



My interior stylist

Expert advice from Zoë Brewer, West London's premiere Property Stylist

The Great British summer

We may not always have the climate for it, but when the sun does shine, there's nothing to beat the British outdoors in the summer. I grew up as a country girl, and so the old traditions are what makes it for me – newt catching in the stream, picnic blankets laden with yummy food, jumpers for goal posts... ahh. Now a fully signed up member of the urban masses, I still live the dream in my city garden, so here's a few tips for creating the holiday atmosphere in your own back yard. Who needs the Med?

Seating: We don't all have room for a 3 piece garden suite on our postage stamp patios. So be inventive. Use a tressle table for an outside dining table (this means you can also fold it away when weather is not permitting). Cover with a table

cloth & pin down to avoid losing it and spilling every drink in sight when the wind blows. Use a mis-match variety of wooden dining/folding chairs and tie the look together with a selection of co-ordinated seat cushions for that perfect magazine styled seating area.

Al fresco dining: There's nothing nicer than eating outside. So once you have your table and chairs, set the scene with some outdoor dining accessories. Melanie plates, cups and cutlery are available in so many designs and colours now, they are often nicer than the real thing! Tie a ribbon around the cutlery, and insert a sprig of something pretty from the garden. Use a selection of different sized glass vases and space along the middle of the table. Fill with freshly picked flowers (or cheat and buy some if your fingers are not that green!).

Summer styling: I love decorating for summer parties. And for special occasions, you can go to town without breaking the bank. Collect empty jars, put a tea light in each one and hang all around the garden. Fairy lights are a great way to make a feature of an old tree – electric or solar. Create an outside pow wow area by draping and tying sheer fabric in a corner of the garden to create a tent like feel. Fill the space underneath with a selection of large cushions or a hammock. Bunting and butterfly strings can be strung across trees and along walls. For kids parties, you can go to town with this idea and create a fairy wonderland!

You can make most of the above yourself, or for a one stop shop, you will find a great selection at Cath Kidston, who has shops in Holland Park and Marlebone or online at www.cathkidston.co.uk. Alternatively contact My Interior Stylist to create the look for you.

Finally, add children, a garden sprinkler, Pimms and a copy of Lifewest9! Perfect.

For a one to one consultation on revamping your home, email Zoë at zoe@myinteriorstylist.com



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