

# Peace, Love, & Pickleball

PHOTOS BY MATT CORNELIUS



With the popularity of pickleball on the rise, this homeowner could not help but combine her family's love for tennis with the recent pickleball craze to build a pickleball court in their backyard. According to USA Pickleball, 4.8 million Americans play pickleball, and the sport has gained double-digit growth every year for the past five years. With this in mind, the homeowners added the pickleball amenity to their already eclectic and adventurous backyard.

## The History of Pickleball

Three friends from Bainbridge Island, Washington, created pickleball in 1965 to entertain their bored children.

They grabbed simple rackets and a ball, then created the rules. Thus, pickleball was born.

It is believed that one person started calling it pickleball because the combination of sports resembled the similarly named pickle boat in crew, which is a mixture of the leftover oarsmen from other boats.

The other possibility is that the name refers to a canine source—a pup named Pickles. One of the inventors had a dog that would grab the ball from the game and run off with it.

A bright blue graffiti wall stands tall in the back corner of the yard. Painted by the homeowner on one side and marked by visitors on the other, the wall brings additional individuality to the yard. The homeowner drew inspiration from signature murals around the country, her favorite quotes, and memories. The wall also bounds the pickleball court. With the entire family being avid tennis players, the pickleball court felt like a fun, practical addition to the already entertaining backyard.



Through the backdoor, you step onto a cozy, unique porch fit to entertain or relax with family. With a fireplace, heaters, and industrial fans, the space is versatile year-round. Peace signs, an elk's head, dartboard, and a miniature tie-dye bus are in plain sight. The outdoor ceiling, made from a barn's reclaimed wood, holds a small disco ball in the center. The style is eccentric without being over-the-top.



Off the back porch, the backyard is a child's dreamland. A giant playhouse with a rock climbing wall, fireman's pole, slide, and fort await children of all ages. Placed just in front of the fort are custom Arkansas cornhole boards. A volleyball net and trampoline are just steps away.

