

Smart design solutions

ALL-THE-RAVE pavers

Upgrade your patio with a tempting **TRENDING LOOK**

There's no better or more effective way to makeover your garden than with a paving update. There are so many different finishes, materials, shapes and styles on offer,

offering up loads of inspiration. From premium-looking slate effect to rustic red bricks, the latest on-trend designs mean there's no reason to stick with your seen-better-days concrete flags!

2024 SPECIAL

Symphony Matte porcelain paving in Carbon, £77.18/m², marshall's.co.uk

▲ ECLECTIC DETAILING WITH MISMATCH TILES

The boho trend is back and it's bigger than ever! If you've already invested in sleek neutral paving, then adding an accent of patterned tiles is a very doable update, and the combo looks fabulous. We're seeing lots of mixed tiles coming onto the market, with sets of pavers in complementary patterns, or larger slabs with a checkerboard of different designs. Use them vertically on steps, add a patio border or create a rug effect within a larger paved area.

💡 Handmade, with mixed red and orange shades, try Reclamation Tumbled Multi Brick, **£1.60 each** reclaimedbrickcompany.co.uk

▲ CLASSIC MEETS CONTEMPORARY WITH LINEAR CLAY PAVERS

The enduring appeal of these design favourites lie not only in their attractive multi-hued tones of deep red and brown through to grey, but also in their exceptional durability. Clay pavers are much longer-lasting than concrete, keep their colour and need very little maintenance. They're also an eco-friendly option as they're made from natural clay, which is plentiful and easily recyclable. And, while they may look rustic, the linear shape means they can be laid in a variety of ways, including staggered and in a herringbone pattern, and they can really switch up an uber-sleek garden by adding warmth and charm.

The one disadvantage is the price, but bear in mind that you're far less likely to have to repair or replace them, so if you're planning to stay put, this could be a better savvy-spending option in the long run. This beautiful courtyard, as seen at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2023, designed by Maximilian Parker-Smith (maximilliandesign.co.uk), shows how versatile these clay pavers can be when they're teamed with grey rendered walls and modern furniture.

💡 The frost-resistant and durable Antique Red Clay Pavers (£90/m², londonstone.co.uk) blend tones of browns and reds.

▲ MODERN RUSTIC VIBE WITH RECLAIMED RED BRICKS

Many of the forward-trending 2023 show gardens featured heritage-style paving, including recycled bricks. And while you might think these basic building blocks are most reminiscent of Victorian terraced tiny backyards, red brick is now a thing! They're much-loved by garden designers as they bring an industrial edge and welcoming warm tones, and an opportunity to re-use material. Conal Studio (conalstudio.com) created this Brickyard garden at RHS Flower Show Tatton Park 2023 and we're big fans of the blend of old and new.

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▲ PORCELAIN PLANKS INTERSPERSED WITH GRAVEL & GREENS

Porcelain is a designer favourite as it can mimic the appearance of natural products such as stone, wood and marble, while giving an incredibly durable easy-clean finish. However, the downside is that they can be an expensive option. The answer? Cut the cost by using them sparingly and in-setting among gravel. It's also a great way to create a journey from one part of the garden to another.

In the Terrace Garden Retreat, designed by Lee Fenn and Samantha Whitehead (platinumgardendesign.co.uk) for RHS Flower Show Tatton Park 2023, the hard edges of the porcelain planks were softened with creeping mats of *Soleirolia soleirolia* (mind-your-own-business) in-between.

💡 Silver Kandla Grey Porcelain Planks, £535/10.8m² stoneandporcelain.co.uk

► GRAVEL SWITCH-UP WITH STONE INSETS

Gravel is the go-to choice for a budget-friendly, almost-no-maintenance garden, and has the advantage of being permeable too. Basic it may be, but give it a focal point, and it suddenly becomes very designer-swish indeed. Take inspiration from the Renters' Retreat garden designed by Zoe Claymore (zoeclaymore.com) at RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival 2023, where a gravel expanse was turned from bland to blinking lovely with the simple addition of a few rough-hewn stone slabs. Much of the cost of stone slabs is in the transport, so find your local quarry and enquire whether they do private sales or have any surplus stone.

💡 Get the look for less with Weathered Brown Stepping Stones, £10 diy.com



► BETTER-THAN-THE-REAL-THING PORCELAIN SLABS

As manufacturing techniques improve, more and more lookalike porcelain pavers are coming onto the market, often looking better than the product they're trying to mimic. One of the latest and oh-so-sublime finishes is slate, with different patterns on each paver promising a superbly realistic finish. You achieve an aesthetically pleasing natural vibe but without any of the hard work, as porcelain is the ultimate hard-wearing, zero-hassle paver – win win!

💡 Exstone Rustic Slate Bronze, £63.58/m² europeanheritage.co.uk



► PATTERN-PERFECT MEDITERRANEAN TERRACE TILES

Patterned tile paving is one of the big gardening trends for 2024. And what's not to love about it! Just like fancy wallpaper will transform a room indoors, Med-style tiled paving will do the same for a boring old patio and there are a myriad colours and designs to choose from to make it work with your garden style. The only downside is that porcelain tiles, as they're so hard and resilient, can be tricky to cut so if your patio is a non-standard shape, it could be best to get in a professional outdoor tiler.

💡 Ca'Pietra Brompton Porcelain Clarence tiles, £84.90/m² europeanheritage.co.uk

► MONSTER SLABS FOR STATEMENT PATIOS

Oversized slabs are having a moment, with pavers with extravagant proportions creating a premium finish. With less grouting involved, the look is sleek, so they're best suited to ultra-modern gardens. These sandstone slabs measure a whopping 1210mm x 1210mm, so you'll definitely need a helping hand or two if you want to install them yourself.

💡 Fairstone Sawn Versuro Jumbo Golden Sand tiles, £109.98/m² marshalls.co.uk



EASY IDEAS

TRY THIS!

Bradstone Carpet Stones (£42.77/1.2m x 40cm mat, lsd.co.uk) feature cobbles attached to a flexible mat that can be cut with scissors, making them much easier to lay yourself



▲ UPCYCLED TERRAZZO STYLE

The ancient technique of creating terrazzo originates from Italy where a mix of leftover aggregates such as marble, glass and quartz were blended together to create this hardwearing building material. It's recently resurfaced as a hot interior design trend and is making its way outdoors. Nowadays the process of making tiles involves chips of marble and stone mixed with concrete or epoxy resin, but these eye-catching Rubblazzo pavers (rubblazzo.com) are a more eco-friendly option, made from rubble salvaged from demolished London buildings, and showcased in the RHS Resilient Garden, designed by Tom Massey (tommassey.co.uk), at RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival 2023.

💡 Cheat the look with Jagger Mid Grey Terrazzo Effect Outdoor Porcelain tile, 60 x 60 cm, £64.80/m² mandarinstone.com