

# Living

ESSEX

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# GARDEN GROW-HOW!

Leigh-on-Sea-based **Katrina Kieffer-Wells**, MSGD on how to make your garden more homely for outdoor gatherings



**A**s the weather improves gardens will start to come into their own this month. Soon we'll be enjoying our coffee in the sunshine and even dusting-off the BBQ. Since most of us will be enjoying a staycation this summer and only socialising outdoors, the garden is going to be the place to be. But it may need a little love to make it more comfortable for outdoor gatherings. Here are a few ways to make your garden feel more like home.



## The secret of outdoor style

Your garden is an extension of your home. An extra room that deserves equal design attention to the rest. But it doesn't have to be costly or complicated. The secret to outdoor style, is not to be afraid to express yourself. Do this the same way as you would indoors, with colour, decoration and a few details.

## Indoor inspiration

If you find it hard to imagine your outdoor style, look at your interior design choices. Colour, for example, is an easy way to add personal style to your garden. It can be as easy as painting or tiling a wall in a shade that matches your interior palette. Or investing in some coloured planters. You can even reflect your colour scheme in your planting. Beds bursting with variations on one or two colours are super stylish and effective.

## Furniture and soft furnishings

Places to eat and relax are essential in a garden, especially now we're all entertaining outdoors. Choose garden furniture that reflects your lifestyle. Like single seats to enjoy alone-time and comfy sofas for chilling with friends. Accessorise with cushions that match your interior designs and palette.

**'As the weather improves gardens will start to come into their own this month'**

## Design details

There are plenty of other ways to express your personal style too. If you plan on spending evenings in the garden, for instance, you'll need light and heat. Choose a sculptural fire pit or modern heater to keep everyone warm. Add delicate fairy lights or dramatic spotlights depending on your taste. Accessorise with outdoor mirrors, vases, pictures and coffee tables to complete the look.

**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.**

**01702 59758  
info@earthdesigns.co.uk  
I: @earthdesignsgardendesign**