

ESSEX LIFE

THE COUNTY'S FAVOURITE MONTHLY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE SINCE 1952

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James Martin's *sweet treat*

'I used to fly myself
into Southend &
get an ice cream!'

**SAUNA
IN THE
WILD?**
Have you
tried it?

**THE JOY
OF SPRING**
Where to go lambing,
trek with alpacas
and cuddle a bunny

**OUR GREAT
ESSEX
GIRLS**

Who are
they &
what did
they do?



Dream Homes DISCOVERED

- Stacey Solomon and Joe Swash invite us into Pickle Cottage
- Dunmow's Olivia Bowen reveals her top reno tips
- Our Style Sisters sort your storage

PLUS GO INSIDE

- A High Beech manor • A Burnham farmhouse • A Brentwood country estate



GARDEN DESIGN DIRT

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



Pick evergreens with a variety of leaf shape and colour as well as ones that may have an evergreen species rather than a deciduous



Bring your space alive at night with lighting



Earth designs



Brightly coloured tiles cheer up this space, even in the duller, less green months

Creating the 'year-round' garden

Most gardens will look their best during the spring and summer months, when flowers are in full bloom and lawns are lush.

But keeping the interest going throughout the year doesn't have to be a challenge.

TILE IT UP

Decorative tiles are an excellent way to give your garden a permanent lift all year round – whatever the season.

There is a huge selection of patterned, textured and colourful tiles available, but make sure to check that your chosen tile is suitable for outdoor use. Clad an existing wall, or build a feature wall as a focal point, and you will guarantee year-round interest. Natural stone 'V' tiles will create a rustic feel, while porcelain tiles or large format sheets will give a more contemporary look. For a traditional, elegant appearance consider glazed brick slips, which are available in a variety of colours.

GO GREEN

Evergreen shrubs and architectural plants are the backbone of any garden. They give your planting scheme structure, but more importantly keep the garden looking full during the colder months when most of the flowering plants are dormant.

Pick a variety of leaf colours, shapes and textures to keep things interesting.

When selecting your spring/summer flowering plants, pick a few evergreen varieties, such as an agapanthus, over perennials that will lose their leaves.

COLOUR ME INTERESTED

Adding a splash of colour to your landscaping is a sure way to keep it looking good throughout the year.

Paint your shed and fences. Install colourful Perspex panels to walls and boundaries, or on posts as a standalone feature. Vibrant fibreglass planters and pots containing

evergreen shrubs or trees will draw the eye even on the greyest of days.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Garden lighting will allow you to enjoy the garden for longer in the dark winter months. Use spotlights to pick out features and specimen plants, and strip lights to define pergolas and steps/patio edges. This will help paint a nocturnal picture through your house windows. Smart garden lighting is becoming increasingly common and is often able to change colour as required. They are controlled using WiFi or Bluetooth, so you won't have to leave your warm living room on a cold winter's night! ●

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