

**SMOOTH
OPERATOR**
Exterior Dekton
by Cosentino:
a sleek, high-
performance
surface for
outdoor spaces

A space for all seasons

Summer is here, and creating a peaceful garden has never been more desirable. Angelina Villa-Clarke talks to the experts to find out how to make your outdoor space an inviting extension of the home, ideal to enjoy even when the sun goes in

W

ith many more of us utilising our homes for both work and leisure, there's never been a better time to embrace outdoor living and maximise your garden space. Connecting with nature and carving out a quiet sanctuary to call your own is not only good for your mental health, but also, by planting flowers and trees and gardening sustainably, beneficial for the planet.

Regularly tidy and declutter your garden as you would your home. It's surprising how quickly weeds and debris can build up, even when you don't use your space that often. Once everything is spick and span, you can then create zones in your garden for dining, relaxing and playing. You will find you'll use them so much more in the summer months and beyond.

Simon Temprell, interior design development manager at Neptune, which has a branch in Harston, Cambridgeshire, explains: "Outdoor living areas for relaxing and dining are now increasingly popular as a way of extending out the interior of your home. Outdoor living is all about your choice of furniture, whether that is weathered teak, wrought iron or wicker, but it is the accessories that bring the scene to life. Use rugs, lamps, cushions and throws to bring a variety of textures, which will create a welcoming space."

He continues: "Treat your outdoor space in exactly the same way you would a room in your home – the only difference is your choice of materials. Use planters as a way of creating 'walls' to contain your seating area and, for chillier evenings, a firepit or an outdoor heater would be the perfect way to warm up."

Colourful additions are important for creating cheerful ambience. Terracotta was named 'garden colour of the year' in the Garden Media Group's 2023 report. Bringing to mind sun-baked terraces in Italian and Moroccan courtyards, you can replicate the feel with rustic tiles by The Baked Tile Company, terracotta pots found at Scaramanga and woven throws and scalloped mats at Walton & Co.

Patrick O'Donnell, international brand ambassador at Farrow & Ball, gives his advice when it comes to using colour in the garden: "Sun-drenched summer isn't always on the cards here in the UK, but you can bring in your own warm glow with some wonderful California-inspired hues – from the hot-spice shade of Bamboozle, ➡



ON ANOTHER PLANET

Neptune's ethos considers exterior decoration the same as it does interiors



Create a vibrant outdoor lounge

Top global-inspired buys from Sweetpea & Willow

1. Build your own sofa with the bespoke Copacabana collection by Domkapa.
2. Add a Scandi-style rug, such as the jute geometric Gaya rug by Bloomingville.
3. Bring a touch of oriental-inspired allure with the vintage-style Morisot Parasol.

OUT IS IN

Transform your space with pots from Scaramanga (top), paint from Farrow & Ball (above), flooring from The Baked Tile Company (right) and woven throws from Walton & Co (below)



“Treat your outside space the same as you would a room in your home”



SHINE A LIGHT Wall lamp from Cox & Cox (above left), solar path lights from Garden Trading (above right)

to something slightly less challenging, such as Setting Plaster or Templeton Pink. The former is a wonderful render choice, and its richer sibling is a smart accent for a garden bench. If pinks aren't part of your vocabulary, you can look to cleaner, more architectural shades for a cooler aesthetic, such as Palm from the California Collection or our coastal-inspired Lulworth Blue."

As well as adding pops of colour with paint, accessories and furniture, lighting is an important factor to consider. Layer up with different types of lighting for the most effective results – with hurricane lamps and lanterns for ground level, festoon lighting strung up high and solar lighting for pathways. Both Cox & Cox and Garden Trading have a choice of modern options.

Mara Rypacek Miller, managing director at Industville, says it is important to consider lighting early on in the design process. "Give each area of the garden a

different treatment," she explains. "For pergolas you can select pendant lighting, or even an outdoor chandelier. This will create an appealing atmosphere while also providing optimal illumination. Alternatively, you may wish to choose smaller pendants and hang them in clusters to keep the lighting soft. If you have a garden bar, on the other hand, vintage, industrial-style wall lights will provide practical and stylish illumination for mixing cocktails and drinks, while strings of bare bulbs add fun factor to the scene."

To perfectly capture the outdoor living room theme, opt for modular sofas, which give the impression that they are a continuation of your lounge, and pair them with rugs and textural cushions. The idea is to recreate a den-like area outdoors.

Eating outside, of course, is one of summer's simple pleasures. Cosentino's sustainable outdoor surfaces are scratch-



MORE THAN SURFACE LEVEL

Tile brand Bert & May gives its top three options for outdoor kitchens

1. Carmona is a new tile collection inspired by the patterns and rich colours of reclaimed antique tiles found in southern Spain.
2. Conjure up an urban vibe with Split Shift tiles, created in collaboration with London design studio Darkroom – now in five new colourways.
3. Terracotta tiles in the affordable Staples collection are handmade at a dedicated workshop in Spain.





ALFRESCO Pendant lighting by Industville gives atmosphere to a pergola (inset); Cosentino offers weather-resistant work surface materials perfect for a garden kitchen (below); while Morsø stocks a wide range of outdoor pizza ovens (bottom)

STOCKISTS

The Baked Tile Company

01792 439 239 | bakedtiles.co.uk

Bert & May

0203 744 0776 | bertandmay.com

Cosentino

cosentino.com

Cox & Cox

0330 333 2123 | coxandcox.co.uk

Farrow & Ball

01202 876 141 | farrow-ball.com

Garden Trading

01993 845 559 | gardentrading.co.uk

Industville

0207 971 7871 | industville.co.uk

Morsø

01788 554 410 | morsoe.com

Neptune

01223 643 535 | neptune.com

Scaramanga

01334 657 642 | scaramangashop.co.uk

Sweetpea & Willow

0345 257 2627 | sweetpeaandwillow.com

Walton & Co

01423 326 332 | waltonshop.co.uk



“Breaking down the barriers between the interior and exterior has been a recurring theme”

and heat-resistant, and can be used to create a seamless-looking dining area.

“Breaking down barriers between the interior and exterior has been a recurring theme in recent years. The aim is to make these two disparate spaces naturally merge together,” says Andres Alonso, architectural project manager at Cosentino UK. “When designing an outdoor kitchen, the use of durable materials that will not be damaged by the elements is imperative. Dekton by Cosentino has a high resistance to sudden temperature changes, due to its low coefficient of thermal expansion. All Dekton surfaces also boast non-porous qualities, preventing rainwater and other liquids from being absorbed and ensuring easy maintenance – an essential for

outdoor entertaining and spontaneous alfresco dining. Lastly, Dekton surfaces boast high resistance to abrasion and scratches – making them the ideal choice for exterior kitchen work surfaces.”

Finally, Scandi outdoor oven and BBQ specialist Morsø agrees that the trend for entertaining in the garden has taken off in the past year. Declan Kingsley-Walsh, MD at Morsø UK, says: “Opt for the Morsø Forno Outdoor Oven to create dishes like roast beef, pizza, smoked salmon and even bread. It will give you ample opportunity to cook and eat outdoors, whatever the season. Outdoor kitchens now come in a multitude of sizes so you can make the most of your outdoor space, whether you have a large garden or a smaller patio.” ●

Drop festoon lights
£75, coxandcox.co.uk

Elsie terracotta rug
£150, waltonshop.co.uk

Nomad artisan throw
£41.50, waltonshop.co.uk

Terracotta star plant pots
£13.25, scaramangashop.co.uk

Filly woodhouse check
tablecloth in mustard
£175, torimurphy.com

Glorious garden

Decorate your sunny spaces with these stylish outdoor furnishings and create the ultimate relaxation zone

Ashbern Outdoor
Wall Lantern
from £149.99,
Abbeygate Lighting

Seurat macrame parasol
£380, sweetpeaandwillow.com

Hampstead garden natural
rattan snuggler chair
£499, cuckooland.com

Magnolia & pine
outdoor cushion
£75, coloursofarley.com

Split shift tiles in canola
from £180 per sq m,
bertandmay.com