

GRAND DESIGNS

The official magazine of the hit TV series



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Make the most of
summer

Light, open & sun-filled homes

**COOL
KITCHEN
ISLANDS**



New-neutral bathrooms
Shades of grey, taupe & nude



**LIVING
WITH COLOUR**
Ideas for calm interiors

Create a modern garden

Design advice | Furniture | Barbecues | Shading



3 gardens 3 ways

A private outdoor space holds all manner of possibilities. Take inspiration from these three ideas-filled schemes *Words Jill Morgan*

Fed up with looking out on to an expanse of rubble or a worn-out patch of turf? Then it's time to rethink your exterior space and turn it into a beautiful, useable outdoor room. To get those creative juices flowing, we've rounded up three gorgeous gardens and taken a look at their design secrets. Choose from a wild garden that's full of life, colour and movement, or a lush, urban retreat that's perfect for entertaining. Or, if you love growing your own fruit and veg, take a look at how to create the perfect kitchen garden.

The outdoor kitchen

An al fresco kitchen packed with ready-to-pick herbs and vegetables has to be every keen cook's dream. And now that outdoor kitchens are more readily available in the UK, it's easier than ever to install one in your exterior space.

This innovative design mixes vertical gardening with a durable weatherproof kitchen, plus a huge variety of herbs, vegetables and salad crops to create an attractive, and tasty, tapestry.

The backbone of the scheme is the U-shaped massarandaba hardwood units topped with a Senso granite worktop – specially finished for outdoor use. Clever changes in surface height make the layout visually interesting and help the solid structures blend with the planting, while kitchen essentials, such as a spacious breakfast bar, under-mounted stainless-steel sink, and a generous wine chiller, give the space a practical edge. Cupboards underneath the raised beds – constructed using green-roof technology to keep them watertight – provide essential storage for crockery and cooking equipment.

Densely packed salads, herbs, fruits

and vegetables in a wide variety of colours, shapes and textures bring this garden to life; the raised beds are just an arm's reach from the worktop. Strawberries have been planted in colanders hanging from the overhead steel frame, which also provides a support for runner beans that will eventually create a living ceiling. The vertical wall is also planted with coloured salad leaves and herbs, making a striking centrepiece and doubling as a living splashback. A specialist irrigation system, controlled by a timer, ensures that the closely packed plants receive regular bursts of fertiliser and water, so that apart from an overhaul at the beginning of the season, the only maintenance the salad wall requires is regularly picking and weeding.

Simple galvanised planters, chic white bar stools and white waterproof cushions for the built-in seating-cum-storage box keep the look smart and fuss free. Overhead lighting in the tubular steel pergola ensures the garden can be used for entertaining both day and night.

Fact file

Budget £42,000
Designer Aralia Garden
Design (0)1279 721 461;
aralia.org.uk

— Landscape contractor Terra Firma (0)1279 876 425; terrafirma-essex.co.uk built this productive outdoor kitchen with cabinetry and worksurfaces provided by Armstrong Jordan (0)1279 731 220; armstrongjordan.com

— The living wall from Biotope (0)1243 572 118; biotope.uk.com is packed with salad plants and acts as a leafy splashback.

3 ideas to steal

1 *Think vertically*, especially in small spaces. Fit a living wall, install trellis to support climbing plants such as peas and beans, or grow tall veg and fruit such as sweetcorn or espalier apple trees

2 *Storage is key* to any kitchen garden. Here, cupboards sit beneath the raised beds for crockery and equipment

3 *Be creative with planters* – colanders, galvanised buckets, enamelled jugs and even wellies all make interesting containers; remember to add drainage holes



this picture
Every inch of the space is filled with edible plants; strawberries, planted in old colanders in easy reach, and runner beans are being trained over the pergola

