

# ESSEX LIFE

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THE COUNTY'S FAVOURITE MONTHLY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE SINCE 1952

## Jamie Oliver in the kitchen

Festive porchetta  
& sticky toffee  
coffee pudding

WIN A  
**£130**  
XMAS MEAL  
FOR TWO

OLIVIA &  
ALEX BOWEN's  
Dunmow Christmas

DECK THE HALLS  
with Jade Boyce &  
Hayley Fellows-Prior

LISA  
SNOWDON  
'I had too many  
tabs open on  
my brain'

Make your own  
YULETIDE  
WREATHS

## Step into Christmas

- 25 December days out
- Twixmas breaks from Harwich to Southend
- 2025's amazing change-makers & lifesavers

£4.75







# GARDEN DESIGN DIRT

Leigh-on-Sea-based **Katrina Kieffer-Wells** of Earth Designs shares her garden expertise



Fabulous bright, clashing colours take this garden to the next level and let the plants shine



Loving this dark blue fence and the pops of colour against it!



This blue wall really sets off the different greens planted in front

## Colour in the garden

Everyone loves a bit of colour in the garden. Whether you're into vibrant tones or more muted neutrals, colour is a key part of any garden design. We often rely on plants alone for that hit of colour, but even the best planting scheme won't always deliver year-round impact.

So – how else can you bring cheer and personality into the garden? Look beyond the borders. Take inspiration from your interior colour palette to create a cohesive, flowing look that connects inside with out.

### FENCES

I'm generally not a fan of super bright fences – dark colours like charcoal grey, navy, or deep green are my go-tos. Why? Because planting absolutely pops against dark backgrounds. It gives your greenery a real moment to shine.

You can also use fence colour to help zone your garden – try painting different sections to subtly break up the space and create more visual interest.

### PLANTERS

Gone are the days of plain terracotta! Planters now come in every shape, size, and colour. Fibreglass planters are a great option if you

want something durable and lightweight – and they're available in a rainbow of hues.

Not only do colourful planters make your garden more vibrant, they're also super easy to move around and restyle, making them a versatile tool for adding flair.

### WALLS

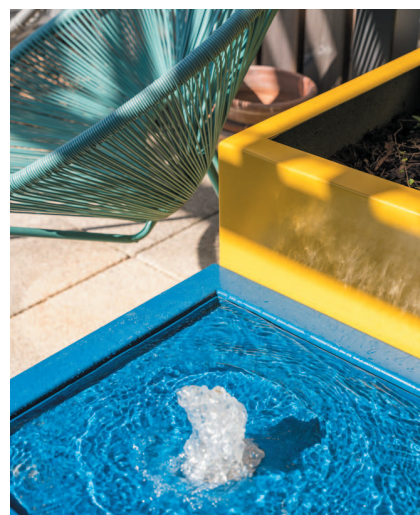
Even if you've only got a small section of wall, make the most of it. Try rendering it and turning it into a colour block. A bright wall acts as a permanent backdrop that lifts everything planted in front of it – even when your garden isn't in full bloom.

Think of it like an art gallery wall for your plants – a bold canvas that lets foliage and flowers stand out beautifully.

### GET SOME JAZZY FURNITURE

Brightly coloured furniture is a total game-changer. Not only is it functional, it can take the pressure off your planting scheme to provide all the colour.

Add even more flexibility with throws, cushions, or a fun tablecloth. You can switch them up as your mood (or the seasons) change – and it's a fab way to keep things feeling fresh without major commitment. ●



This roof garden used cheery blues and yellows to inject colour into the drab London skyline

Earth Designs are proud members of the British Association of Landscape Industries and the Association of Professional Landscapers.  
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