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PRIVATE GARDEN DESIGN... HOW TO ACHIEVE IT

There are many ways to give yourself some privacy while you enjoy your outdoor space so take this top advice to heart when protecting yourself from prying eyes

Earth Designs was formed by Leigh-on-Sea-based Katrina Kieffer-Wells in 2003, and here in her monthly column she shares her tips on how to get privacy in your garden...

Privacy in the garden is a common problem. The legal height for boundaries is 1.8m, meaning, very often, it is tricky to create a private garden design. We may be overlooked from upstairs windows. Therefore, it is important to feel secluded in the garden. Even if it is only part of an area, it is nice to feel that you are not being spied upon.



PRIVATE GARDEN DESIGN TIPS: Pleached trees

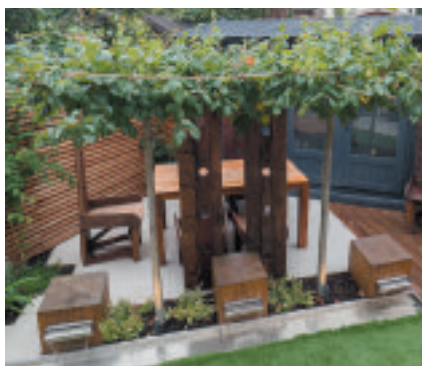
Hedge on a stick! This is one of my favourite solutions to tackle private garden design. These will add a natural, majestic and rather glamorous solution to raising your boundaries. Many come with upwards of 1.5m of clear stem and are grown on frames up to 2m. So, you can plant them along your boundary to increase your height by at least a couple of metres. They do come with a price tag though.

Pergolas

Pergolas of any structure are a great way of making an area within your garden totally private. It is a perfect solution for year round cover, and privacy can be increased if you train a climber to grow over the structure. It will create shade, so don't feel you need to enclose the whole patio.

Shade sail

Shade sails' popularity has rocketed in the last few years, particularly in private garden design. Naturally, the primary use is to create shade, but they are also perfect for creating private areas in the garden. Easy to erect and cheap to buy, they just require three or four high pickup points. They come in a variety of colours and sizes and shapes.



Raising the boundary

Seems obvious, but if you are really struggling with privacy in the garden, the first thing to do is to raise the boundary. You are allowed 1.8m around the perimeter of your garden so make sure that you have the highest that you can. If you don't own a fence, you could direct trellis on your side above the fence line.

Hedge

This is a classic solution to privacy around the boundary, but they can be a tricky solution in a small garden as they can often be imposing, as well as taking up a lot of the flowerbed. However, they do provide a lovely green backdrop to your space.

Planting

Aside from planting around the boundary (think climbers on trellis), a well placed flowerbed, or a specimen tree can create an enclosed area.

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