

BEGINNERS GUIDE TO...

Container planting

words Paul Church · photos Susie Lowe

"Your garden is a part of the house so it's important to understand how the two will work together. For example, structural planting is often used to create symmetry and colour within a garden space. Planting could be box balls/cones, Italian cypruss, various topiary-photinia, bay tree, laurel or viburnum. This style works better in traditional properties. If you are looking for a more modern architectural look, use strong colours, clean lines and an element of design in the presentation. I tend to keep the planting to a single theme like phormiums, cordylines, grasses or bamboo so things don't get too busy. If you want to experiment, the herb garden is a great place to start. They can be planted in different shapes or mixed up with other plants to create a functional as well as attractive show. Remember to plant herbs that you will actually use. Nothing beats cooking with home grown produce". ☺



WHY SHOULD I USE CONTAINERS?

- Large or small areas can be transformed immediately
- Minimal cost and flexibility
- Planting is contained so is clean and low maintenance
- Can be done at any time of the year

TOP TIPS

- 1 Get the right compost/soils for planting.
- 2 Use water retaining crystal mixed in with compost for drought environments such as balconies.
- 3 Tanker irrigation systems are effective if plants will be left for extended periods.
- 4 Creative use of soil covering around plants to prevent weeds and helps prevent water loss. Anything non-toxic and water tolerant will do such as polished glass, sea pebbles and crushed granite.
- 5 Be imaginative with planting and don't be afraid to experiment.

Paul Church, Landscape Design & Construction,
38-40 West Harbour Road, Tel: 0131 449 7997.
www.churchlandscapes.co.uk

Interior news

IDEAS. INNOVATIONS. INSPIRATION

THE WEATHER'S HEATING UP SO IT'S TIME TO MAKE THE MOST OF OUTDOOR LIVING

CLEVER THINKING

If you're going camping or just feel like taking a short trip, these barbecues are easy to set up and fold away. Large enough for entertaining and small enough for transporting, simply add the charcoal and light the fire. Fold Flat BBQ £19.95 at www.drinkstuff.com or Tel: 0870 428 0958



HANDY HOLDER

This American retro-style bottle holder is functional and practical with its handle and handy bottle opener attached. It holds six bottles. Chill bottle holder, £20 at **John Lewis**, St James Centre, www.johnlewis.com

STEADY DOES IT

Steady Sticks are a simple yet genius solution to stopping your wine glass or bottle forever falling over. They stick into the ground easily, look funky and are perfect for garden parties, picnics and BBQs. Prices from £8.95 for a pack of two, www.silvernutmeg.com, Tel: 01254 820478



SHADY RETREAT

With everything from fun stripes to sleek oversized canvas and handy portable parasols, M&S parasols are perfect for the garden or beach. The minimum UV protection of factor 30 will protect you from harmful sun rays too. From £29.50 at **Marks & Spencers**, 54 Princes St and The Gyle shopping centre, www.marksandspencer.com



LIGHTING-UP

This contemporary garden torch looks a treat and provides soft lighting for the perfect evening atmosphere. Place a tea-light candle inside the holder, light and relax. £15.50 at www.bodieandfou.com



ECO CHIC

Make your outside space a design statement with the Sunset range from One Eco Home. The outdoor furniture range not only looks stylish, but comes with impeccable environmental credentials too. Sunset chair £2,300 at www.oneecohome.co.uk