

PERFECT TERRACES

Offering space to relax or enjoy a beautiful view, a well-designed outdoor area can also help define the look of your garden

POINTS OF INTEREST

Installing a reflective rill and slices of year-round greenery will give focus to a terrace. To link it with the rest of the garden, select plants that are repeated elsewhere and include herbs, such as rosemary, which will release their fragrance as you brush by.

TAKE COVER On this large terrace, a simple shelter with modern lines makes an alluring refuge, coaxing visitors outside to view the garden from the best vantage point. A cloud-pruned hornbeam in an adjacent border helps draw the eye to the seating area.

URBAN RETREAT

A large balcony can be transformed into a stylish terrace with lightweight stone tiles, timber decking and artificial grass. Edge the terrace with aluminium planters, and include large shrubs, such as *Euonymus europaeus*, and a contemporary awning to shade the seating area.

SEASIDE SNUG

Blur the boundary between a coastal garden and the beach itself with a terrace wrapped in grasses, such as *Leymus* and *Festuca*, which mirror those that thrive on sand dunes. Using pea-shingle for ground cover adds texture and has a satisfying crunch as you walk on it.



IN FULL BLOOM

Surrounding a terrace with lush, flower-filled borders will allow you to enjoy both the colour and the perfume of the plants at close quarters. Choose a range of seasonal varieties that will sustain the show from spring through to autumn – try alliums, irises, roses and grasses.

CLUB MED Here the planting on a terrace helps to set the tone for the whole garden. Consider a Mediterranean theme with olive trees planted in raised beds, which will provide the drainage they need to survive the winter outside. A soft haze of purple-flowered catmint softens the angular beds.



CLEAR BEAUTY A terrace protected by a glass pavilion will extend your enjoyment of the garden during cooler seasons. Add a sedum roof for extra insulation and reference the structure's geometric shape in other features, such as lawns and pools, for a contemporary design.



GETTING WARMER

This terrace next to a wall is a peaceful place for relaxing, with the added benefit that the stone will absorb heat from the sun during the day and release it as night falls. A vine-clad pergola will provide some wind protection, creating a temperate spot for long summer evenings.

MORE IS MORE

In a formal setting, lay a flagstone pathway throughout the garden, widening it at strategic points to fashion a series of terraces enclosed by clipped box walls. You can then take advantage of sunny areas away from the house for morning coffee and alfresco meals. □

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LOCATION, LOCATION Work with your surroundings and you will be richly rewarded. A terrace in this hillside garden makes the most of the panoramic views of the valley below. Timber decking blends seamlessly into a natural setting, while cascading pools suggest the sound and movement of a tumbling stream.