

ESSEX LIFE

THE COUNTY'S FAVOURITE MONTHLY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE SINCE 1952

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Suzi Quatro

'I gave women permission
to be different'

74
PAGES OF
HOMES &
INTERIORS

Walking
HELIONS
BUMPSTEAD

From
**Epping to Harwich
to Tilbury Docks**

Ancient secrets revealed on
our lad's 400km adventure

CHELMSFORD
More than just a city...

ESSEX DAY
How will you be
celebrating?

BOTTENGOMS
Exploring Ronald
Blythe's plot

TUCK IN!
Autumn menus
discovered

£4.50





GARDEN DESIGN DIRT

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



In this example, stepping stones were laid within a resin-bound aggregate, creating a neat and practical solution



This garden had multiple doors at the back of the house and garage, so the pathways were designed to wrap and connect all the key points efficiently



A beautiful example of a front garden path – Victorian-style with a modern twist – combining function and style seamlessly

Leading you up the garden path

Pathways are the roads of the garden. They guide how we move through a space and how we experience it – whether it's a straight line from the pavement to the front door or a gentle meander inviting us to wander. In fact, pathways often form the backbone of a garden layout, anchoring the design while shaping flow and structure. Paths need to be functional first. They connect the dots – from your back door to the garage, from patio to shed, or simply around your outdoor zones.

Think practically and plan routes that reflect how you'll actually use the garden. People will almost always take the shortest route if it's a daily task – like fetching a bike from the shed – so design accordingly.

MATERIAL CHOICES

Pathways can be created from a wide variety of materials – paving slabs, decking, tiles,

resin-bound gravel, or even compacted hoggin. Standard gravel is best avoided where possible, as it can become a litter tray for neighborhood pets. Resin-bound aggregate or a mix of paving slabs and decorative stone can keep costs down while creating texture and style. Use aggregate at the edges or in between pavers to reduce it scattering.

CHANGE DIRECTION

Pathways can shape how your garden feels. A single long, straight path in a narrow garden will exaggerate its thinness. Try running paths across the width of your space or introducing gentle doglegs. It visually shortens long gardens, adds rhythm and encourages a slower pace.

MAKE IT AN EXPERIENCE

Not every path needs to be purely functional. When it's not just a straight shot from A to

B, a pathway can become a journey. Think about it like a garden promenade. Add a bench along the way, an archway overhead, lighting for ambience, or even a striking focal point at the end to draw people through the space.

FRONT GARDEN

Most front gardens need a path – and that path does a lot of work. It provides curb appeal, connects the public to your private entrance, and must handle heavy, everyday use. Choose durable, non-slip materials that blend well with the architecture of your home. Think about timeless finishes with a touch of personality. ●

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

**info@earthdesigns.co.uk
01702 597587**