

ENGLISH HOME

Outdoor
living
SPECIAL

Celebrating the essence of English style

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STEP INTO SUMMER

Outdoor living • Seasonal style updates • Gorgeous garden ideas

Bold florals
Elegant looks with
new blowsy prints

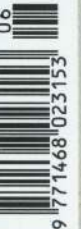
Chic display
How to group collections
to stylish effect

**Instant
character**
Using antiques in
modern interiors

*Design
wisdom*

Decorating advice from Nina Campbell,
William Yeoward, Tricia Guild & more

Buy art with
confidence
Investing with
head & heart





Raj Tent, from £2,400, and all accessories, Raj Tent Club



Handmade large green-and-white ceramic glazed jugs, £144 each, Irving & Morrison at Lorfords London



Eichholtz Standard 5663 wine cooler on stand, £259, Houseology



Skittles Set, £95, The Conran Shop

GARDEN PARTIES

Long, balmy summer nights offer the perfect excuse to sit in the garden, whether for a simple aperitif or a relaxed dinner with friends and family. Cast a gentle glow with elegant paper-lantern-style lights strung delicately amidst overhead branches, adding a warm ambience at ground level with candles in metal lanterns. Opt for hues of blue and green to set the scene and chime with natural surroundings.



Green metal lantern, £55, Ibbi

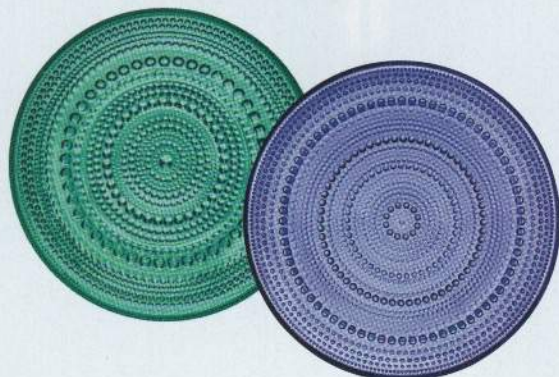


Best block-printed napkins, £20 for a pack of five, Ibbi



Lunar Fairy Light lanterns, £19.99 for 10 lanterns on four metres of clear cable, Lights4Fun

Trolley finished in black with Verde Butterfly granite shelves, £1,860, The Heveningham Collection



Kastehelmi 170mm plate in emerald, £12.50; Kastehelmi 248mm plate in ultramarine blue, £29, both littala



ABOVE Charcoal and mid-grey tones have a sleek, contemporary appeal. Monte Carlo adjustable sunbeds, around £499 each, Alexander Rose

RIGHT A double lounger offers ample space for sociable sunbathing. Double chaise longue, finished in black with buttoned cushion, £4,060, The Heveningham Collection



Shopping for a matching table and chair set is the simplest approach. To create a more eclectic look, one can source each element separately. If this is the case, it is vital to ensure proportions work together – take careful measurements of seat heights, table length and so forth to achieve a harmonious and cohesive feel.

SUMMER LOUNGING

What could be better than spending a warm afternoon lazing in the garden, whether in a sunny spot at the edge of a pool or in a more secluded position under a tree or awning? When selecting a lounger, it is worth considering whether it is preferable to opt for a design that allows both reclining and sitting upright. Sally Ashen from garden furnishing specialists Garpa advises: “The type of lounger you choose depends on how you like to relax. The height and length of the bed are very

important because there is nothing worse than having your feet hang over the end. Arms are quite important, too, if a good deal of time spent relaxing and reading is envisaged – whereas if there is likely to be a considerable amount of getting up and down to tend to small-children, arms may be more of a nuisance. A table that slides out from under the lounger is very useful, as are side tables for drinks and snacks.”

Considering where the lounge furniture will sit and the space available in each location is paramount. If there is more than one suitable area, it may be preferable to find a sunny spot near the house and one that is a little more distant and peaceful. The more generous the proportions of a lounger, the more comfortable it will undoubtedly be, however its size – and therefore weight – may make it impractical to move often. If it is desirable to reposition garden seating to follow the sun, lighter pieces in metal or rattan – or those on wheels – may

be a more practical option than heavier, wood or cast-iron furniture. “Heavy teak loungers always look stunning and are incredibly comfortable, but they take up a lot of room and are heavy to manoeuvre,” Ashen counsels. “There are some lovely lightweight aluminium loungers around and these are perfect for moving from place to place in the garden.”

If poolside seating is desired, or furniture is to remain outdoors year-round, it is shrewd to ensure it is water- and weatherproof. Essentially, the lower the maintenance of the furniture selected, the easier it will be to live with long term. It is, of course, possible to buy covers to protect garden furniture, or simply to minimise general tarnishing of the cushions. To source various different sizes of garden furnishing covers try kettler.co.uk or jader.co.uk as well as John Lewis.

NOTE: For a more in-depth look at outdoor upholstery, we will be considering indoor/outdoor fabrics next month in our July edition ▶



QUIET MOMENTS

For those who enjoy an intimate coffee in the morning sun, a compact table for two could be used outside even on a cool spring day. Such an ensemble would also be a wonderful addition to a sunny winter balcony, or to create a bucolic scene beneath the sheltering boughs of a majestic tree in summer. Perhaps there is a beautiful autumnal view that could be enjoyed from a well-placed arbour? Or a peacefully sited bench that draws the eye as the perfect finishing touch at the end of a path?

Considering the practicalities of the pieces will make them all the more purposeful: a bench alongside the pool will make a handy spot to put belongings, as well as somewhere to dry off and rest after swimming. A seat or two overlooking the vegetable patch or a pretty flowerbed will

be a useful place to rest and enjoy a cooling drink following an afternoon of hard work in the garden. And a balcony breakfast set might give a period of much-needed peace and quiet before joining the rest of the family downstairs.

Choosing such outdoor furniture for its eye-catching contours and beautiful materials is all the more important since it is likely to stand alone as a garden focal point. That said, finding pieces that are in keeping with the style and materials of the other furniture outside ensures they do not jar with the overall setting.

Annie Harris Massie, co-owner of McKinnon and Harris, believes seating should work for different times of day. "For an intimate seating area, I would suggest the focus should be on comfort ▶



LEFT For a bench that is practical and elegant without being bulky, a smart console design might be the perfect choice.

Black iron bench with plain cushion, £1,275, The Heveningham Collection

MIDDLE A circular seat draws the sitter to shade under a favourite tree.

Broadwalk Treeseat, £18,690, Gaze Burvill

BELOW This teak bench is an interpretation of one designed by Sir Edward Lutyens for Sissinghurst Castle.

Sissinghurst bench, £1,800, Barlow Tyrie

LEFT This elegant dining set is a neat size for a small terrace or balcony.

Feolin cafe table with Round Adams Big Top, £4,180; Otey dining side chairs with cushions, £3,930 each; Ardlussa palm boxes, £5,510 each; all shown in Wicomico White finish, McKinnon and Harris

