

Living

ESSEX

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DATE NIGHT

Must-visit eateries & hotels for 2022

Love local

Discover fab firms from Chalkwell to Colchester

STEBBING HALL

Inside £3.85m Great Dunmow manor

COCKTAILS CALLING?

Brilliant bars across the county

JOE SWASH

Family life at Pickle Cottage

Plus
STYLE & WELLNESS
HOMES & GARDENS
FOOD & DRINK

DAVID GANDY

Billericay-born supermodel loses the suit...





GARDEN GROW-HOW

Katrina Kieffer-Wells, from Leigh-on-Sea-based Earth Designs reveals the secret to creating intimate outdoor spaces that you can enjoy together...

Table for two

You don't want to share your romantic dinner for two with the neighbours, but many of us live in overlooked, urban spaces. High fences are tempting, but distinctly unromantic. Instead, consider pleached trees and pergolas.

They offer similar levels of privacy, but create softer boundaries and more sensuous spaces. Pergolas also allow a framework for growing climbers, so you can surround your dining area with romantic blooms and scents.

Mystery and intrigue

Adding pathways and archways that lead to hidden spaces will add an element of mystery and intrigue to your garden. Tall flowering plants and long grasses can also be used to hide areas from view, like a hot tub or seating area.

Love seats

There's nothing more romantic than cuddling up together. Invest in a romantic hammock or swing seat for two. There are plenty on the market to choose from. Attach to a pergola or place in a secluded corner of the garden, away from prying eyes.

Roses and other romantic plants

For extra romance grow climbing plants like roses, jasmine, clematis and honeysuckle arches and pergolas. They will not only provide an extra layer of privacy, but also look and smell fabulous.



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Intimate lighting

Lighting is an essential element in setting the mood for a romantic environment. A garden can take on a whole new life after dark, but people often forget about outdoor lighting. We use professional installers to deliver the lighting plans in our design. But if your budget won't stretch to that, you can achieve a lot with fairy lights and lanterns.

Fire and water

We can't all wander by the lake like the heroine in a Jane Austen novel, but a water feature will bring romance to a garden. Install a small reflective pool to sit by or a cascading water rill to relax the senses. Alternatively, invest in a fire pit and spend your evenings, snuggled under a blanket together, watching the flames flicker.

Award-winning Earth Designs are members of the British Association of Landscape Industries and the Association of Professional Landscapers.

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