



TIME SAVING GARDEN DESIGN

Making your outdoor room work harder for you – Without making more work for yourself





Add kerb appeal... add value

According to one article in The Telegraph, a well maintained garden can add up to 20% to the value of your property. Good news for property developers and anyone on the move.

Potential buyers like to see a spacious, usable garden that won't take up too much of their time in maintenance. They also want privacy. Careful design and good use of modern landscaping products can flatter a property, accentuating its plus points and disguising necessities like wheelie bins and manhole covers.

A little imagination combined with skilful application can make a property stand out for all the right reasons.

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Spaces that invite you outdoors

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Interesting plants, relaxing seating areas, maybe somewhere to cook and eat all of those things scream at you to go outside. Think of all those famous writers who worked from the peaceful haven of their garden shed. (Roald Dahl, Dylan Thomas, Philip Pullman to name but three). You could turn your summerhouse into a craft room, a gym, a garden office. Add a heater and some insulation and you can use it all year round.

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Work on your wellbeing

21st century lives are fast paced, busy and stressful. Take time out to care for yourself. Numerous scientific studies have shown that just fifteen minutes a day spent appreciating your surroundings, checking in with your feelings, slowing down your breathing and your heartrate can have long term health benefits. Where better to chill out, than in your own garden. There's no travelling time, no privacy issues and you can choose the décor.

Surrounding yourself with the hum of bees, the gentle swoosh of long grasses, the smell of a newly mown lawn and the colour green has a surprisingly calming effect. Try it.

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Natural Charm

Somehow nature offers a level of comfort that man-made products cannot match. Think silk shirts, home-baked cakes, your favourite pet. You can emulate that in your garden by choosing timber instead of plastic, natural lawns instead of artificial turf, stone ornaments instead of resin.

Clever choice of natural landscaping products doesn't necessarily mean more work or higher costs. Especially when you keep the design simple, uncluttered and classy.



Something for everyone

Good garden design is all about creating usable and inspiring spaces. Places where you want to spend time relaxing and entertaining. Places that look and feel amazing.

The best toy for people of all ages is called "outdoors". It can provide exercise, relaxation, mental stimulation, comfort, social interaction and peace.

When designing your garden, think about who will be using it and what they need.

- **Do you need space for children to play?** It doesn't need to be a big space. Young folks can spend many a happy hour in a sand pit or cultivating their own little patch of ground.
- **Do you have pets?** Cats like to have a spot where they can sleep in the sun. Active dogs can be fenced out of the areas that you don't want scuffed up.
- **What about you**. Are you a photographer, do you want to use flowers, foliage, visiting creatures for subject matter? A small but varied wildflower area can provide a wealth of material for you.
- Even the savage **teenager** can be soothed by retreating to the lawn with revision even if it is on a tablet.

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Minimise maintenance

Some people gain a lot of pleasure from gardening. Others don't have the time. Either that or they lack confidence. A simple design using natural materials needn't mean hard labour. Sedum matting makes great groundcover that needs very little maintenance. Wild flower minimeadows bring a lot of interest for just one cut a year. If lawn management is carried out regularly – just like housework – it isn't difficult to do. (Especially if you hire a lawn-care company to do it for you).

What do you want your garden to do for you?

The first stage in designing your own garden is to create a wish list. Think of all the activities you would use your garden for if you could, then list what you need for them.

- **Creativity?** Adapting a shed or summerhouse is ideal, if not a pergola or gazebo can double up for eating al-fresco.
- **Play?** What age group are you accommodating, a lawn will adapt easily to their changing needs.
- **Mobility?** Narrow paths, steps or loose surfaces aren't great for people who have difficulty walking. If bending is a challenge, you can always use raised beds to add interest and "lift" plants and features to where they can be enjoyed. Climbing plants are more accessible than ground level ones.

Finding an expert

Let the experts do the work. Garden design is fun and you should definitely be involved with it. But remember that qualified garden designers have a really thorough understanding of soil, plants, products and suppliers. They can bring new ideas to the table and ensure that your outdoor space really does work for you.

For a good landscaper in your area, ask for referrals or look at www.bali.org.uk. Professional landscapers have a wide range of skills sets from laying paving to installing a living green roof. They can make a difficult job look easy.

Designing your Garden

What's your style?

Visit a few gardens for ideas. It's better to see things in the flesh than on a picture or a video. A pinterest board is a great way to gather ideas too.

- **Lines:** Do you like clean, angular lines? Or would you prefer curves?
- **Colour:** Lots of colour or a limited colour palette?
- **Space:** One large space or several smaller, more intimate "rooms"?
- **Look:** Cottage garden or contemporary?

Garden elements such as lawns and green roofs will fit any style of garden. Such adaptable features never go out of fashion.

A view from all angles

Your garden won't just be seen from the kitchen window. Think about what you'd like to see if you were to stand at the bottom of the garden and look towards the house. Or look out of an upstairs window. From the street to the front door? From the street corner to the front of the house? From the patio doors to the shed. From one fence to the opposite fence. From the fence to the back door and vice versa. Take a 360 degree approach to garden design.

Good garden design is all about creating usable and inspiring spaces. Places where you want to spend time relaxing and entertaining. Concrete paving, artificial grass and even decking are falling out of fashion as people rediscover the joys of a living garden – and all the birds, butterflies and bees enjoy it too!

So, Harrowden doesn't just grow turf. We have an exclusive range of fabulous living products to help you add vibrant and beautiful life to every corner of your garden.

EnviroMat groundcover

EnviroMat is extremely versatile mix of flowering sedum plants chosen for their wide range of colour, texture and seasonal differences. It creates a spectacular ornamental groundcover that will add the wow factor to any landscape scheme.

MeadowMat instant wildflower garden

When you're designing your new lawn, why not include a corner or even a central zone for wild flowers?

MeadowMat is a convenient, quick and easy way to establish a wildflower area in your garden. Specially selected mixtures of native and wildlife-friendly flowers and grasses and pregrown on a proven matting system. It's like a private grass meadow of yesteryear on a roll that will attract wonderful wildlife and reward you with a natural floral display second to none.





Living landscaping

EnviroMat green roof systems

EnviroMat sedum matting is a landscaping material used by architects, garden designers and roofing contractors to create lightweight living roofs quickly and easily.

With undemanding root systems and requiring minimal maintenance, EnviroMat can be installed in the most unlikely places – shed roofs, on top of chicken houses and bird boxes, etc – there's almost nowhere that can't be cheered up with these delightful little evergreen flowering plants. Bees love it too, so you'll be doing your bit to help our vital pollinating friends!

Choosing quality

Always always use the best products you can afford. Even if that means doing the job in stages. Just like clothes, shoes and furniture, poorer quality products may look good to start with but their beauty soon fades.

Fresh is best

Buying perishable products such as turf, wildflower mat or sedum groundcover direct from the grower ensures that they will arrive as fresh as possible and all ready for you to install.





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About Harrowden Turf

A national company with a local heart

Harrowden Turf Ltd brings together the country's finest turf growers. So wherever you are, you won't be far from one of our excellent farms.

This means you are buying local turf, which is more able to adapt happily to your garden or site. And it also means a smaller carbon footprint and investing in local people and skills too.

You can't grow the finest living landscaping in factory conditions – so your turf is grown on some of the best-kept farmland in the country. It has taken us many years to select the perfect location for our farms and source grass seed varieties for best possible colour, disease resistance, durability and growth habit. Harrowden Turf is grown on some of the finest soil in the country. Rich and fertile it encourages a vigorous root system that allows our turves to establish quickly into any type of soil.

It is then over to our team of turf growers who utilise pioneering techniques and state-of-the-art machinery to ensure the turf you receive meets our high standards. We painstakingly tend to our fields ensuring every roll of turf that leaves our farms is lush, fresh, strong and ready for you to create the perfect lawn. At Harrowden Turf each load is harvested to order. All our turf is checked and certified to Turf Growers Association (TGA) standards. If required we can test your turf pre-delivery and supply a TGA quality certificate.

You can't grow the finest living landscaping in factory conditions - so your turf is grown on some of the best-kept farmland in the country.



Contact us

Feltwell Office

Corkway Drove | Hockwold Thetford | Norfolk IP26 4JR

- t 01842 828266 | f 01842 827911
- e feltwell@harrowdenturf.co.uk

Southport Office

330 Southport Road | Scarisbrick Lancashire | PR8 5LF

- t 01704 888333 | f 01704 888334
- e southport@harrowdenturf.co.uk

Edinburgh Office

11 The Holdings | Ingliston Road | Ingliston Edinburgh | EH28 8NB

- t 0131 6636617 | f 0131 3330766
- e edinburgh@harrowdenturf.co.uk

Head Office

Colpmans Farm | Islip | Kettering Northamptonshire | NN14 3LT

- t 01832 777100 f 01933 704071
- e admin@harrowdenturf.co.uk













www.harrowdenturf.co.uk

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