



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
with Tim Goom

Take the indoors outdoors!

There is definitely an autumn chill creeping into the evenings earlier and earlier, which starts to limit the amount of time we want to spend in our gardens. Creating shelter and heat is the key to extending the use of your outdoors into the cooler months. There are options for all budgets, ranging from clever planting and a portable gas heater to limit the heat robbing easterly to a fully equipped outdoor room with all the bells and whistles.

Consider the purpose of your outdoor room- do you want it to be a cosy space for relaxing or would you like to include an outdoor kitchen, so you are not traipsing back and forth between the indoor kitchen and the outdoor room when you have guests for dinner? Alternatively, you may wish to devote the space to a less formal style of entertaining, such as an outdoor bar- which could connect to a pool for the ultimate backyard resort living.

An outdoor room does not need to be fully enclosed, but an overhead structure will certainly help in terms of heat retention. Overhead louvre systems are wonderful for creating shelter from sun and rain when needed but have the benefit of being retractable for those times when you want the sun to shine in. Other options include a permanent material structure, a shade sail or umbrella- or climbing plants over a pergola for a cottage garden feel. Anything is possible.



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An outdoor room does not need four walls- many permanently open out onto the rest of the garden. Careful consideration of wind direction will determine which sides should be enclosed. Horizontal louvres and sliding walls are a great option to open up the space when you choose.

Although an outdoor room extends outdoor living year-round, it does not need to be connected to or even near the house. For some properties, the optimal space for outdoor entertaining is some way from the house. In these instances, installing an outdoor room creates a separate destination for visitors to move to from the house and can enhance use of the extended property. Ensuring this space is cosy and inviting and contains elements which won't necessitate movement back to the house (Kitchen, BBQ, Bar, Seating, Heating) will enable you to have a functional self-contained area.

Although an outdoor room is an enclosed space, it does not need to be insulated and weatherproof to the same standard as your home. An outdoor room is about creating a sheltered inviting space which remains usable when temperatures dip. It is not a house extension- with the greater associated costs and consenting issues. This also allows greater flexibility in terms of the choice of materials. You may wish to continue a theme established by the architecture of your home or explore innovative materials which contrast to your home.

To maximise your outdoor room, heating is vital. This can be as simple as overhead electric heating or a gas fire or a bespoke wood fire to create a feature. Your choice of heating will be determined by the size of the space and potentially consent requirements- but having a heat source, whatever it may be- is crucial to getting the most out of your outdoor room. Lighting, a music system, a TV or a bar fridge are all wonderful additions depending on your lifestyle and stage.

Outdoor rooms continue to be an extremely popular item on the landscaping wish list of homeowners, adding value and functionality.

Call Goom Landscapes on 0800 466 657 today to see how an outdoor room can enhance your property and lifestyle.

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