

ESSEX Living

OCTOBER 2019 • HOMES & INTERIORS • PEOPLE & PLACES • FASHION & BEAUTY • FOOD & DRINK • COMPLIMENTARY

TOP LOCKS

How an Essex hairdresser became world's most expensive

SPOOKY STAYS

Inside the Essex haunts with added thrill

SUB- LEVEL SUPPING

Must-visit basement bars from Southend to Colchester

PIMP YOUR PUMPKIN

Chalkwell horticulturalist shares her Halloween tips

Inside the

MILLION POUND MAKEOVER

How Hatfield Place was restored

All business at Braxted

Essex highflyers network at stately country house





HOW TO DO... ROCK RAISED BEDS

Earth Designs was formed by Leigh-on-Sea based **Katrina Kieffer-Wells** in 2003, and here in her monthly column she tells why your garden needs a raised bed or two...

Raised beds are brilliant in all sized garden layout designs. They are a great way of growing a wide range of plants and vegetables and can often be problem solvers in difficult sites. If you have a garden that has bad drainage, or you need to terrace the space as the plot is on a slope, these are often the best solutions...

Railway sleeper raised beds

A firm favourite. They are easy to source and to install. Available in new treated timber, or in reclaimed, they provide a rustic look to the garden layout design. Make sure the ground is level with your bottom course of sleepers, and bolt together with coach bolts. If using reclaimed sleepers, take care that they are not carcinogenic.

Rendered raised beds

Super popular as they suit a wide variety of garden layout designs. Constructed from lightweight concrete blocks or dense concrete blocks if they are a retaining wall, you would probably need a bricklayer or builder to install for you. Once erected they can be rendered, or clad with an application of your choice. Tiles, feature tiles or Perspex are all excellent choices for a slick contemporary feel.



‘A little planning, a few pounds, and you can totally transform your patio space in a couple of hours’



Planters

Many people don't think of planters as raised beds. However, with a huge range now on the market these are a perfectly acceptable way of raising it up! With preformed planters now coming in pretty much any size or shape, it is a really workable option for a limited skill base or limited time.

Brick raised beds

And oldie, but still a goodie. Bricks will not date, and can work well in both traditional and contemporary garden layout design. They require quite a degree of skill, and you will definitely need to use a bricklayer or builder to install.

Gabion raised beds

A more modern approach. Not for everybody, but a medium skill level is needed to assemble these wire mesh baskets. Once erected, they can be filled with a myriad of materials to create great texture and a real talking point. Well worth capping with some timber to give a better finish.

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