

Living

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MAXIMISE YOUR SPACE

Earth Designs owner **Katrina Kieffer-Wells** shares her top tips for making the most of a small garden...



Sometimes if you have a small garden you need to try all the tricks in the book. We would suggest that you make a checklist and work out what things you can't live without. You might not be able to include everything in your dream garden, but look for ways you can double up such as storage, in built-in seating, or utilising a side return for example. With a little planning, the smallest space can be transformed quite easily. Here are some tricks to try...

Create zones

It might seem counter-productive, but dividing the garden up into a series of zones can give it the feeling of space. Many small urban gardens are long and narrow. So we would suggest you stagger the spaces down the garden. It creates intrigue and illusion as you then aren't sure where the garden ends. You can also add height to send the eye upwards and create "happenings" where you might stumble across a specimen plant, or a nice chair.

Use mirrors

In any space both interior or exterior, mirrors will always increase the size. The reflection not only makes it bigger, but also will bounce light around the area. If there is space, put a plant in front of the mirror so you create infinity and double up on greenery.

Built-in furniture

If you build the furniture into the space, it automatically makes the space seen less cluttered. Here, we wrapped raised beds around the roof garden, and integrated a deep top seat. This frees up the rest of the space, maximising its appearance.



Throw the eye off the scent by creating visual trickery. If you can, have a central area to pull the focus in to the middle of the space.

Go up

There is no limit to the sky, so use plants that make the most of this. Plants that have a small footprint, such as pre-fans and climbers, are perfect for creating a montage of greenery without taking up much floor space.

Make everything useful

If you need outdoor storage, question what you will be storing and whether you need a full-size shed, for example. If you don't need it, trunks under seating are a really good solution for eliminating a bulky shape in your final design. Here, we also included a flip top sandpit, that could be used as a seat when not in use.



Visual trickery

If you only take one of our small garden design ideas, make it be this one. Throw the eye off the scent by creating visual trickery. If you can, have a central area to pull the focus in to the middle of the space. Make the lines of the garden change direction and send them upwards as well if you can.

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