

LIVING

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WORKING THE ANGLES

Katrina Kieffer-Wells MSGD from Earth Designs, based in Leigh-on-Sea, works the angles to create a garden with something for everyone

The brief

This family in Thorpe Bay had a long wishlist for their new garden. Plenty of grown-up space for entertaining and ample room for the children to play and run around. It had to be wildlife-friendly, have potential to grow produce and include areas for family time and “me-time”.

Practically perfect

I wanted to create a richly layered collage of finishes and textures. But it had to be practical and beautiful, so I included two lawns and a variety of plants and materials. With carefully placed diagonal pathways, screens and hedgerows, I carved out spaces to eat, relax and play. And by installing quiet seating areas and a herb bed, the garden could be versatile enough to meet the entire family’s needs.



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Wonky works

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Bespoke garden furniture

The idea for bespoke oak seating came from the heavy wooden doors of Florence that I’d marvelled at on holiday. They add a touch of craftsmanship that will stand the test of time and provide a quiet corner when needed.

Lawns – why stop at one?

Multiple lawns give a garden depth. Plus dividing the lawn area allows for different

activities and gives everyone room to enjoy the garden their way.

Get the look

Divide and conquer: If you can, divide your lawn into several parts to allow spaces for children and adults, and make it easier to hide messy toys. Make one astroturf so it can handle paddling pools, muddy boots and anything else the children throw at it. Work the angles: There is no rule that pathways must be straight. Diagonal paths stress the longer lines, allow for more planting, and create the illusion of space. Grow your own stuffing: Veg patches require room and work, not to mention sunlight and can be dull in winter. Hide them behind

screens or plant a herb garden instead. Soft sage and spiky chives alongside evergreens like rosemary and bay provide interesting textures, foliage and tasty dishes all year round.

Earth Designs is an award-winning garden design and landscaping company. They’re members of the British Association of Landscape Industries and the Association of Professional Landscapers.

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