

ESSEX Living

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ESSEX WOMEN MEAN BUSINESS



HOW TO... MAKE GARDENS POP

Earth Designs was formed in 2003 by **Katrina Kieffer-Wells**, and here in her monthly column she shares her tips on how to give your garden patio a design makeover...

With a little planning, and a few pounds, you can totally transform your patio space in a couple of hours, without breaking sweat. Here's how...

Mirrors

Add a mirror to the dark corner to give it lift. Not only will it reflect the space beyond, but will also bounce light around making your space seem fresher. Put a plant in front of it to double up on your greenery and impact.

Add wall art

This creates interest in seconds and can be easily changed if you get bored. There are many companies who do outdoor campuses. All you need to do is select a high resolution image. Choose the colour that complements or matches your interior so that you can create flow through to the garden.

Cladding

Consider cladding an area of your boundary next to your garden patio with Perspex. You can order it with pre-drilled holes so it goes up in seconds. It will create a luxury statement backdrop for any patio space. If you want the space to appear larger, go for a gloss finish. Again, the reflection will double up the space.



‘A little planning, a few pounds, and you can totally transform your patio space in a couple of hours’



Plant it up

Pots are a great way of revitalising tired patio. You need to be bold in your garden patio design. Go for something large (space permitting) as it will not only make a statement, but also create structure to the space. If you want to add winter colour, consider going for a fibreglass planter in any colour you like. Remember, the bigger the planter, the less watering and maintenance.

Turn up the heat

If you haven't already, invest in a patio heater. We recently bought an Indian fireball, which creates central focus on any occasion. There are many options on the market for you to consider, but I prefer something that has an open flame. It will really cosy up the space and will unite any gathering.

Lay the table well

Lay your patio table like you would your dining room table. Bring out all of your interior crockery and cutlery if you don't have garden specific ones.

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