

# LIVING

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Billericay build

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£1MILLION'*

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## BESIDE THE SEA

The beach huts  
making our coasts  
uber chic





# GARDEN GROW-HOW

Is it time to embrace lawn-free living asks **Katrina Kieffer-Wells** of Leigh-on-Sea-based Earth Designs?

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANNA OMIOTEK-TOTT PHOTOGRAPHY

**W**hen we picture the traditional garden, we tend to think of a patch of grass surrounded by beds and borders. This may work for some, but if you're looking to make your garden feel a little more grown-up, why not consider dispensing with the lawn altogether? It may sound drastic, but it's a growing trend in garden design.

### Lower maintenance

If you lead a busy life the grass free garden is ideal. No grass means they are relatively low maintenance. Plus you don't need to think about storing a lawn mower or all the other equipment to keep the lawn looking good.

### A more interesting outlook

Removing the grass gives you space to incorporate other interesting elements into your garden. Instead of untidy lawns, add deep planting beds, pergolas and screens. And use a mixture of materials and textures, like stone, porcelain, wood and shingle to create walkways to-and-from seating areas.

### More green spaces!

Going grass free doesn't mean your garden can't be green and pleasant. In fact, by removing the lawn element, you will likely end up with more room for planted areas. Either



**'Removing the grass gives you space to incorporate other interesting elements into your garden'**

in raised beds, or with deep borders that surround your pathways and patios.

### More room to relax

How often do you actually sit on your lawn? Going grass-free allows more room to relax and entertain. Freeing-up space to develop into seating areas and places to eat. You could create a Japanese inspired garden and surround your seating with soft greenery, stone and gravel? Or a lush tropical backdrop, complete with palms, to your entertaining areas.

### Wildlife friendly

Going grass free doesn't mean compromising on your green credentials. In fact, losing the lawn means space for trees, fruits and berries, water features and tall flowering plants. All of which create ideal habitats for wildlife.

We know everyone is ready to give up their lawn. And there are some valid reasons for keeping your grass, especially if you have active children in the house. But if that's not the case for you, maybe it's time to let go of the lawn and try something less boring instead?

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

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