

# FLAVOURS OF SUMMER AT HOME

*Architect Sangeetha Mayur has some ideas to help you create your own outdoor oasis this summer*



Pics: Archiscape. Courtesy: Ujjwala Mandgi

**SUMMER IS THE** season of freedom and refreshment. You can bring the vibrancies of summer closer home - to where you walk and sit, and with what you cook and grow. As temperatures rise across the country, you can make sure this is the best summer ever by decorating your outdoor spaces. Just like the rooms inside, the exteriors of your home convey personality too. You can transform the outdoor spaces from a bland setting to a breath-taking experience with cozy seating arrangements, greenery, lighting, and more.

## Space no constraint

Whether it is a huge front

yard, a backyard space, or an 8x4 feet balcony, designing the space for low maintenance is a key factor for busy people in today's fast-moving life.

If it is an apartment, and a balcony or a small terrace is the only space available, spice them up with decorative stones and gravel to cover the floor and a small tea settee space to relax in. This can be lit up quite nicely with LED strip lighting highlighting the softscape, or with small bollard lights accentuating the hardscape.

As for the greenery, plants in pots, containers or small



shrubs planted in large wooden boxes can soften the look. Flowering plants enhance the aesthetics of the space. A few of the varieties suitable are colourful hibiscus, ixoras and jasmine.

Spaces in bungalows, such as the backyard, patio and garden, are the perfect places to make memories with family and friends. Beautiful, well-landscaped spaces don't require much investment in terms of skills or time.

alternatives that add beauty and privacy. Use shrubs for form, foliage-heavy plants for colour, and sturdy perennials for reliability.

Install wood lattices and cover them with fast-growing vines, such as ivy or jaqmontea. Plant several quick-growing bushes such as duranta or portulaca, and create tall hedges with euphorbia or areca palms.

Tending a kitchen garden can be a therapeutic practice as well as a great hobby. Chillies, pepper, tomato, coriander, mint, ladies finger, and tulsi (basil) are a few varieties that thrive well here.

## Space for activity

Create well-defined spaces for family activities or a children's play area. A place for parties and camp fire would include a provision for a small kitchen or a barbecue. A swing or outdoor pool amidst the garden is a refreshing experience.

## Accessorise

Accessories add colour and style to a space. Summer is a good time to consider birdbaths or a birdhouse. Hanging a bright-coloured hammock between two trees creates a relaxing spot in your lawns. Glow-in-the-dark variety of fountain sprays, stained glass artifacts or statues put a personal touch to the area.

## Plants

A bit of greenery can be both pretty and functional. Safety can be achieved with simple fencing and green

