



LIFT LIFESTYLE

Lift Lifestyle International Ltd.

Unit b, 2/F, Cheung Hing Ind. Bldg,
12P Smithfield, Kennedy Town, Hong Kong
Tel: +852 3907 0386
E-mail: info@liftlifestyle.com

Expat Living Apr/May 15 - Living Outdoors

LIVING OUTDOORS

By Brooke Chenoweth

Summer is just around the corner and warmer weather means spending more time outdoors. We chatted with FRANCIS LI from Lift Lifestyle to get some tips on how to make the most of our outdoor spaces.



58 EXPATLIVING Apr-May15

OUTDOOR FURNITURE

If you're lucky enough to have a home that has even a little bit of outdoor space, chances are you're going to be using that outdoor space a lot in the coming months. Whether you have kids who want to run around and play outside, or you're a barbecue grill-master getting ready to host some parties, there are a number of ways to make your outdoors just as appealing and attractive as your indoors.

Where to start?

Francis likens decorating a space to putting on make-up. Think of your flooring as the foundation. If you're faced with a concrete slab, you can do just about anything with it; from decking tiles to artificial turf, there are a number of UV-proof, low maintenance materials available. When it comes to furniture, choose a colour scheme to match your floors. Rattan furniture is a popular choice and it comes in a variety of colours and weaves. Lift Lifestyle generally has in stock about a dozen different colours and styles of Viro branded rattan at any one time, widely recognised as being the best available rattan on the market.

You can choose pieces straight from a catalogue, or Lift Lifestyle can help you design pieces to be custom-made – this is particularly helpful if your rooftop or balcony is an odd shape or size. Sofas, tables, chairs, and day-beds in different sizes and configurations mean you can mix it up and move pieces about to suit the occasion. Dining sets are another popular option, and Francis recommends buying pieces in contrasting textures like wood, glass, or steel.

The next step is to add colour, and you can do this with cushions. If you want to use outdoor cushions and not have to take them inside in our hot and humid climate, the best option is the Sunbrella range of fabrics as these are anti-mould, fade-resistant, and UV-protected. Lift also stocks more cost-effective polyester fabrics from a couple of suppliers, and again cushions can be custom-made in any size you like.



Accessorise!

Once you have your flooring and furniture in place, it's time to dress things up. With outdoor rooms becoming more sophisticated in recent years, there's really no reason why you can't treat the space as you would a living or dining room inside the house. Outdoor mats are big in Europe this season, and look great under a coffee table or fire pit. Lighting also has a big visual impact, and is essential for evenings. Lift imports a stunning selection of handmade lanterns from India, as well as fixed lighting for walls and floors that must be installed by an electrician.

For daytime there are also a number of options for shade. From basic stand umbrellas and sails to high-end gazebos and pergolas, there's something for every space and budget. Misting fans are a must in the summer months, and a fire-pit or free-standing heater will extend the outdoor season well into winter.

Going green

Not many homes in Hong Kong have the luxury of a garden, but greenery is much easier to achieve than you might think. Artificial turf is an excellent alternative to real grass, and today's fake grasses look better than the real thing and require almost no maintenance. The team at Lift can help you choose planters and pots, with a huge selection of artificial plants for any space.

Green walls are a great way to disguise ugly walls or fences, as well as being an efficient use of vertical space if you're dealing with a small area. Similarly, Landscape Leaves are like large flexible tiles that can be attached to walls, storage sheds or boxes, or wrapped around pipes to hide unsightly features. They're also durable and UV-proof.

To browse Lift Lifestyle's extensive collection of products for both retail and residential projects, including Hong Kong's biggest range of barbecues, visit Unit B, 2/F, Cheung Hing Industrial Building, 12P Smithfield, Kennedy Town. 3907 0386 | liftlifestyle.com