



LIFT LIFESTYLE

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Expat Living Jun/Jul 13 - The New Room



By Susan Grant

Outdoors: The New Room


When it comes to creating the perfect balcony, terrace, garden or rooftop, the key is to bring the indoors out by giving your outside space the same love and creative attention you would any room in the house.

Gone are the days when entertaining friends al fresco involved lighting the barbecue and dragging a few chairs out of hibernation. Nowadays, garden furniture and accessories are a reflection of a person's interior style, and the perfect outdoor parties are a combination of the great outdoors and the host's attention to detail.

Because of increasing demand, the range and style of outdoor furniture is improving in both quality and design. Households are treating their outdoor spaces as extra living rooms for entertaining and for family, especially in Hong Kong where we are lucky to enjoy a reasonable climate year round.

As health gurus are promoting the need for us all to schedule more "me time" just to sit down and recharge, so more and more of us are seeing the importance of creating relaxing spaces in our homes and gardens.

Here, then, is a list of some outdoor trends to keep an eye on, with some stylish examples of what's hot, courtesy of Hong Kong-based furniture company Lift Lifestyle.

- Wood is no longer the material of choice for outdoor furniture; everything from exposed brushed metal to bamboo is now being transformed into stylish statement pieces.
- Bold and colourful prints on cushions and table linens are reflective of exotic destinations and cultures.
- White is the new black when it comes to garden furniture, and although it's not exactly practical, it's stunning in any outdoor setting.
- Glossy and reflective surfaces like silk and lacquer echo the metallic trend in interior design, and graphic black-and-white brings a quasi-Art Deco look to the garden.
- Synthetic rattan has long been popular but consumers are now seeking the most natural looking products both in colour and feel. A combination of realistic-looking rattan on brushed metal frames is also a popular choice for those looking for a combination of natural and contemporary.
- When it comes to design, gone are the days of boxy shapes and limited choice. The beauty of the new forms of synthetic rattans is that you can make almost any shape or design from them, from small bistro sets for a balcony to an extravagant sofa set for a Southside garden.
- While most people stick to natural colours when it comes to furniture frames, personal style is often shown in their choice of cushions. Pastel colours, greys and browns are a great complement to natural-looking materials but go for bold colours and graphic prints to make a statement. 



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