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EARTH DESIGNS

This month in her exclusive column, Leigh-on-Sea-based **Katrina Kieffer-Wells**, of Earth Designs, shares her top tips for matching garden designs with your interiors



Earth Designs was formed by Katrina in Spring 2003 and, along with her husband and partner Matt and their team, she has now completed more than 300 designs and 150 builds. I always profess how your garden is an extension of your living space, and extra room, and should be treated as the same way as any creative interior design process. With so many of us reordering our living spaces to include bifold doors and large open plan living, it is crucial your garden receives the same billing as your inside space.

HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER:

Colour sets the atmosphere, mood and tone of the space. It is the easiest and most obvious way to link your spaces. Paint a boundary panel the same colour, so it seamlessly flows along the vertical line. If you have used an accent colour in your interior design, pick it up outside with pots, plants or scatter cushions.

STICK WITH YOUR STYLE

If you have a modern interior don't be tempted to switch direction when it comes to the exterior. It rarely works.

FLOORING

If you can, it is worth using a matching flooring, from the inside to the outside. This could be anything from a slate or porcelain tile, to polished concrete. This will really help unite the spaces.

LIGHTING

Always remember, that you will spend more time interacting with your garden from the inside, than the outside.

ELEMENT OF SURPRISE

Put something in your garden that would ordinarily be an interior feature. A fireplace outside, or a bath tub. It is playful and whimsical, and will really make the space feel like an extension of your home.

HOUSEPLANTS

If you don't have any, now is the time to revisit them. Place them in different size pots in groups of three or more. Mix up the leaf shape, colour and texture for added variety and for additional interest.

REFLECTION

Try hanging a large mirror on the wall facing your garden, so that you have the reflection of the garden as the backdrop for your interior

space. It will make your space seem larger, and definitely putting an exterior spin on your interior.

RECREATE THE LOOK

If you have the opportunity to use pattern in your wallpaper or curtains, go for something to botanical. Link the garden quite literally with plants and flowers.

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