



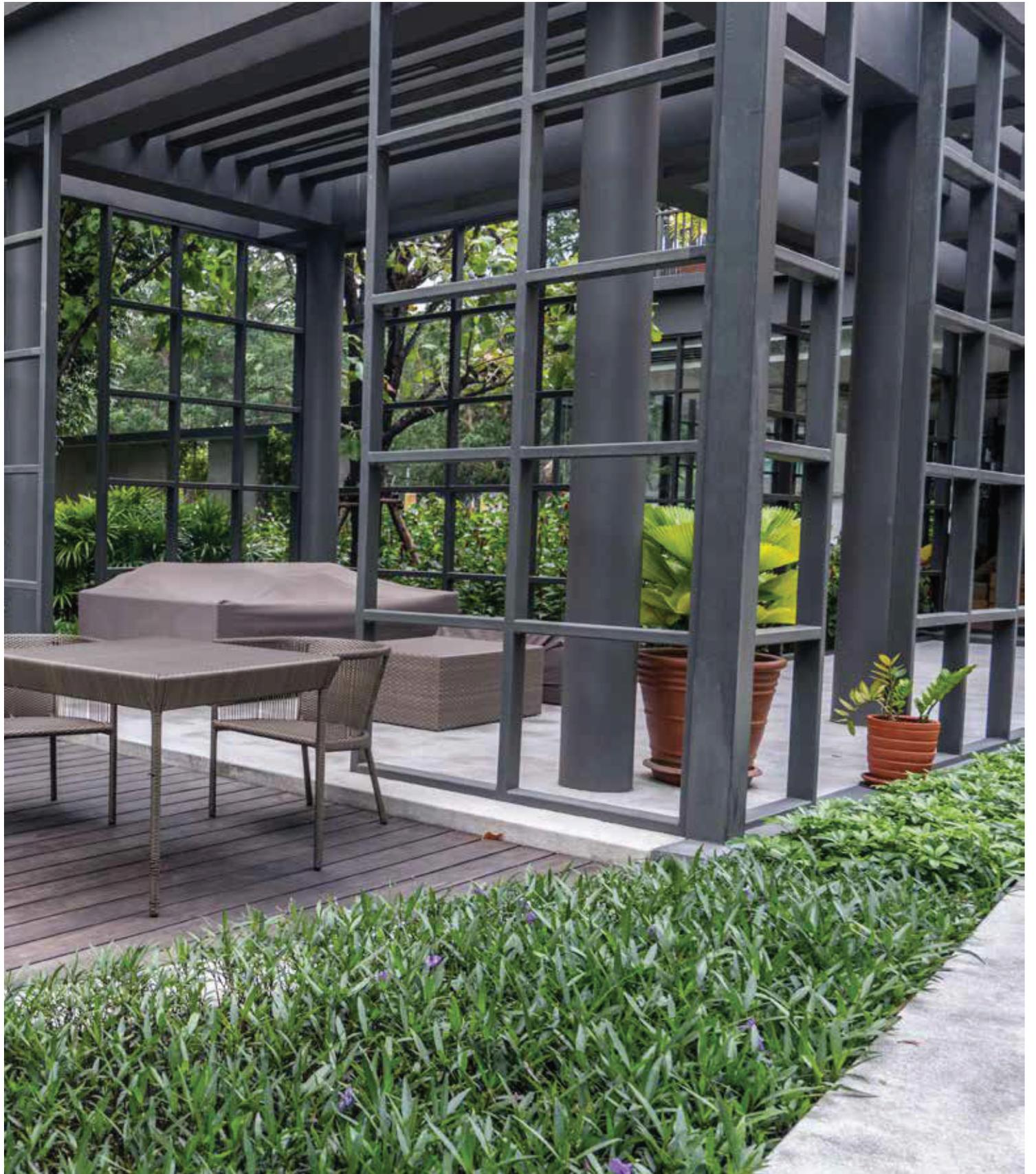
# Time to give your garden the wow factor!

First impressions are key when it comes to selling a house

**IS YOUR GARDEN LOOKING A LITTLE LACKLUSTRE** and in need of more than a little tender loving care? We all know first impressions are key when it comes to selling a house, and the 'kerb appeal' of your property is integral to creating the right response from a viewer.

Front gardens play a large role in this and can have a big impact on how a property is perceived before the buyer even steps through the door. Rear gardens can often be deal breakers, with many prospective buyers turning down otherwise perfect homes because the garden isn't up to scratch.





**INCREASE THE WOW FACTOR**

Even if you are not planning to sell immediately, upgrading your outdoor space can make a huge difference to your enjoyment of your home. And when it's time to sell, it will not only increase the wow factor but can also add significantly to the value of your property.

When planning your garden design, it's helpful to consider style, function and features. Whether it's a small garden, a patio or a balcony garden, there are plenty of budget garden ideas to boost your outdoor space.

**GARDEN STYLES**

Your garden style will likely be defined by a mixture of your personal taste, the space you have available and the plants that are suitable for your location.

**HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES**

**Traditional**

Traditional English or cottage gardens are flower-filled and colourful, with lawned areas and flower beds. Features may include fountains or topiary.

**Modern**

Modern gardens are angular, with green areas as well as paved areas with outdoor furniture. Features may include fire pits or a bar.

**Meadow**

Meadow or wild gardens include a vast range of plants and flowers, designed to attract bees, birds and butterflies. They may feature a pond or stream.

**Vegetable**

Vegetable or kitchen gardens are designed to grow fruit, vegetables and herbs for use in cooking. If owners are environmentally minded, they may cut down on green spaces to reduce water consumption.

**Mediterranean**

Mediterranean gardens incorporate plants from sunnier climates, often playing with



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proportions and height, or mixing in paving creatively. Other Mediterranean features, such as urns and pillars, may play a role in the design.

**Courtyard**

A courtyard garden is primarily intended to make the best use of smaller spaces, often for entertaining. It will typically feature garden furniture.

**GARDEN FUNCTIONS**

It may be helpful to think of your garden design in terms of the function or functions that you want to combine. In small spaces, you might be limited to one function, but if you’re lucky enough to have a lot of outdoor space, you can create several distinct areas with separate functions.

**EXAMPLES OF OUTDOOR AREAS**

**Entertaining**

Creating an area for dining and entertaining in your garden effectively increases the amount of liveable space in your home. For this purpose, a patio may be more practical than grass. You’ll want to consider patio furniture, and may think about a bar, barbecue or central design feature, such as a chiminea.

**Play**

People with children will want to make their garden a place for them to enjoy, perhaps with garden toys, a playhouse or a sand pit. Limiting this to a certain area of the garden, ideally hidden with clever hedging, can ensure that the garden is equally enjoyable for adults.

**Growing food**

There are various ways to incorporate



space to grow food into gardens of different sizes. Those with plenty of space can dedicate multiple beds to this purpose, while even those with just a courtyard can add pots for small plants such as herbs, tomatoes or chillies.

**Visual appeal**

While not strictly functional, most people want to introduce elements of visual appeal into their garden, dedicating an amount of space to flower beds or ornamentation.

**GARDEN FEATURES**

You may also find it helpful to build your garden design around a key feature.

**THESE FALL INTO SEVERAL GROUPS**

**Fire** features such as a barbecue, fire pit, patio heaters or a chiminea.

**Water** features such as a pond, fountain, waterfall, reflecting pool or swimming pool.

**Timber** features such as a deck, fence, trellis or pergola.

**Stone** features such as a patio, gravel terrace, pathway or grotto.

**Green** features such as a hedge, topiary or green wall.

**Structures** such as a gazebo, summer house, shed, greenhouse or aviary.

When selecting and combining features, you can consider their practical purpose, visual appeal, aural appeal, the maintenance they require, and their potential to add value to your property when you want to sell. ♦

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