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ALL FIRED UP

How Leigh-on-Sea pizza business is continuing Rossi legacy

Inside

HOMES & GARDENS
ARTS & CULTURE
STYLE & WELLNESS

HER MAJESTY REMEMBERED

A look back at Queen Elizabeth II's time in our county

Strictly ESSEX

TV's Maria Tsiatsiani and Leandro Palou talk Chigwell date nights

20

Must-try autumn restaurants from Little Dunmow to Westcliff

CHIC IN COLCHESTER

From emergency services' frontline to chunky knit creator

MODERN MARVEL

Inside £2.95 million Loughton manor





GARDEN GROW-HOW

Sustainable garden design advice from Leigh-on-Sea-based **Katrina Kieffer-Wells** of Earth Designs

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANNA OMIOTEK-TOTT PHOTOGRAPHY

The recent drought has been a stark reminder of the importance of making responsible and sustainable choices. Protecting our environment across all areas of our lives is a priority for many – and garden design is no exception. Luckily there are many ways to make your garden gorgeous and eco-friendly. Here are a few to consider.

Work with nature

A sustainable garden is one that works alongside and enriches the environment. That means using as few natural resources as possible and giving back more than you take. Good examples of sustainable garden design include ways to conserve water, enrich the soil and add to the local ecosystem.

Planting with purpose

Plant choices can have a big impact on the environment. Native and resilient species will need less maintenance and chemical intervention to survive. They will also support the local ecosystem and are more likely to flourish. Look for plants that you know grow well in your area – and include plenty of foliage and trees in your planting, as well as flowers. They will provide year-round interest and are great for the air and soil.

Save water

We live in an area of the UK with very low rainfall, so a garden that needs less watering is likely to be a good investment – as well



as being more sustainable. Why not use RHS Hyde Hall's renowned dry garden as inspiration for creating your own dry garden? Installing water butts will also significantly reduce your water usage.

Composting and recycling

Using recycled and upcycled items as planters and furniture will reduce plastic consumption and give your garden an edge. Make your own compost too and the RHS estimates you could significantly reduce fossil emissions. As well as enriching your soil and the wider environment.

Caring for critters

We need wildlife to sustain our ecosystem and pollinate our food. Plan your planting to bloom throughout the year, with plenty of food for pollinators. Add animal shelters and bug hotels. And by providing food and shelter for bees, butterflies and birds you will not only be helping the wildlife in your garden, but also the planet.

For more help with your sustainable or wildlife-friendly garden design, contact award-winning garden designers Earth Designs. Earth Designs are members of the British Association of Landscape Industries and the Association of Professional Landscapers.

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