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ISSUE TWENTY THREE  
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# Gardens

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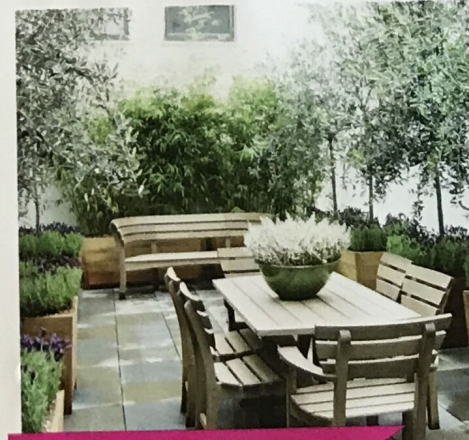
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LOVE  
WITH YOUR  
GARDEN**

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& BEST BUYS  
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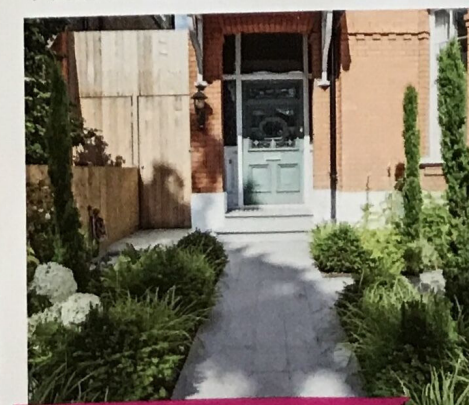
**Garden makeovers**

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US SMILE EVERY DAY”**



**Outdoor living**

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- Add some romance – buys from under £5

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Benches are the best way to maximise your seating potential.



## ASK THE DESIGNER

WE HAVE A SMALL GARDEN AND LOVE ENTERTAINING. How can we make the most of our seating space? *Brenda Dolby, Lincs*



*Individual chairs around a table take up valuable space*





**KATRINA  
KIEFFER-WELLS**  
Earth Designs

Benches can accommodate more people in a given space than individual chairs. They are also more informal and as they don't usually have a backrest, can be accessed easily. The space could be even more efficient by making the bench into a storage unit in which you could keep a few folding chairs for ad hoc additional seating when required.

The most efficient way to include bench seating in your garden is to integrate it into your hard landscaping, as we did with this design in South Woodford, London. We installed a seating area constructed from decking, railway sleepers and other timber along the front of a raised bed. If you don't have or don't want raised beds, then buy or construct free-standing benches that are a little shorter than your table. That way they can be pushed underneath when not in use. A few outdoor scatter cushions or a custom-made fitted cushion will make the seating more comfortable and less austere looking.

Katrina Kieffer-Wells is lead garden designer at Earth Designs. Find out more at [earthdesigns.co.uk/blog](http://earthdesigns.co.uk/blog)

**CONTACT** [www.moderngardensmagazine.co.uk](http://www.moderngardensmagazine.co.uk)

*Want some design inspiration or got a garden question you'd like answered? Get in touch, including a picture if you have one, by email at [moderngardens@bauermedia.co.uk](mailto:moderngardens@bauermedia.co.uk)*