

# Living

ESSEX

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The refill businesses making eco living uber chic





# GARDEN GROW-HOW

Earth Designs Lead Garden Designer, **Katrina Kieffer-Wells**, who is based in Leigh-on-Sea, shares the garden trends to look out for in 2022...

**D**uring the pandemic people have been rediscovering their love for their gardens. There's a renewed focus on garden design details, conscious gardening and the need for beautiful outdoor spaces. Here are four garden design trends to watch out for in 2022 – and how to create them. No small space too small to garden. Since the pandemic began we've realised just how important outdoor space is. We've become determined to make the most of it, turning even the smallest of outdoor areas into green spaces.

For those with balconies and courtyards, living walls are great for optimising growing space. And if you've got a small garden, maximise the appearance of space with an angled layout and hidden boundaries.

### The eco-friendly garden

As people look to reduce their environmental impact in even more areas of life, they want to be more eco-conscious in the garden. Rewilded areas and natural, wildlife-friendly spaces have become increasingly popular. Not only are they better for the planet, but a wildlife garden can make an excellent sensory and educational place for children.

If you want to create a more eco-friendly garden, plant tall flowering plants, fruit trees, berries and long grasses to attract insects and birds. And consider using recycled materials for seating and structures, to reduce the need for concrete and plastic.



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### The private sanctuary

More than ever, people are in need of somewhere to escape to. Gardens have always been havens from the outside world, but now people are looking for private sanctuaries, tropical retreats and sophisticated entertaining spaces. Water features are perfect for creating a relaxing, sensory experience.

### Lawns are out and colour is in

Blues and purples look to be popular for 2022, with plants like asters and forget-me-nots topping the bestseller lists. Combine with contrasting yellow, lime or white, depending on the garden theme. Blousy beds in purple and white are perfect for the contemporary cottage and natural look.

While white, lime green and yellow look fabulous in tropical or sanctuary themed gardens. Why not join the growing trend to ditch the lawn and plant more instead, in pockets, between decking and stone pathways?

**Award-winning Earth Designs are members of the British Association of Landscape Industries and the Association of Professional Landscapers.**

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