

# 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

Make your own  
YULETIDE  
WREATHS

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

## Step into Christmas

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

£4.75  
12  
9 771475 876186



# GARDEN DESIGN DIRT

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



## Colour in the garden

**E**veryone 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

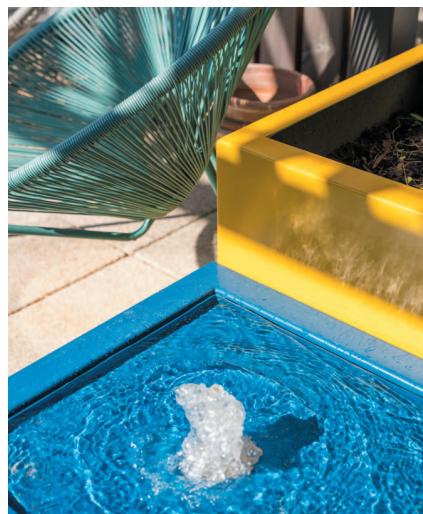
Even if you've only got a small section of wall, make the most of it. Try rendering it and turning it into a colour block. A bright wall acts as a permanent backdrop that lifts everything planted in front of it – even when your garden isn't in full bloom.

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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