag bolts. All the hardware is included; simply choose our Standard Anchor Kit for the appropriate surface.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR ANCHORS:

We weld our anchors from stainless steel to provide long-lasting elegance as well as stability for your structures. It is a labor-intensive process. We are regularly asked by non-customers if we can sell only our anchors for their projects. We cannot do so because it is not practical for us to produce additional anchors for sale as a stand-alone product.

12’ x 12’ Custom Modern Louvered Garden Pergola in California Redwood with 3 Post Anchor Kit for Concrete. Photo Courtesy of S. Wottle of Frisco, Texas.
STANDARD ANCHOR FOOTING DETAILS

Dig holes 30” deep (in freeze areas, adjust depth to go below the frost line by 6”) and place cardboard Sono tubing in the hole up to ground level or higher, if desired. (See table and diagram for proper footing dimensions.) Add rebar, then pour concrete. Allow up to 7 days for the concrete to cure (or the next day if using fast-drying concrete) before following the Standard Anchor Kit Installation steps in the sidebar at right.

### Stainless Steel Standard Anchor Kit Installation

**STEP 1:**
Place the anchor where it will be installed; mark the ground as shown

**STEP 2:**
For anchor bolts, drill holes ½" wide and 4" deep, then embed the bolts with a hammer. Remove the nut before placing the metal anchor (wood decks use lag bolts in this step)

**STEP 3:**
Place and attach metal anchor (with ½" x 4" anchor bolts) then place the post

**STEP 4:**
Attach post to metal anchor with lag bolts (5/16" x 3"). Place the wood trim boots to hide the metal anchors, fix in place with screws

### Post Dimensions, Anchor Bases, Footing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post Dimensions</th>
<th>Anchor Bases Base Steel Gauge</th>
<th>Footing W</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 x 4 (3 ¾&quot; x 3 ¾&quot;)</td>
<td>1/8&quot;</td>
<td>6&quot;</td>
<td>14&quot; 30&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 x 6 (5 ¼&quot; x 5 ¼&quot;)</td>
<td>1/8&quot;</td>
<td>8&quot;</td>
<td>16&quot; 30&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 x 8 (7 ¼&quot; x 7 ¼&quot;)</td>
<td>1/8&quot;</td>
<td>8&quot;</td>
<td>18&quot; 30&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 x 10 (9 ¼&quot; x 9 ¼&quot;)</td>
<td>1/8&quot;</td>
<td>10&quot;</td>
<td>20&quot; 30&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 x 12 (11¼&quot; x 11¼&quot;)</td>
<td>1/8&quot;</td>
<td>10&quot;</td>
<td>24&quot; 30&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concrete pads are best poured after setting your footings, since if hardscape work is done prior to installing your high wind anchors, you wind up having to cut into that hardscape to set them, which results in a joint around the posts. Even when it is concrete next to concrete.

Digging the footings and setting the anchors ahead of time allows it to be done in a way that leaves the last 4 inches of the footing unpoured. The anchor has plenty of steel under the saddle so it is still firmly set in place, and the final concrete patio contributes to the overall structural stability. You can then pour your new pad right over the footing and have no seams around the posts.

Below: Footing detail showing High Wind Anchors with steel cage. Rebar steel cage size depends on structural recommendations and surface conditions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post Dimensions</th>
<th>Anchor Bases</th>
<th>Steel Cage</th>
<th>Footing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Base Gauge</td>
<td>H1</td>
<td>H2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 x 4 (3 ¾&quot; x 3 ¾&quot;)</td>
<td>1/8&quot;</td>
<td>6&quot;</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 x 6 (5 ¼&quot; x 5 ¼&quot;)</td>
<td>1/8&quot;</td>
<td>8&quot;</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 x 8 (7 ¼&quot; x 7 ¼&quot;)</td>
<td>1/8&quot;</td>
<td>8&quot;</td>
<td>18&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 x 10 (9 ¼&quot; x 9 ¼&quot;)</td>
<td>1/8&quot;</td>
<td>10&quot;</td>
<td>20&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 x 12 (11 ¼&quot; x 11 ¼&quot;)</td>
<td>1/8&quot;</td>
<td>10&quot;</td>
<td>24&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each structure order includes drawings for concrete installation instructions. The High Wind Anchors are normally installed in a 30" deep concrete pour. Footing size is based on post dimensions. Table shows the size of footings and steel reinforcement that we recommend for every post size.
All Pavilions require High Wind Anchors because the closed-roof design creates more wind resistance. Unless the pavilion is relatively small, (under 150 sq ft) and in a low-wind area year-round, we recommend the High Wind Anchors for all designs and sizes. In hurricane prone areas, the High Wind Anchors and large footings are required to make sure your pavilion stays planted in your yard when the next storm blows in.


The Humboldt Log Pavilion (Options: 6in x 6in Posts thickness, 12’ L x 25’ W, California Redwood, 2 Fascia Boards for Gutters, 9.5’ Post Height, 4-Post Anchor Kit for High Wind, Transparent Premium Sealant).
Laying the groundwork is the most sensitive part of the on-site work. The crafting of your structure has already been taken care of in our workshop. What’s more, the whole structure has already been fully assembled once. So, all that’s left after getting your anchors set perfectly into position is to put your structure back together.

Once your foundation is established, you will:

- Erect your posts
- Add support headers
- Place rafters and roof slats (pergolas)
- Apply roofing materials (pavilions and gazebos)
- Add trim and all of your extras

All of these steps are detailed in instructions which you can check out right now on our website. Each product comes with instructions for assembly. Those instructions can be found toward the bottom of any product webpage. You can download any structure’s default instructions now, before you decide whether or not to request White Glove Assembly—to see if the task of erecting your shade structure is one you’d like to take on.
FROST LINE

In areas where the ground freezes, you must go at least six inches below the frost line with the concrete pour. This map from the National Snow and Ice Data Center shows the frost lines across the United States. Note how it moves down from a 72 inch depth to a 6 inch depth.
Coming Soon...

For years, we have been building fully insulated gazebos with internal walls and floors. We added our own doors or off-the-shelf doors and windows, as illustrated in the example below.

So it seemed natural to start designing our own line of Tiny Houses! We are working on this now and plan to have the first structure ready to photograph in late 2021. We’ve included a few drawings to give you a sense of our vision.

Already have a tiny house design in mind? Great! We’d be happy to bring your dream to life, even as we are
Look for a manufacturer that has been in business for at least ten years. If they haven’t been making shade structures for long, you will be paying for their learning curve. You want a structure that will pass the test of time and never sag, split, or fail you. At least a 10 year warranty and specifications that exceed local building code requirements for snow load and wind resistance are key considerations. You’ll want to see a wide selection of examples of prior projects. For example, Forever Redwood’s website has several thousand photos of prior projects. Don’t settle for incomplete answers. If the company doesn’t have an experienced representative to answer all of your questions, move on. Forever Redwood has twenty-five years of experience informing our answers to your questions, which we’re happy to answer before, during, and after your purchase. We don’t shy away from requests for custom sizing, design details, or delivery and installation complexity. We can walk you through assembly, refinishing, or restoring your structure at any time—or take care of these concerns for you.

Tips for BUYING ONLINE

Customer Service, Free Shipping & Lifetime Support

For many people, buying an outdoor structure is a significant investment. It’s an exciting purchase that adds beauty and value to your home. But, it requires some foresight and planning to avoid problems. We’ve helped thousands of customers—be it homeowners, restaurants, hotels, government installations, parks, and other public locations—through the buying process, from choosing the right style and size to selecting custom options. We also manage shipping, offer installation, and provide long-term support such as providing replacement parts and maintenance guides and consultation. Here are some things to consider beyond simply the style of structure you choose.

The Traditional Wooden Garden Pergola (Options: 30’ L x 10’ W, California Redwood, Open Roof with Slats at 12”, Rafters at 18”, Lengthwise Roof Support Timbers, 4-Post Anchor Kit for Concrete, 9.5’ Post Height, Transparent Premium Sealant). Photo Courtesy of Sunday Stevens and David Klein of Los Angeles, CA.
If you are considering a pergola or pavilion purchase, you may be curious about our shipping and delivery process.

We ship pergola kits cross-country or across the oceans. In the US, we ship to your door either in our own trucks or via common carriers like Conway Freight, UPS Freight, and others.

Since 1995, Forever Redwood has shipped thousands of crates all over the U.S., Canada, and occasionally Europe, Africa, and Asia. Forever Redwood pergolas ship in custom crates built in our shop. All parts are strapped inside padded cardboard boxes.

For example, if your pergola suffers storm damage a few years from now, will your manufacturer send you replacement parts? It is worth asking if you can get parts should the need arise. Forever Redwood keeps all your details filed.

If an old oak tree sheds a branch into your pergola someday, just call us. We’ll make and completely finish the necessary replacement parts at a reasonable cost so you don’t have to spend a substantial sum again.

Email us anytime at info@foreverredwood.com.
Over the years, we've fine-tuned the pergola design to minimize reassembly. You will never receive a bunch of boxes full of hundreds of parts to decipher. All of our structures are fully assembled in the shop to ensure all parts fit perfectly so you'll have the least amount of work necessary to re-assemble. All sanding, routering, drilling, cutting, planning, and sealing is done. All parts are numbered so you know which corner post goes with which corner roof support notch. All hardware is included so you won't have to run to the hardware store in the midst of the job. All you have to do is put it back together again—like a giant Lego set!

If you're curious how our pergolas are re-assembled, visit our website for downloadable PDF files:
http://www.foreverredwood.com/redwood-furniture/assembly/

When your order ships, you'll receive tracking information by email detailing the arrival time. We offer five shipping options, from Rush Shipping which ships within two weeks of design approval to our Free Shipping Option which ships in fourteen weeks.

If you provide us with detailed plans or site specifications prior to ordering, this can save time by requiring fewer revisions to our drawings (city permits requiring structural calculations will add to our lead time).

Visit our website for more details about your shipping options.

In the rare case that an item is damaged in transit, we ask that you accept the crate nonetheless and assemble the structure. Once assembled, send us a couple photos so we can quickly identify which part needs replacing. Crate damage occurs less than 1% of the time. But, if your order has any damage at all, Forever Redwood will quickly remake replacement parts at no cost to you.
FOREVER REDWOOD WHITE GLOVE ASSEMBLY SERVICE

We can install anywhere in the continental U.S. with advance planning. Assembly usually adds 2–3 weeks beyond completion date. You can calculate the cost of White Glove service by choosing it in the shopping cart or at checkout. In most cases, White Glove Installation adds 25–30% to the cost of your project. For Pavilions and Gazebos, this price includes a $3/sq ft roofing allowance. This covers metal roofing or asphalt shingles which Forever Redwood will have shipped to your site, ready to be installed by our White Glove Assembly Crew.

White Glove service is a complete on-site assembly and anchoring service which we provide. Our crews come from California and do round robin trips within the continental U.S. There are no geographic or seasonal restrictions for this service. During poor winter weather, we may need to schedule around inclement conditions. But other than this limitation, we deliver and assemble anywhere our customers are, coast-to-coast.

LET US HELP YOU

FOREVER REDWOOD WHITE GLOVE ASSEMBLY SERVICE

We will assemble your structure as well as any additional associated components you have on-site. This includes fascia boards, gutters, and trim. If you have a structure which is being replaced by your Forever Redwood shade structure, the assembly team can tear down that structure at a reasonable cost. Just let us know when placing your order with Forever Redwood. And be sure to order a dumpster ahead of time. We don’t offer removal services.

DO IT YOURSELF

Assembly for the smaller structures is best done by two people and can take a day or two depending on size. Larger structures take longer. Pergolas and Pavilions vary in their level of difficulty to re-assemble. If you plan to pour footings, the project will require additional time to square your corners, dig footings, and let the concrete dry. If you have assembly questions, email or call us.
Our installation team can coordinate with other contractors on projects that require electrical, gas, new hardscape, pools, outdoor kitchens or other features to make sure the end product is seamlessly incorporated. Please make sure to let us know what accessories you have in mind.

A list of typical accessories includes fans, heaters, lights, audio, television, ventilation for cooking, removable cut-outs for fireplaces, and misters. When designing your hardscape, you may need to run conduit underneath for electrical, gas, or water. This should be done in coordination with the Design Engineer so the conduit is run to the correct posts of your shade structure. Also, you may need our team to come out on an initial trip to install the footings if you are in the process of adding a new hardscape. This will allow you to complete your hardscape while we are building your structure, saving you time.

If you are adding accessories, share the details with your Forever Redwood Design Engineer, including where you’d like to place them and the specifications of the product. The idea is to eliminate the need to create solutions after delivery or installation. Take your time and dress up your structure with the options you desire. Coordinate with the work of other pros so your final drawings incorporate every possible accessory you plan to install, now or down the road.

Forever Redwood has been building premium quality wood products since 1995. Whether you’re interested in a custom size, a new design, or an off-the-shelf product, we have honed the process to just a few minutes upfront by phone, a couple of emails, or both—if you’ve got really creative ideas—to finalize most orders.

Our top notch customer service includes:

- Phone & Email Support to Size & Customize Your Structure as Needed
- Detailed Design Drawings in Coordination with Other Landscape Pros
- Permit Support (Structural Drawings & Calculations)
- Detailed Assembly Instructions if DIY or Complete Assembly Service
- Quality Communication, Follow Up, and Warranty Support
- Green Focus

You can purchase a wooden shade structure kit online and get personalized, professional support from Design to Installation!
How to keep your structure looking great through the years

We have been shipping our shade structures to the toughest climates in the U.S. and Canada for over two decades now. We offer decay warranties of up to 20 years for our shade structures regardless of how harsh the weather is. No other outdoor furniture line has comparable warranties. We are often asked if our kits will really hold up that long. They will. And, with a bit of TLC, they’ll last much longer.

Because of the quality workmanship and materials used, a Forever Redwood structure may cost a bit more upfront than some of our competitors. But, you save money by never having to replace it. Aside from some surface fading, you can expect your shade structure to last for decades. And, if you ever have a problem with one of our products, such as damage from a fallen tree, contact us and we’ll ship replacement parts to you at minimal cost.

REASONS WE CONFIDENTLY OFFER OUR WARRANTIES

First, Redwood is extremely decay-resistant. We regularly pull intact logs off the forest floor that have been sitting for decades. In some cases, Old-Growth logs have been sitting on our forestland soil for over a century and the wood is in perfect condition!

Second, Forever Redwood pergolas and pavilions are built the old-fashioned way using genuine high quality thick-timbers that are no longer available in the marketplace. No make-believe wood, like particle board or wood-imprinted plastic, is ever used.

And lastly, Forever Redwood structures are fastened with stainless steel hardware so regardless of climate, you won’t have to worry about staining, rust, or replacement issues.

Combining generous amounts of the high-quality lumber with the best hardware ensures your structure will last decades in any weather. We have customers in Chicago’s winters, Florida’s summers, Arizona’s 110° dry heat, the stormy high and dry Colorado Rockies, Quebec, Manitoba, Montana, Washington State, Alaska, and Yukon Territory, to name a few. All of their structures are holding up against the brutal elements.

info@foreverredwood.com
1 (866) 332-2403

Occasionally, as your structure ages, you may find bees, wasps, or other insects taking an interest in the shelter of your eaves. Bees and other insects, in general, prefer dry wood and don’t go after supple, sealed wood as much. If your wood is well-sealed and you are still experiencing issues, apply a coat of orange oil. It is non-toxic and tends to be an effective deterrent.
SPRUING UP IS OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED

Although your Forever Redwood shade structure can be left unattended in the year-round weather, we don’t recommend it. There are simple steps you can take to keep your structure looking its best for years to come.

Special Climates

If you are in the dry desert or high altitudes, reseal six months after installation and again after another year. If you are oceanfront or within a mile of the ocean, you need to take a few additional steps to protect your wood structure or furniture. Whether high quality Redwood or a medium or low-quality wood, the steps are the same:

1. Hose off and wipe away the salt accumulation with some regularity.
2. Reseal the exposed surfaces.

For oceanfront installations, we recommend hosing down and wiping clean every few months. Reseal every year initially. After the first few years, reseal every other year. Do not powerwash, sand, or chemically strip the old sealant off. None of this is recommended or necessary. Just hose down and wipe clean to remove the salt, grime, and bird poop from your structure or furniture. Then, add a coat of the recommended Sikkens brand wood sealant with a rag.
**Maintenance Tips**

In any location, we recommend a yearly cleaning of your shade structure. Do not power wash or use soap or chemicals on fine wood. Use a soft brush first and then wipe down with a rag and bucket of water. Let it air out and then take a good look at the finish. If there are signs of drying, please add a coat of sealant to keep the lumber supple for as long as possible. The most effective way to apply sealant is the old-fashioned way, by rubbing it on with a rag, brushes, rollers, and sprayers don’t penetrate. They’re also messy and wasteful. You’ll see better results, and maybe even find some enjoyment, leaning into the strong wood with sealant and an old rag.

Our standard recommendation is to reseal your exposed surfaces after the first winter, including the posts and perimeter timbers of your pavilion, and the rafters and slats of your pergola. Exposed timbers will be the first to show finish fade and surface drying. In most areas, resealing every three years is sufficient. In very dry and hot areas, every other year is better.

Each round of resealing will handsomely darken the finish. Without refinishing, the surface color will eventually fade to a darkish, silvery hue. This tells the story of daily battles with moisture, pollution, and sunlight.

These color changes are not indicative of decay. The wood will not be compromised in any way if you choose to let your structure silver over the years and do nothing to restore the original gorgeous wood tones. It is only surface deep. If you scratch the surface, you’ll see the beautiful natural wood tones again. Some of our display items have remained outdoors in the weather for over 10 years. We have never refinished them on purpose, letting them stand as a testament. They’ve silvered, but as strong as day one.

About the worst thing that may happen over the years is that the wood can develop some light checks (surface cracks). This happens because the wood expands and contracts in temperature and humidity. The constant minor size adjustments sometimes cause a few boards to develop these small fissures, but it is no cause for concern. A bit of checking is part of the charm of having wood, adding character to the piece.

If, down the road, you find yourself saying “I wish my pergola looked as good as it did back when…”, our website offers several different solutions to completely restore the original surface beauty of the wood.

For more information about maintaining your structure and other Forever Redwood products, visit: https://www.foreverredwood.com/redwood-furniture/care-finish/

TOUCH UP KIT INCLUDED WITH EACH ORDER
Tip #1: Think Big (even if you’re going small)

You’ll probably want your Outdoor Great Room to include a central dining area, but you don’t have to stop there. In fact, the best outdoor spaces are multipurpose. By properly designing your outdoor room, you’ll be able to easily transition between:

- Fun with family
- Entertaining friends & neighbors
- Social functions
- Intimate evenings
- Relaxing solo

Take a moment to imagine all the different ways you would like to use your space. This will help determine the table styles, quantity of seating, small furnishings, and other options.
Tip#2: Provide for Shade & Privacy

The beauty of an outdoor room is that you get to enjoy the sunshine, breeze, bird sounds, and other natural wonders. But no one wants to sit outside on a sweltering, sunny day without shade.

One of the best ways to provide a shaded area is with a pergola. Although pergolas are open structures, they provide a surprising amount of shade. A pergola can be attached to your house (see our Attached Pergolas) or freestanding (see our Traditional Garden Pergola).

The style of the pergola roof can be customized to your desired level of shading. You can even grow climbing vines along the posts and beams of your pergola for extra shade and visual interest.

For additional privacy, consider adding a privacy screen to one or two sides of your pergola. Finally, a great way to create a boundary around your outdoor area is to install a series of planter boxes (see our Planter Boxes) filled with flowers, veggies, or even small bushes and trees.
Tip#3: Choose a Beautiful Table that Meets Your Needs

The first question many people have when it comes to dining tables is: What shape should I get, round or rectangular? Keep in mind, a round table (see our Round Dining Tables) will tend to promote more intimate and inclusive conversations, while a rectangular table (see our Rectangular Dining Tables) will afford greater seating capacity.

An extra-wide table can be especially useful if you have large platters you’d like to place in the middle of the table. Forever Redwood tables can be easily customized in larger widths. If you prefer a smaller main dining table, a couple of side tables (see our Side Tables) can provide useful surface space for platters, trays, extra utensils, etc.

Tip #4: Outdoor Kitchen Layout

If you are in the early stages of planning an outdoor kitchen, consider visiting RTA Outdoor Living’s website which features a design tool many of our customers have found useful. RTA builds modular outdoor kitchens, so you can layout the space and appliances online in a one-stop shop:

https://rtaoutdoorliving.com/

If you are planning to add accessories to your pergola or pavilion, during the design phase of your order tell your designer what accessories you eventually will add and where they will be located.
Tip #5: Accessorize Generously

Once you have the basic layout of your outdoor room, the fun really begins. The little details will help make your space more charming, unique, and functional.

If you are planning to add lights, ceiling fans, audio, heaters, misters, television, or other items, decide on the specific accessories and the location. Share that information with the designer so they can incorporate your accessories into the drawings. You can then review the look of your shade structure with the inclusion of your planned accessories, making any necessary changes prior to purchasing the accessories. In this way, we can account for the necessary custom woodwork involved in adding fixture bases, shelves, or trim kits to hide wiring. The idea is to make sure everything looks right, is proportional, and leaves sufficient headroom. We also want to build in all of your bases or shelves because locally sourced wood won’t match your structure.

The design process is your insurance policy against any oversights. Take your time and get every detail on paper to ensure your outdoor great room is dressed properly for the parties to come.
Go with Redwood for Durability and Distinctive Style

There are dozens of choices when it comes to the materials for your outdoor room. Authentic California Redwood stands apart for its proud tradition, earthy tones, robust strength, and virtually decay-free longevity. Feel free to request wood samples to see for yourself. The impressive quality of our redwood is why we offer up to 30 year warranties on our elegant designs.

Last but not least, by investing in a Forever Redwood set you’ll be able to tell your friends and neighbors that your outdoor room is helping to restore the Redwood forests. Learn more about our Restoration Forestry practices in Section 13 — The Forever Redwood Story. Beyond just going green, you’ll be fostering a subtle and sustainable connection to a majestic species—one of the most powerful and beautiful trees on the planet. And you’ll feel it as you sit back and watch the sun go down, enjoying an evening surrounded by elegance, strength, serenity, and a classic style.

Conclusion:
sales@foreverredwood.com
1 (866) 332-2403

Old-Growth Redwood
Mature Redwood
California Redwood

Old-Growth Redwood (by special request only)
Family’s Pavilion Offers Relief from the Houston Sun for their Disabled Son

John and Ann L.’s youngest son, Benjamin, was born with severe disabilities. Now a young adult, unable to walk or speak, Benjamin is being cared for by his parents, who also have two older adult children, Jeb and Jenny, and five grandchildren between ages two and seven.

Five years ago, John and Ann decided to move from Boston to Houston, where their elder son and daughter had moved after college and started their own families. This would allow the entire family to spend more time together and let the grandkids see Uncle Benjamin more often. There was just one problem, the scorching Houston sun.

Benjamin enjoyed sitting outside in the backyard during the day, but the picnic table umbrella simply couldn’t provide enough shade—and certainly not when the entire family was over. It was Ann’s idea to consider adding a larger shade structure. During a visit to a local Big-Box store, she and John saw a prefab pavilion that could potentially meet their needs, but unfortunately, as John not-too-delicately put it, “It looked like a piece of crap that I knew could only look a lot worse with age.” (You can take the man out of Boston, but not the other way around.)

John started looking online for something nicer, but most of what he saw looked like “similar junk”. That is, until he found Forever Redwood. He saw the photos on the website and began learning about the quality of our pergolas and pavilions.

“I noticed that it was more expensive,” said John. But in the back of his mind he was thinking, “You try to cut corners, you end up spending more money in the long run.” So, he decided to give us a call and find out if our pavilions were really worth the additional investment.

A conversation with our resident pergola and pavilion expert, CEO and Founder Raul Hernandez, was enough to convince him. “I was impressed by Raul’s honesty and open-handedness,” said John. “I could tell that quality is important to Raul and that he was a savvy businessman. It was evident that Raul knew that the best referral is a happy customer.”

After reviewing the project requirements and making a set of drawings for John’s approval, Forever Redwood built the family a beautiful 14’ x 16’ Backyard Pavilion, including electric wiring trim for two ceiling fans. “I was concerned about the fact that it would be a “big Lincoln log set,” said John, “but it’s not Lincoln Log, it’s Raul Redwood!” (We might just need to steal this phrase).

He installed the structure in a day and half with the help of a friend, and hired an electrician for the ceiling fans and lights. “I couldn’t believe how easy it was to put together. And I can’t believe how much it’s dressed up the backyard! It’s a piece of art that I can take personal pride in helping to create.”

Being a retired Wall Street professional, it was not lost on John that his investment would pay off should he ever decide to sell the house.

Most slapped together outbuildings end up detracting from the property’s value. But, a Forever Redwood structure, “not only will not cost me anything in the end, but I will make money on the investment since the structure has enhanced the value of my property.”

In the meantime, and most importantly, John and Ann are enjoying having their family nearby. The Backyard Pavilion serves as a gathering place by the pool, where John has also added a couple Forever Redwood Pool Loungers.

“My initial objective was a shelter for Benjamin. The end result is my pavilion gives the entire family an enhanced view, relaxation, and pleasure.”

Working from home, John now enjoys his lunches outside in the shade. And, Benjamin has a place to sit more comfortably and enjoy the warm Houston days.

Our deepest thanks to John and Ann for sharing their story.
Couple’s Pergola Provides a Private Retreat Space on Their Beautiful Property

Bob and his wife Jill own a large, beautiful property northwest of Los Angeles. Semi-retired, Bob has enjoyed a long and successful career in the entertainment technology industry, winning numerous awards and even being inducted into the Video Hall of Fame for his contributions to the growth of home video.

Behind Bob and Jill’s hilltop home, there is a large infinity pool, an outdoor kitchen and dining area, a fireplace, and a bocce court. Beyond the fenced yard and down the hill, there is an undeveloped piece of land, where Jill, a yoga enthusiast, saw the perfect little spot, by the stream that trickles through the valley, for a private oasis to nurture body, mind, and spirit.

She envisioned a quiet, secluded spot where she could lay down her yoga mat and meditate. But the couple also imagined it as a place to read, enjoy a glass of wine, or simply talk.

“We’re a close couple,” Bob says. “And we love being outdoors.”

In fact, they often read books to each other. (Most often, Bob reads while Jill listens.)

The architect who designed their home recommended they contact Forever Redwood about designing and building a pergola to provide the shade structure around which Bob’s friend, a landscape architect, would help create a small park. When Bob first spoke with Raul, he described his idea for the pergola park and the two quickly began fleshing it out. Partly because of the strict zoning requirements in Bob’s city and guidelines from the homeowners association, the original drawings required a few revisions and took longer than usual. However, the delay turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as it inspired Raul and Bob to add to the original idea and make it even more special.

“Raul’s recommendations were amazing,” Bob says. “He knows what you need to do and he has good taste. The guy did a wonderful job.”

Working with Forever Redwood engineer Paty Vallejo, the team created at least seven iterations of the project plans, along the way adding beautiful features and touches. (This is not normal, by the way—most projects take only one or two revisions. But, when a project requires it, we love to engage the process. It’s an art.)

It started with a 14’ Arched Pergola, which quickly became an 18’ Arched Pergola with a deck. Two hanging Bench Swings, facing each other, were added, then made bigger to fit Bob’s frame (he’s tall and wanted to be able to nap on the swings). A Storage Bench followed, to be placed opposite the steps, Raul suggesting it be made the same length as the swings, for symmetry.
Railings and steps were added. Electrical conduits were provided. Timbers were beefed up to meet local code. After a number of conversations and email exchanges, finally the plans were done and approved and an installation date was set. Forever Redwood’s team performed the installation over a couple days in the summer of 2014.

“The guys were detailed, very detailed, let me tell you,” reports Bob. “They walked around with a level and showed me every railing, every beam. All the joints fit perfectly.”

Bob is quick to point out that the overall project is not yet done, so the photos and video don’t quite do it justice. He expects to finish the landscaping in the spring.

Nonetheless, Bob is thrilled. “I have nothing but plaudits for Raul and his team.”

A winding gravel path leads from the backyard patio area down the hill, over a small wooden bridge and past some large boulders, to his beautiful pergola retreat. Bob doesn’t mind that the grandkids (he and Jill have seven of them) will go exploring in the “park” when they come over.

The path is gently lit. The pergola sports a wireless music system. Bob is thinking of adding electric lights and a small fridge.

“The reason you’re so happy is that you took your time,” Raul commented to Bob.

We are delighted to have helped Bob’s vision take shape and become a place that he and Jill will use to read, reflect, spend precious time together, and find their inner peace for years to come.

See Bob and Jill’s pergola and deck installation in a 2-minute video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUbmr7qxumc
The Victorian Trellis in Mature Redwood

A Victorian Trellis 18 Years in the Making

When Trish and JR West of King George, VA reached out to Forever Redwood, it was to realize a dream eighteen years in the making. They’d made countless attempts over the years to create the perfect poolside oasis, experimenting with umbrellas, dining room sets, and outdoor furniture. But nothing was ever quite right.

During a visit to a nearby winery to research wedding venues for their daughter, the Wests spotted the ideal solution — a graceful wooden outdoor structure with trellised walls and an arched roof. JR snapped pictures and created drawings. Now, all he needed was a team with the woodworking expertise and imagination to bring his vision to life.

JR searched the web for ‘custom woodworking’ and ‘custom pergolas’ and eventually found Forever Redwood. Over the course of six months, he worked with the engineering team to adapt his photos and drawings to a 22’ x 14’ design, 14’ tall. Trish and JR added their own touches, including three arches on the pool-facing side and an opening in the roof to accommodate a stone fireplace with a custom Redwood mantel. They chose gorgeous, long-lasting mature Redwood as a building material.

"The entire process was smooth and efficient," says JR. "We could not be happier."

Trish and JR’s outdoor oasis is finally complete. The finished structure (which we dubbed The Victorian Trellis) sits beneath towering trees on the 22-acre property. "It’s like an outdoor secret room where you can look up and see the stars," JR says. On cool evenings when the fireplace is ablaze, "our guests don’t want to leave!"

Inspired by a shade structure at a nearby winery, JR says the finished Forever Redwood custom pergola is "even better!"
The Cardinal’s Nest Pavilion

At Forever Redwood, we have a time-honored saying, “If you dream it, we can build it.” In 2017, as Monica Hilton planned her wedding, she called upon us to fulfill that promise in a very literal sense. “I had a dream one night of what I wanted,” said Monica. “I drew it out on a piece of paper.”

What Monica saw in her dream was a magnificent, chapel-esque outdoor pavilion, 22 feet at its peak, with lofty arches and elegant columns. In this sacred space, at the foot of the Smoky Mountains, couples would exchange vows and say “I do,” witnessed by their loved ones.

The first couple to tie the knot? Monica and her fiancé (now husband) Stan. Their story is the stuff of dreams as well. When Stan reached out to Monica eight years ago, they’d known each other for 50 years but had fallen out of touch. During that time, they’d both married and divorced. “I swore I’d never marry again,” Monica said.

But love found a way and soon they were head over heels and planning a life together.

Monica moved from Georgia to Tennessee, leaving behind her job as a business administrator in geospatial architecture. Stan asked what she saw as her next career move. “I told him I’d always wanted to have a wedding venue.” She dreamed of the pavilion soon after.

Stan was 100% supportive of Monica’s vision. But a few obstacles had to be overcome before the dream could become reality—such as building a 60’ x 34’ pavilion with a 22’ high roof—while also planning a wedding! “Apparently, I’m really good with stress,” Monica laughed. “Plus Stan promised it would happen.”

Partnering with the right company to build the pavilion was critical. Monica first tried a local business but grew frustrated when she was told aspects of her vision were impossible because of the wedding timeline. Unwilling to compromise her dream, Monica told Stan, “they’re not going to get it. I’m going to find someone who does.”

When she found Forever Redwood online, the hand-crafted construction and use of Redwood grabbed her attention. “I wanted something special, not something made out of Douglas-fir that looked like a baseball bat.” Monica’s grandfather was a carpenter. Because of his influence, she’d developed a love for the strength, beauty and color of Redwood. “When I found Forever Redwood, I knew this was meant to be.”

Monica shared her sketches and described her vision to the Forever Redwood design team who then created an initial set of drawings. She went back and forth several times, until every detail was perfect. Stan would laugh to find her poring over each iteration with a magnifying glass. “I was really picky about how I wanted the arches. And the flow of it. But Forever Redwood managed to do everything I asked.”
The final drawings detailed one of the largest structures Forever Redwood had built to date. Monica named her custom design "The Cardinal's Nest.

On October 17, 2017, Monica and Stan tied the knot to christen the Cardinal's Nest Pavilion. Since then, they've hosted several weddings in The Cardinal's Nest. Couples and their guests marvel at the design, the Redwood and the beautiful surroundings. "Most brides say it's so pretty you don't need decorations."

"I have to give Stan full credit," Monica said, reflecting on the journey of their wedding and the realization of the Cardinal's Nest. "If it wasn't for him, it would never have happened. It's built with a lot of love and we want couples to have a great start, like we did. It's our love story."

The love story continues as Monica graciously agreed to make her design available to other Forever Redwood customers.

View more photos and a video of The Cardinal's Nest Pavilion at: https://www.foreverredwood.com/the-cardinals-nest-pavilions.html

Our White Glove Assembly Team flew out to construct the project onsite. Each time a roof beam was fastened into place, Monica would exclaim to Stan, "This is exactly what I dreamed." When the structure was at last completed and the builders said their goodbyes, Monica began to cry. "My husband asked what was wrong. I could only say, 'It's just so beautiful.'
We finished! It was a little harder than I expected but really not too bad. The triangle trusses and the roof panels were heavy but we got help with those.

It looks beautiful!!

I still have the metal roof to get done. I have the rough-in electrical done but we have to still get the LED lights and probably a small ceiling fan.

Thanks for your team’s great work with our Pavilion!!

— Jim F. of Beaverton, OR.

I was very impressed with the job the crew did yesterday. I couldn’t believe such magnificent structures could be built in one day, but I guess Forever Redwood can do miraculous work.

Thank You

Aly I. of Irvine, CA.

"I’ve lost track of the amount of compliments we’ve received. Forever Redwood’s workmanship stands on its own with top quality."

— Donn D. of Stansbury Park, UT

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"It gives me great pleasure to write you this letter of appreciation and gratitude for the services you and your company Forever Redwood provided for me this year. I have been in business for just about 30 years designing and creating spectacular landscapes for high net worth individuals. We provide a very personalized service for each of our clients. It is not common to find other companies that I can work with in order to describe them as being part of one such creation.

I have taken some time in writing this letter because out of all the letters I have written, not very many, yours is unique. This letter is different from the others because our business relationship had started purely with a search on the Internet. All of the others I had the opportunity to meet the individual and get to know them. From the first time we spoke on the phone and your initial commitment to provide me with the exact product I was looking for was only in the last few days of our engagement.

The reality is that the product I was looking for was only the first of many I will be working on over the next year. With your constant guidance and the oversight of your employees, I was able to finish one of my gardens, exactly how I imagined it. You and your team provided me with the perfect Arbor complete down to the smallest detail of my design. I consider our first business encounter a huge success.

You were able to turn my dream and build me exactly what I needed efficiently and effectively. The amount of time and the total cost exceeded my expectations of the best case scenario to get what I really wanted.

I am looking forward to a long and profitable business relationship. I am and other business owners in the landscape industry are always in need of high quality woodwork and craftsmanship. My hopes are to visit you and the forest in California soon.

Sincerely,
Alexander Amodeo
Owner/Partner, Avenue Gardens, LLC.
"Wow, I'm impressed. The pergola is even better than expected! The quality of the redwood is outstanding. Everyone is asking me where it came from. With help from a couple of friends, we assembled and anchored it in about five hours. Now I have shade in my backyard that I can sit under and watch my kids play in the pool."
— Brian R. of League City, TX

A wisteria is growing up the wires on the back side and roses are planted to go up the front posts. The deck is Pakari, a treated radiata pine. Our contractor, landscaper and garden designer think this is a perfect structure for the site (as do we). We will send more photos as the plants mature and maybe you can use them in your promo materials.
— Robin & Mary of Carmen Valley, CA.

"The new pergola we just finished today was a breeze to install. It took less than five hours to assemble it."
— Glen V. of Lafayette, IN.

It looks great!! The crew was efficient and did a careful job! Haven't tested it yet with rain but I'm looking forward to being dry while sipping wine in a storm!! Well worth all the time and planning!
— Don W. of Palo Alto, CA.
INTRODUCTION

Forever Redwood builds its beautiful pergolas using lumber from forests we've carefully managed since 1995. We believe good forestry practices are central to mankind's future. Our company was founded to demonstrate the highest standards of forest restoration. We hope you agree it is important to consider where the lumber is coming from and how it is harvested.

Here we'll discuss how forestry practices are improving in some parts of the world and how to tell if your pergola lumber comes from real, ecologically positive forestry or from questionably managed forests.

Although the airwaves are flooded with promising, green marketing campaigns, if you look closely, much of the talk is inflated. For example, forestry is at the center of the climate change equation because forests sequester enormous amounts of carbon. The larger the trees are in a forest, the more carbon is held per acre. But, what is really going on in forestry?

WHAT ABOUT SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY?

Since the early 1990s, a fast-growing “Sustainable Forestry” worldwide movement has been making positive inroads. A handful of organizations now “certify” many millions of acres of forestland as “sustainably harvested.” Standards vary, but certification requires overall improvements in forestry practices away from traditional industrial models. Sustainable forestry is helping many forests around the world reverse degradation and rehabilitate deteriorated stands to a limited degree.

Unfortunately, even the more stringent sustainable forestry standards can only have a modest impact on the climate change equation. To actually stop and reverse climate change—inducing global cooling back to pre-industrial levels—we will need to trap a lot more carbon dioxide from the air. The way a forest is managed has a direct impact on the amount of carbon it sequesters.

For example, in California’s Redwoods, several large forestland owners are certified sustainable. These sustainably harvested forests are logged at approximately 20% of the standing timber volume per decade. (Most “certified” sustainably harvested forests are cut at 30% per decade.) An average quality young stand of Redwoods adds about 30-35% per decade in new wood volume. As it ages, this growth rate slows. If cut at 20% per decade (let alone the more typical 30%), the young stand will add a modest amount of net volume for a few decades and then level out. The forest will then be maintained as a healthy and robust stand of trees of average size, with few if any large or old trees—and little net gain in carbon sequestration.
THE FOREVER REDWOOD DIFFERENCE

Our mission is to demonstrate a much higher standard for working forestlands than is currently practiced. Since the majority of the Earth’s forests are working forests (either in private hands or government), a higher standard needs to be put into practice by these forestry managers and owners.

Parklands are gorgeous and indispensable, but it is cost prohibitive to convert most of the forests of the world to parklands. Setting aside more forestlands as parks will help, but they will still only represent relative islands of stability.

Restoration forestry has many aspects that work together to restore most of the ancient forest conditions over time. The two most important are to protect and restore the soil’s productivity and to strictly limit the rate of cut. For example, to be truly restorative, the rate of thinning living trees must be limited far below the natural rate a young or maturing forest grows new lumber. This central practice is key to allowing the forest to grow the large ancient trees again.

By limiting the rate of cut to a maximum of 10% in any one decade, the forest will retain more than double the wood volume per acre over the coming century than if “sustainably harvested” at 20% per decade. Forestland managed at this more conservative rate will grow ancient trees again over time and make a large contribution to global cooling. This is Restoration Forestry in a nutshell.

OUR HISTORY & FUTURE GOALS

Forever Redwood currently manages over 550 acres of average-quality forests that had 95% of the Redwood volume cut in the 1960s. By the mid 1990s, the forest had too many hardwoods (uncut when the land was harvested) and endless young trees of average-to-poor quality. Instead of about 80–100 trees per acre of all sizes and ages, we inherited over 1,000 mostly small and suppressed trees per acre, increasing the risk of a forest fire. Most were dying, or in danger of dying, from lack of growing space.

The roads were leaching soil into the streams. Poorly constructed roads were collapsing in the winter storms. You couldn’t see a foot in front of you because most trees had grown low-lying branches. It was a far cry from the cathedral-like open spaces of the original old-growth forest canopy.

In 1995, we began thinning out the poorest quality trees and the over-represented tree species (mostly hardwoods and some Douglas-fir). It was an acre-by-acre, hands-on thinning from below. Our minimal array of tools included a couple of chainsaws, manual loppers, and a pole saw. We fixed the worst erosion problems by adding natural structure to the soil and thinned most of the lower branches to lower the fire hazard and open up the understory. It took two people three and a half years, working two days a week, to complete the initial thinning and planting of the first 40 acres—while also selling firewood, building a cabin, and woodworking. Over time, we’ve become much more efficient, learning to leave most of the thinned material as woody debris to build soil structure and moisture. Now we can complete an average acre in twelve to fifteen hours, including planting.
Every day, a 40-foot tree takes in 50 gallons of dissolved nutrients from the soil, raises this mixture to its topmost leaves, converts it into 10 pounds of carbohydrates and releases about 60 cubic feet of pure oxygen into the air.

GETTING RESULTS

When the initial thinning was completed in 1999, a strong contrast with neighboring parcels was obvious. The neighbors noticed, the government noticed, our friends noticed. We began to receive requests to work on neighboring lands and modest financial offers to help buy and restore nearby parcels. We purchased a portable mill to process some of the downed material—and a furniture company was born.

In the last 15 years we’ve grown to manage nearly 700 acres. In 2011, we completed the first round of thinning and planting on all the acreage that we felt needed to be thinned. Some lands are too steep and are best left alone. The thinned stands are already significantly transformed. If we do nothing else, the forest will grow back to Old-Growth Again with better spacing, restored species composition, improved tree quality, and partially restored soils. The fire hazard will have been reduced, wildlife habitat improved, and the forest opened from below and closed from above, as it should be. (For example, birds can now fly through the forests whereas before it was mostly an impenetrable maze of branches and dying trees.)

If we repeat the thinning, planting, and soil building twice more over the next three decades, the forest will return to being multi-canopy and full of large, mature trees, with the general structure of the original stand restored. Passing decades will add the larger old-growth trees whether or not the land is ever managed again. And, this is after yielding a modest timber harvest every decade or so to help fund the restoration!

We recently partnered with a few like-minded landowners who have deeper pockets than ours. Our company has grown and we can no longer cut sufficient lumber from our own lands; and buying more parcels is a slow process. Almost everyone claims to be green these days. But, if you shake the bushes, you’ll find that most claims are green marketing and legal mumbo jumbo. But, there are a few people who put their money where their mouths are. And we are proud to work with them. Together, with the support of our thousands of customers, we are now directly helping to restore over 23,000 acres of Redwood and Douglas-fir forests in Northern California.

To learn more (and download our manual) visit http://www.foreverredwood.com/restoration-forestry/overview/
ABOUT THE AUTHOR


Raul studied forestry and ecological issues exhaustively and accumulated a wealth of hands-on experience in forest restoration. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Florida International University (Miami, Fl). Raul has five children: Sky, Lucio, Raulito, Norma, and Santiago. He spends his time between the Redwood forests of Annapolis, CA and Forever Redwood's woodworking shop in Ensenada, Baja California.

From left to right: Raul Hernandez, founder of Forever Redwood; Ian Morris, forestland owner partner and early permaculture consultant; Frank Marrero, co-founder; Terry Patten, forestland owner and early investor.

Photo taken in January 2015 on the Cataract Trail on Mount Tamalpais in Marin County, Northern California.
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Ask for Raul.
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Del norte Pavilion with a Loveseat and two Ensenada Easychairs with Ottoman. Photo Courtesy of D. Leetz of Petaluma, CA.
The Hexagonal Retreat Pavilion in Douglas-fir. Photo Courtesy of P. Redmond of Coto De Caza, CA.