

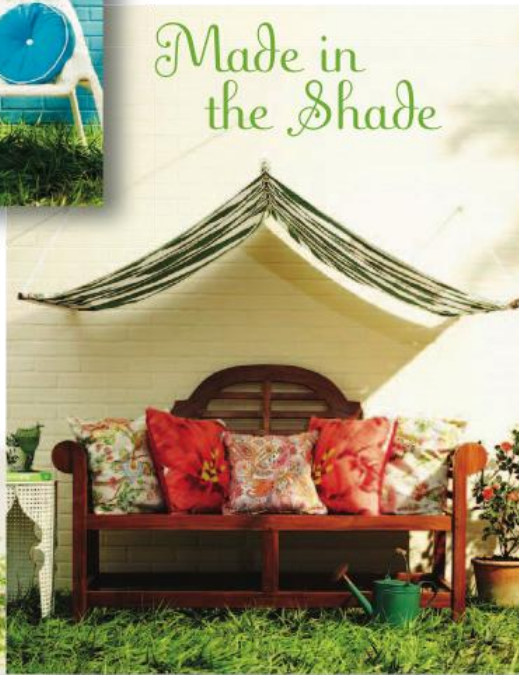
THE GREAT ESCAPE (IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD!)

Welcome Summer with Innovative Décor for Outdoor Spaces from HomeSense

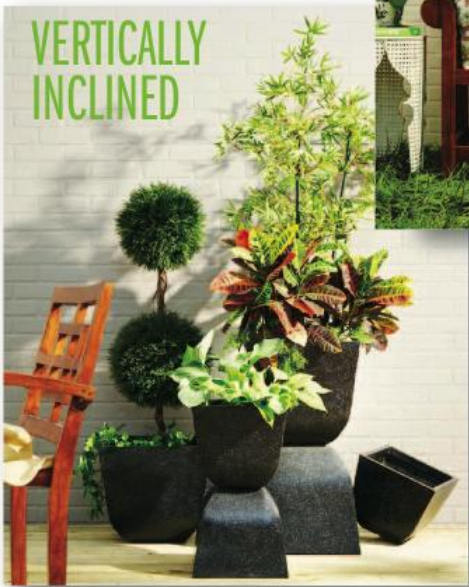
Outdoor decorating has come a long way from tikki torches and patio lanterns. Toronto-based style and design expert, Arren Williams worked with HomeSense to put a fresh spin on outdoor décor.



Take a classic interior decorating idea, like a plate wall, outdoors this summer to bring an open-air "WOW" factor to alfresco entertaining. Today's melamine dishware rivals the style of fine China – but is better equipped to withstand the elements for a fraction of the cost. *"These melamine plates and platters (\$2.99 – \$6.99 compare at \$5 – \$10) in complementary shades of mod blues and greens are bold, graphic and so much fun,"* explains Arren Williams. *"I loaded up on different shapes and sizes, then planned out a symmetrical pattern on the floor before attaching each to the wall with plate hangers and screws to create this striking garden gallery effect."* A pair of retro-chic garden lounge chairs, in woven resin wicker, anchors the look and offers the perfect spot for you to sit back and admire your handiwork.



Not a tree in sight? Repurpose a hammock (\$34.99 compare at \$60) as a romantic canopy to create a shady spot for a well-earned afternoon snooze. *"With a quick and easy stitch create a pocket in the centre of the hammock to insert your dowel and form your canopy's peak,"* says Williams. *"Using eye hooks and cord, anchor your new awning to the wall or fence and watch your outdoor space turn into a 'place',"* explains Williams. Forget about going all matchy-matchy in your backyard oasis. Instead combine patterned pillows, like these granny-chic florals, bright paisleys and pop-art flower prints to add personality and soften the formal lines of the teak bench, making it even more inviting.



Stacking planters is a great way to add height, dimension and a cool sculptural quality to small urban decks or gardens. *"When building a vertical garden, use a range of planter sizes to stack and create varying heights,"* explains Williams. *"Make it look like you have a well-practiced green thumb by overplanting your pots with a mix of lush greenery – adding instant impact to your high rise patio or back porch."* Resin or fiberglass planters work best, since they're sturdy yet light, and can easily be drilled and bolted together securely. Starting at \$30, these fiberglass planters achieved a striking architectural effect for this budget-friendly DIY project.

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