



DECORATING

Stylish Indoor-Outdoor Living Ideas – and 7 Key Pieces That Will Help You Make the Most of Your Outside Space

Whether entertaining guests or simply relaxing with family, an outdoor space that feels like an extension of your home provides the perfect setting for summer

By Busola Evans
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The Wandering Majlis by Jwana Hamdan, artemest.com. Photo: Supplied

Chic Indoor Outdoor living – think rooms festooned with plants and the use of colours and materials which reflect nature – may be one of the interior's enduring trends, but for the summer months at least it is all about transporting the indoors to the outdoors.

Designing an [outdoor space that mirrors the style of an indoor room](#) allows you to enjoy

Photo: Cox and Cox

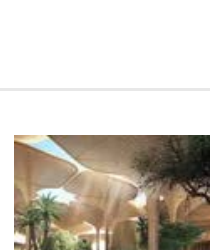
the benefits of being in the open air while not sacrificing the comfort and luxury you would have in your conventional living space. Also, it effectively creates an additional 'room' in your home, where you can relax with family and friends, read a book or enjoy a cocktail or two.

One of the great things about designing an indoor-outdoor living look is that it doesn't require major remodelling, just a thoughtful approach to how you can enjoy the best of both worlds.

Not sure where to start? Here's how to create the perfect outdoor space that looks and feels like an extension of what you enjoy behind closed doors.

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Define the layout

Photo: Liberty



Before you start, consider the purpose of your outdoor space as this will have a direct impact on its layout. Are you focusing on an area to relax or is it a space for dining and entertaining, or a combination of both? Then work on the layout and how you will arrange the furniture.

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Choose comfortable and stylish furniture

Photo: Raj Tent Club - Amalfi

In order to make your outdoor space look and feel like an indoor living room, invest in good quality furniture that is also comfortable for long-term lounging. "The most important thing is that outdoor furniture looks good within its setting and is pleasing to the eye," says Travers Nettleton, founder of specialists Garden Art Plus. "Comfort is key - relaxing on a sun lounger made at the correct angle or dining in comfort is vital. You wouldn't put up with an inexpensive, uncomfortable sofa or chair in your house, so why would you in the garden?"

Look for weather-resistant sofas, chairs, dining sets and pieces made from durable materials such as teak, metal or strong wicker.

Use outdoor rugs and textiles

Photo: Artemest



Outdoor rugs are essential in creating an indoor feel outside. They add colour, and texture and are comfortable underfoot, making the space feel more like a room. If you have two key spaces, like relaxing and dining, use outdoor rugs to delineate different zones as you would do indoors.

"Choosing beautiful outdoor textiles, especially rugs and cushions, is essential for creating a welcoming and stylish outdoor space," says Tasha Green, founder of indoor and outdoor textile specialists Weaver Green. "Look for items that offer water and mould resistance to ensure longevity and UV resistance to maintain vibrant colours under the sun. They should also ideally be machine washable so they can be easily cleaned, when required, and tucked away ready for the next summer season." In recent years, the choice and variety of outdoor fabric has increased tremendously so there is no excuse for not experimenting with pattern and colour.

[11 Clever Balcony Decor Ideas That Will Make You Want To Spend Time Outdoors](#)

Create a cohesive colour palette

Photo: Indian Ocean

A consistent colour palette will help blend your outdoor space with your indoor decor allowing a seamless transition to the outside. As with indoor rooms, try to stick to the 60-30-10 decorating rule of interior design which suggests the best way to distribute colours. The recommendation is that the dominating colour should be 60 per cent of the whole scheme, 30 per cent should be a secondary colour, while the remaining 10 per cent should be an accent shade. Coordinate cushions, rugs and other accessories to maintain a cohesive look.

Focus on lighting

Photo: Artemest



Lighting is a key element in making your outdoor space remain functional and inviting once the sun sets. Use a combination of ambient, task and accent lighting to create a layered and cosy atmosphere.

"Outdoor lighting has the power to transform our outdoor spaces. It is a must for long summer evenings, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere, lighting key features in the garden, and illuminating paths and entryways," agrees Lee Lovett, founder and creative director at The Soho Lighting Company. "However, some outdoor lighting can have detrimental effects on the environment, disrupting the ecological balance, and the natural behaviour of our fauna. When selecting outdoor lighting fixtures, opt for those specifically designed to minimise skyward-facing light. Look for fixtures that have a shielded design, directing the light downward and away from trees or ponds to avoid disorienting insects and animals." String lights, lanterns, and fairy lights can add a magical touch and dimmable lights can help create different moods.

Provide shelter and shade

Photo: Weaver Green

To make your outdoor space usable in various conditions, incorporate shelter and shade into the design. Pergolas and gazebos for instance can all offer protection and structures can be designed to match the style of your home. You can also extend the use of your outdoor space with outdoor heaters and fire pits for the cooler months and in the warmer climes, fans can help the space remain comfortable. These additions will ensure you can enjoy your outdoor space not just in the summer, but all year round.

7 pieces to create your perfect indoor-outdoors look

Eos Outdoor Three-Seater Sofa, \$2260.24, Heal's ([heals.com](#)) Photo: Supplied

Electric Overhang Outdoor Heater, \$778.09, Kettler ([kettler.co.uk](#)) Photo: Supplied

Blossom Table Light in Olive Green, \$635.21, Original BTC ([originalbtc.com](#)) Photo: Supplied

White Lounge Chair with Red Cushions, \$6481.95, Artemest ([artemest.com](#)) Photo: Supplied

Bookend Rose Cushion, \$194.85, Kit Kemp ([kitkemp.com](#)) Photo: Supplied

Prismatic Glass Wall Light, \$177.25, The Soho Lighting Company ([soholighting.com](#)) Photo: Supplied

Darjeeling Heather Rug, from \$202.64, Weaver Green ([weavergreen.com](#)) Photo: Supplied

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