

# Living

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# GARDEN GROW-HOW

Leigh-on-Sea-based **Katrina Kieffer-Wells**, from Earth Designs, on how to think like a garden designer and revitalise your outdoor space

**D**on't wait until spring or summer to make changes to your garden. Take the opportunity to rethink your space while it's dormant and unused.

It can seem like an overwhelming task, but answer the questions below and you'll be thinking like a garden designer and bursting with ideas in no time.

### What do you want and need from your garden?

Start by making a list of priorities to suit your individual household. Do you need a family garden or a sophisticated, grown-up space? Do you want to entertain family and friends?

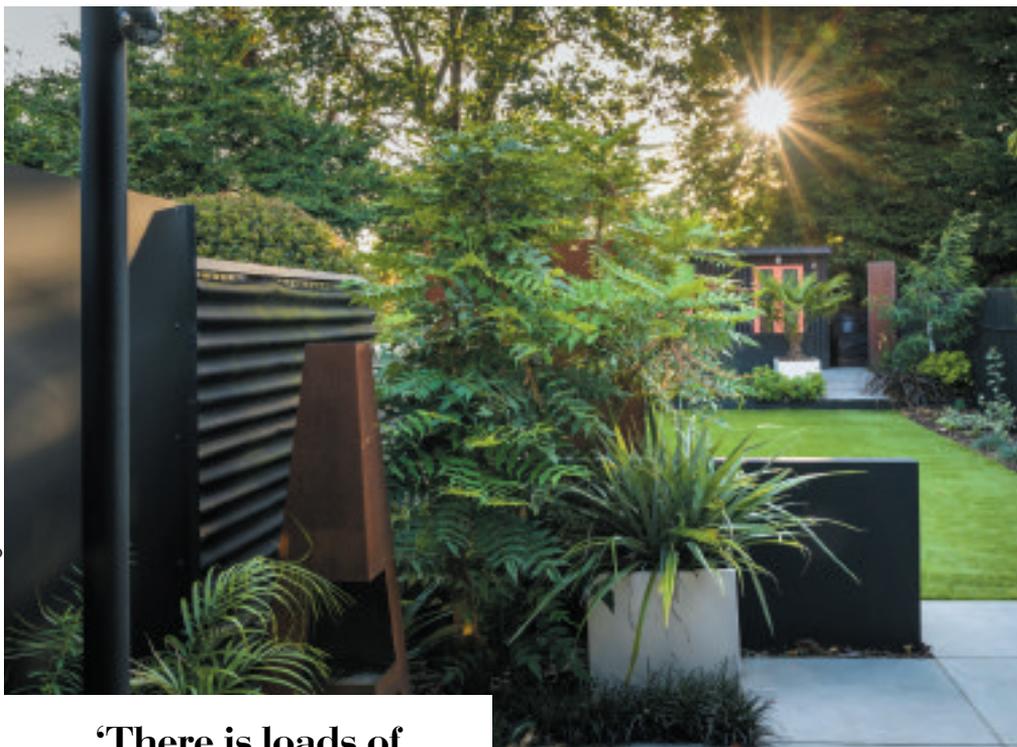
Would you like your garden to be more child-friendly, private, relaxing or accessible? Do you need storage, a work space or areas to grow things?

### What are the good and bad points of your existing garden?

Make a note of any elements you definitely want to keep and any problem areas. Soggy lawns, level changes, dilapidated greenhouses and large trees, for example. What needs to stay or go? And what needs updating or upgrading?

### Where is the light?

All gardens have sunny spots and dark corners and a good garden design layout will make the most of those aspects. Notice where the



**‘There is loads of inspiration out there, so take a look and make a note of shapes, layouts, structures, features and materials you like’**

sun is at different times of day. Place seating and eating areas in strategic places for full sun or shade. And grow flowers, fruit and veg in the sunniest spots so they can thrive.

### What style of garden do you like?

It always helps to do your research. Do you like formal spaces with straight lines and hedgerows? Traditional flouncy cottage gardens, or modern sleek spaces? There is loads of inspiration out there, so take a look and make a note of shapes, layouts, structures, features and materials you like.

### What's your budget?

Big changes don't have to be expensive. There may be simple solutions or it may be time to call in the professionals.

Once you've answered these questions you should have all the information you need to plan the garden you've always wanted. But if you need any extra help, don't hesitate to give us a call.

**Award-winning Earth Designs are members of the British Association of Landscape Industries and the Association of Professional Landscapers.**

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