

Living

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GARDEN GROW-HOW!

Create a romantic garden for two in five easy steps with expert advice from garden designer **Katrina Kieffer-Wells MSGD** of Earth Designs

There's nothing more romantic than spending time in the garden with the one you love. Follow these easy steps below to turn your garden into a secluded spot for secret rendezvous and romantic moments.

Add areas for intimate dining

Enjoy private dining, by installing screens and pergolas to create secret spaces that aren't overlooked. You can buy timber screens or, for a more modern look, use welded mesh steel panels from the builders yard. They weather into a lovely rust colour and are relatively inexpensive. Allow climbing plants to grow up-and-over them so they become the ideal intimate backdrop for romantic dinners.

Get cosy by the fire

Fires are naturally romantic. Buy a fire pit and place some comfy seating around it. Add soft furnishings in romantic colours and finishes, like velvet. Install intimate lighting, like fairy lights or subtle uplighters. Then all you need to do is snuggle together under a blanket.

Plant romantic beds

What's more romantic than growing your own beautiful bouquets? Fill your beds with poppies, peonies, lilies, sweet peas, dahlias and delphiniums. They're naturally romantic and will provide plenty of colour and floral displays to harvest in spring and summer. While jasmine and climbing roses will cover your fences and pergolas in pretty, sweet-smelling flowers. So your house and garden burst with romantic bouquets and aromas.



'Install some intimate lighting, like fairy lights or subtle uplighters. Then all you need to do is spend hours snuggled together under a blanket'

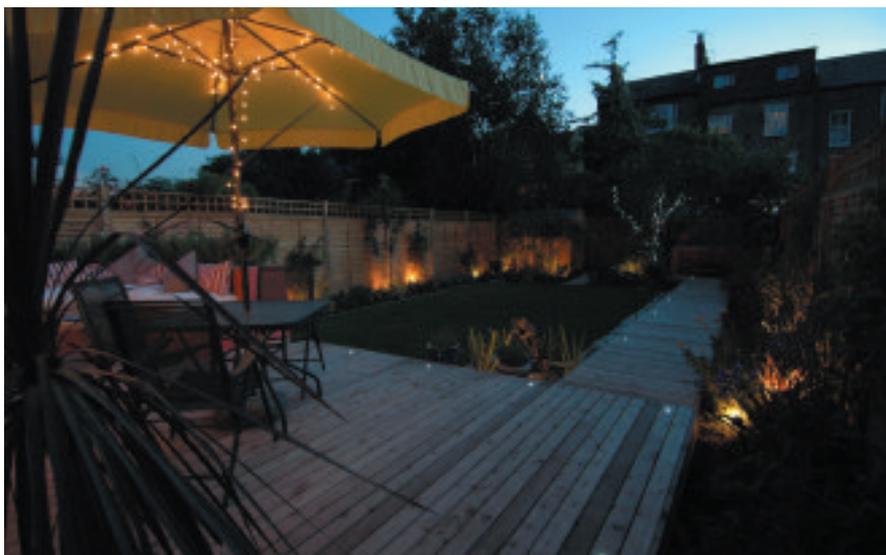
Create secluded spots

Use deep beds and tall flowering plants and grasses to separate areas of the garden, but allow glimpses of what lies beyond. Install archways to accompany your romantic strolls.

And place benches in secret spots found at the end of paths, or where they catch the light. So you can enjoy coffee together in the morning sun, or watch it go down with a glass of wine.

Embrace love seats

Think about adding a hammock for two or a swing seat for cuddling-up. Place them under your pergola or in a secluded spot so the rest of the world falls away. And plant aromatic herbs in pots around them, or tactile grasses to tickle the senses while you swing.



Earth Designs is an award-winning garden design and landscaping company. They are members of the British Association of Landscape Industries and the Association of Professional Landscapers.

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