

BALCONY BLISS

The tight space afforded by a balcony doesn't allow for very daring design, but this striking balcony space by Amir Schlezinger of MyLandscapes shows how much can be achieved on a tiny footprint. Because balconies are so close to home, it's important to create a link with the inside. Pick out specific interior features, for example here a striking sculpture extends the art collection that dominates the living room. Inside Out Garden Art sell a range of outdoor canvases and ornaments, prices start from £86.

Schlezinger uses tricks to make the area feel larger, such as using slimline planters with in-built voids that allow light to shine through. The unusual shapes become both sculptural pieces, and a way to house ambient lighting (they can hide the messy power source).



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DECKING IS THE NATURAL
OPTION FOR BALCONIES AS
YOU MUST CONSIDER WEIGHT

UNITING INSIDE AND OUT



SQUARE AND RECTANGULAR
PLANTERS ARE EQUALLY
ON-TREND, BUT STICK WITH
ONE TYPE OF SHAPE

Stuart Craine designed this sizzling pink, Notting Hill garden. Get the look with raspberry-coloured Mischief, £43 for a 5l tin, from The Little Greene Paint Company. It's an easy job to do yourself just make sure you buy exterior masonry paint (which comes in a variety of finishes, from textured to ultra-smooth) and wait for good weather so it can dry properly.

Opening up the back of your house with floor-to-ceiling glass doors also

increases the feeling of space. Try Kløeber for aluminium folding doors - expect to pay £2,250 for three doors measuring 209x239cm. Flooring can also link interior and exterior spaces; here, the hardwood decking extends the tones from the house. Exterior

"PLANTERS ARE AN EASY WAY TO MAKE YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE MORE INTERESTING"

decking does a fabulous range of hardwood options, including Exterpark decking for £84 per sq m. If you want the same material inside and out, try limestone (£84 per sq m) or York stone (£65 per sq m, both from Stonemarket) although the exterior material should have a textured, non-slip finish.

Sarah Baldwin is a writer for *Grand Designs Magazine*. Visit granddesignsmagazine.com

THE URBAN GARDENERS' LITTLE BLACK BOOK



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GARDEN DESIGNERS

- ◆ charlotterowe.com
- ◆ buckleydesignassociates.com
- ◆ krgardendesign.com
- ◆ mylandscapes.co.uk
- ◆ sgd.org.uk
- ◆ stuartcraine.com
- ◆ gardenbuilders.co.uk

FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES

- ◆ bbqisland.net
- ◆ leisureplan.co.uk
- ◆ encompassco.com
- ◆ fire-magic.co.uk
- ◆ heat-outdoors.co.uk
- ◆ ingarden.co.uk
- ◆ insideout-gardenart.co.uk
- ◆ leisureplan.co.uk
- ◆ primrose-london.co.uk
- ◆ poshpatio.co.uk
- ◆ jamieoliverovens.com

PLANTS

- ◆ crocus.co.uk
- ◆ paramountplants.co.uk
- ◆ thebalconygardener.com

MATERIALS AND FITTINGS

- ◆ diy.com
- ◆ ced.ltd.uk
- ◆ exteriordecking.co.uk
- ◆ jacksons-fencing.co.uk
- ◆ kloeber.co.uk
- ◆ landscapeplus.com
- ◆ stonemarket.co.uk
- ◆ littlegreene.com
- ◆ toppstiles.co.uk

OTHER CONTACTS

- ◆ planningportal.gov.uk
- ◆ rhs.org.uk



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