



YOUR GARDEN YOUR STYLE

Personalising our possessions is what makes us love and cherish them. It is why we change the wallpaper on our desktops, why we hang art on our walls and why we decorate our houses, writes *Mary Lee*.
Photography: *LottieDesigns.com*

We use our tastes and style choices to express our personalities in pretty much every aspect of our lives. But, there is one major area that all too often gets overlooked and left out of the personalisation party – your garden.

Teresa Potter, garden designer extraordinaire, believes that everyone's gardens should reflect their character, whether it is

used as a family area, a plot or a relaxation zone.

She says: "It is the personal touches that make a garden your own and make you enjoy spending time there. Simple additions, like your favourite plants or flowers in your favourite colour are a great place to start and will give you something to build on."

Teresa has been a garden designer for over 10 years and has helped many of her customers



to come up with expressive garden ideas, from African huts with thatched rooves to bespoke sculptures and ponds with filtered swimming sections. However, your expression does not need to be quite so dramatic. For example, a herb garden can prove to be very handy for a keen cook or a bird bath and table can provide hours of pleasure for the amateur ornithologist. Hedgerows and trees can be planted to create a natural screen for sun worshippers or a bar could be installed in the summerhouse for those that like a tittle in the evening on the patio.

As a mother to her five-year-old son, Ashley, Teresa believes that your garden should be designed with the whole family in mind to make sure that everyone gets enjoyment from it: "Most children have an inbuilt curiosity for anything to do with nature, so insect houses, bird feeders and toad houses are all ideal habitats to explore. The garden is a brilliant distraction from the television and, as children start to learn the names of the different trees and animals, it can become your very own outdoor classroom.

"If you have the space and there are no safety issues then one of

the most exciting garden features is without doubt a pond. This can be a small raised pool next to the terrace or a large wildlife pond in a field planted with water lilies and native marginals, such as the wild orchid.

"Over the spring many nesting boxes have been occupied causing much excitement with both adults and children. One of my customers was sat out in his garden until 10.30pm just to catch a glimpse of a tawny owl chick.

"With good design and planning it is possible to incorporate at least some of these ideas into a small or large space."

To book an appointment with Teresa Potter to talk through your garden design needs, simply call 01254 271070 or 07966 030448. Your appointment can be arranged either at your home, business or at Teresa's office in Whalley and will give you an opportunity to view images from her extensive portfolio. **n**

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