

100s
OF EASY
IDEAS!

Create your perfect outside space - no green fingers required

MODERN Gardens

JANUARY 2018
ISSUE TWENTY TWO
£3.99

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500
FRESH IDEAS
AND BRILLIANT
NEW BUYS

TRANSFORM
YOUR
GARDEN
IN 2018



Including

- * Beautiful ways to add value to your garden
- * Clever updates with the key trends for 2018
- * Plant a pot of jewel-toned heathers
- * Our inspiring makeovers of the year



Garden makeovers

"OUR EASY GARDEN
LOOKS LUSH ALL YEAR"



Easy ideas

BRIGHTEN UP DULL SPOTS
WITH A POP OF PINK



Outdoor living

HOW TO HIRE A CINEMA
PIZZA OVEN/HOT TUB

1
LUSH GREENS
and acid pink add
energy and excitement.

2
ARTIFICIAL GRASS
needs minimum
maintenance.

3
A MIX OF MATERIALS
and low planting adds
texture and interest.

1
PLANCED HORNBEOAMS
create height and make a
verdant living screen.

OUR GARDEN PLAN

LOCATION

"A 1930s semi in Leigh-on-Sea. We'd done the inside, now for the garden!" says Victoria.

THE LOOK

Modern and fun, with bright colours and a mix of shapes and textures.

SITE & SOIL

Size 20 x 8m
Faces East
Soil Clay neutral

OUR BUDGET

Clearance & preparation £900
New decking £1,090
Planting £5,420
Path £1,670
Decorative screens £2,350
Water feature £850
Artificial lawn £2,780
Timber frame £320
Lighting and installation £2,460
TOTAL: £17,840

HOW LONG IT TOOK

Groundwork 3 days
Soil preparation 2 days
Decking 3 days
Installing panels & lights 6 days
Building paths & laying gravel 4 days
Planting 4 days
Lawn 1.5 days
Water feature 1/2 day
Archway 1 day
TOTAL: 25 days

**EXTREME
Makeover**

"It's such a great place to have fun"

Vivid colour and atmospheric lighting give Victoria and Kevin Byrne a garden that **SPARKLES INTO THE NIGHT**

THE LINES AND TONES
of the new kitchen inspired
the bold theme outside.

HOT PINK PLANTERS
add pizzazz while doubling up as a safety barrier.

We LOVE this!

A WISTERIA COVERED
pergola provides shade in summer but allows the winter sun to shine through.

A MIX OF SQUARE
and circle installations dotted around the lawn give structure and continuity.

BRIGHT IDEA...

Forget the fence, Perspex screens make a stylish backdrop

DARK WOOD DECKING
offsets the vivid shades beautifully.

SPHERES AND CURVES contrast with the straight lines of the panels and paving.

PERFECT FOR ENTERTAINING
day and night.

THE CENTRAL BED
offers a gentler touch, with relaxing sounds and smells from a bubbling water feature surrounded by lavender.

Full of vibrant pinks and greens, Kevin and Victoria Byrne's garden is a perfect reflection of the fresh, upbeat look they had already given their 1930s semi in the seaside town of Leigh-on-Sea in Essex. "We'd just finished modernising the house, with an open-plan kitchen and big sliding doors leading out to the garden," explains Victoria, "so we wanted the outside to look really good too."

To kick-start their plans, the couple installed new decking along the back of the house, creating a dining area under a beautiful wisteria, which grows along one side. Next came the removal of old fencing and some overgrown shrubs. "That left us with pretty much a bare garden," says Victoria, "and we weren't really sure of the best thing to do. So we looked at garden designs online and saw some that we really liked by Earth Designs. We got in touch and garden designer Katrina Kieffer-Wells came up with some great ideas."

The couple wanted a space with a bright, lively feel. The garden is sloping, with the far end catching most of the sun, so they wanted to create a space there to sit and relax. Privacy was an issue as they're overlooked on all sides, and the scheme also had to be low-maintenance as Kevin and Victoria have little spare time for weeding and mowing.

"I wanted to create a mixture of textures and materials in the garden that reflected the

interior of the house," says Katrina. "The new kitchen had some really funky touches, with pops of colourful plastic mixed in with retro pieces. The house was classy and yet fun. Victoria has a love of pink and fancied being quite daring."

Katrina suggested building the garden around an artificial grass lawn of two intersecting circles. "As well as being an interesting shape visually, the overlap creates a perfect space for a planted bed," she says. "We fitted a stainless-steel water feature there that sparkles as it catches the light, and surrounded it with tall grasses and a sea of fragrant lavender. It creates a natural division in the garden, while adding a touch of seclusion and intrigue."

BRINGING THE GARDEN TO LIFE

The central bed partially screens the bottom of the garden, where a furnished deck with an eye-catching timber frame has been built. A path curves from here to the house, an attractive mixture of York Green sandstone setts interspersed with gravel and planted with dabs of creeping sedum.

But the most striking part of the scheme is the decorative installations around the edge of the lawn. "These are groups of panels of different heights and widths," says Katrina. "One is a hot-pink Perspex, another, stainless steel mesh and the third a composite decking board in spiced rum. Nestled at their base are a ball-shaped light and a stainless-steel sphere along with zingy green balls of box hedging. The art deco combination of geometric shapes and spheres befits the age and style of the house, with the Perspex panel giving bold colour throughout the year."

Shocking-pink Perspex panels have also been added to the main deck to draw it into the rest of the garden. A row of planters along the edge continues the theme, while acting as a barrier to stop people falling from the edge.

The boundaries of the garden have been planted with 3m-tall pleached hornbeam trees, which will fill out in elegant swathes of vivid green to provide privacy. *Echinacea purpurea* and sedum 'Autumn Joy' give bursts of pink.

The whole garden comes alive at night, with spotlights highlighting the pink screens, water feature and timber arch, and strip lights under the steps to the main deck. The hornbeams look beautiful illuminated by uplighters and a glowing ball-light shines over the lower deck. "Whatever the time of year, the garden can become a full-on space to have parties!" says Victoria. "Everyone loves it. We've had really good feedback from our friends. They never want to leave!" ➤

"Our garden is now bright and lively – perfect for parties!"

How we did it...

WEEK 1



AFTER LEVELLING THE GROUND, the frame of the deck could be installed.

WEEK 2



THE DECKING boards are laid in place before being fixed and cut into shape.

WEEK 3



THE SETTS OF THE PATH go down first, while a layer of compacted sand forms a smooth underlay for the lawn.

WEEK 4



NEARLY THERE... with the installations still in their protective covering, the artificial grass is cut to shape before the designers get to work on the finishing touches.



INTERSECTING CIRCLES

create an oval bed, ideal for a central feature. Creeping sedum has been planted in the gravel of the path.

IN THE PINK

Make a stylish statement and add welcome warmth with a **HOT HUE**

Bold, bubblegum shades are so bright they almost seem to glow outside. Hot or dayglo colours bring a modern, exotic feel to an outside space and lift the greyness that our climate often delivers at this time of year. The key to making this look work is to create strong accents of the same shade of pink, rather than going overboard and creating a nerve-jangling jumble of different hues.

In Kevin and Victoria Byrne's seaside garden (see page 28), pink has been used to stunning effect with a Perspex screen, and continued through the space with pops of the same colour. Plants with a restricted palette of shaped foliage complement the pink, keeping things simple yet always dramatic.

Star of the show in their garden is the deck, with its pink feature wall, and the pergola, which has been built to fit neatly over the space, and planted with wisteria, which has grown to create a soft roof. The tendrils of the plant hang down, creating a natural chandelier with living droplets of fragrant flowers from April to June. To recreate this look, choose a sturdy pergola, with 10cm-thick posts and cross beams, such as the Ultima Pergola Kit, which measures 2.7 x 2.7m and costs £339.99 from forestgarden.co.uk. Once your wisteria gets growing, the pergola needs to be able to support its weight, so a model with strong, chunky beams is a must, even if that means paying a little more.

Spring or autumn is a good time to plant wisteria. The length of the flowers varies, and to

COLOURS THAT

aren't often seen in nature, such as glossy fuchsia pink, create instant attention and provide a canvas for greenery with zingy lime tones to sing out.

LIVING ROOF

Twine a pergola with wisteria for shade, privacy and scent

GO FOR A BISTRO

set in a dark colour such as grey for contrast. The pink backdrop picks out the shapes of the furniture.

TALL PINK CONTAINERS

are planted with shaped box balls, which are widely available from garden centres. As evergreens, they're ideal for a space that's used year-round.

A NEUTRAL DECK

covering won't compete with the pink theme. Try a faux oak covering such as Millboard (millboard.co.uk) to get the look shown here.

Try a perspex panel

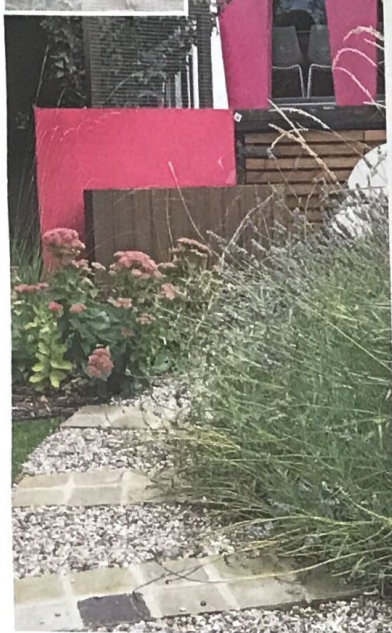
* Coloured acrylic, or Perspex as it is also known, is perfect for creating a feature wall on a patio, or used to create a screen. It's ten times stronger than glass, but cheaper and safer to install. It can be cut to the size you need and will last ten years without weathering. A general builder or glazing company will be able to advise on the fixings you need to create a safe, firm screen, either fixed to the wall of a patio, or as a freestanding feature. If Perspex is to be used on a balcony area, you'll need to

consult your local planning department for building regulations.

* Sheets of fuchsia-coloured Perspex can be ordered from theplasticpeople.co.uk. A piece measuring 150 x 250cm costs £187.20.

* To keep the Perspex clean, use specialist VuPlex Plastic Cleaner and Polish (£6.98, theplasticpeople.co.uk) and a microfiber cloth (£2.29 for 3, amazon.co.uk) or simply apply clean, cold water with a damp chamois to create a shine.

PINK PLANTERS
and a decorative panel
are echoed in the
shade of the sedum
plant, which flowers in
late summer and adds
warmth to the scheme.



A ROW OF
tall planters with
box balls inside
creates a screen
division between
the patio and the
rest of the garden.



HOT TREND

Bright blocks of colour
teamed with lush foliage
and stylish accents are
a chic way to create the
feel of an outdoor room



A PINK PANEL
is given added
interest by
placing a simple
wire mesh screen
in front of it, and
adding a sphere
light and box ball.



SPHERE SCULPTURES
and a box ball complement
the sharp edges.



RUSTLING GRASSES
such as feather reed grass
soften the angular shapes
and provide year-round
colour and texture.

create the pretty chandelier effect in Kevin and Victoria's garden, you need slim, elegant blooms that will dangle. Try wisteria 'Alba', which has white blooms as long as 60cm.

Buy the largest plant that you have room for because the plants can take seven years to reach flowering stage. Add a bag of garden compost to the soil where you're planting, about 30cm away from the pergola uprights. Dig a wide, deep hole and take the wisteria out of its pot. Settle it deep into the hole, angling it at 45 degrees, so the stems are facing the pergola. Make sure the top is at the same level as the soil. Fill in, and water with a couple of full cans. Keep the wisteria watered once a week with a full can for the first year after planting.

The gently twining stems of the wisteria will twist and grow up the pergola and across the roof. Once it's settled, it will grow tall, with a spread of about 10m after 10 years, but if you prune your plant in June, July and August, you can contain the size and keep it neat.

For a faster growing alternative to wisteria, golden hop (£14.99 for a 1.5-litre pot from waitrosegarden.com) has gorgeous vibrant lime green leaves and unusual cone-like flowers in late summer that hang down like little bunches of grapes making an attractive feature. Planted in well-drained soil in full sun, they should reach the top of a pergola in one season. After planting (winter is a good time to do this), tie the twining shoots around the base of the pergola supports and they will start growing in April and romp upwards. Full height is usually gained after about three years. If you have dogs in the house, hops are best avoided as the plants are toxic to them.

PINK PANELS

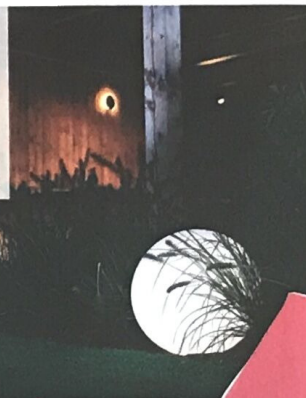
If you prefer not to have an entire wall of pink, opt for a smaller panel to create an accent instead. This can draw attention to a part of the garden that may have been previously overlooked, such as a shady area or damp nook. These panels are easy to install as they can be screwed onto an existing wall or fence. They are available in slatwall panelling from stockists such as bigdug.co.uk for around £48 for a six-foot piece. As they're man-made, they will last for years, and require very little maintenance apart from cleaning with water and detergent to remove any algae.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Underneath the pergola, the illusion of an outdoor room has been created with a lamp shade that hangs through the foliage. You could use one larger lantern in the centre of the pergola, or hang three from the wooden struts that create the roof. Try lights4fun.co.uk, where you'll find three cloud white Miami Solar Lanterns for £22.99. Made from durable nylon, they hang up easily with metal hooks. The largest lantern measures 40cm in diameter.

4 cool colour block accessories to love

Supplied with a ground spike and 1.5m cable, each ground light is fully dimmable using a remote control.
£74.99 each
lighting-direct.co.uk



GET THE LOOK

Brighten up garden furniture with these hot pink seat pads.
£18.99/2 qubox.co.uk



Add sleek brushed stainless steel bollard uplighters, 50cm tall, **£36.99 each** wayfair.co.uk

Hang this metal sign from a shed for an instant pop of colour. **£29.50** notonthehighstreet.com

Mums Shed

Create a screen with gloss fibreglass planters in fuchsia. **£56** potstore.co.uk



Adding a pop of pink

A quick way to get the look is to paint a fence or chair with weatherproof paint. Brush off any dust or debris, rub lightly with sandpaper and then apply one of these juicy fruit shades.



- 1 Try bubblegum bright Ronseal Garden Pink Jasmine Matt, **£9/0.75 litres** diy.com
- 2 Get a glow with Rust-Oleum Baby Pink Gloss, **£2/20ml** diy.com
- 3 For a softer hue, try Cuprinol Garden Shades Sweet Sundae, **£7.18/5 litres** tool-net.co.uk