



Making a Splash

Landscape designer Kevin Cooper illustrates how to add striking character into your outside space with the use of architectural Water Features.

When designing any garden or outside space, introducing three dimensional character is crucial in developing the depth and feeling to not only invite one into the garden but keep you captivated and not wanting to leave. One of the most versatile and magical elements we have at our disposal is water, simple yet stunningly

powerful. The hypnotic sight and sound of water combined with the beauty of nature come together perfectly to create a quite magical and relaxing atmosphere that transforms any space into an oasis, a place where one can retreat and relax.

Architectural water features are a versatile way of introducing not only

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the atmosphere but striking sculptural impact, forming the all important focal point to invite one into the garden, and keep one entertained. These stand alone features can be savoured in both large and small spaces, in fact they are even more effective in developing depth and size in a small garden.

As with any other element in the garden, it is important to choose a feature which is going to work with and complement the rest of the garden, size, style and material all being crucial in allowing the feature to seamlessly merge into the bigger picture. The myriad of options available allows one to be as safe or adventurous as budget or imagination allows.

All good garden centres these days stock a varied range of very good self contained water features from simple standing stones to the more contemporary and imaginative stainless steel, all of which come complete with reservoirs and pumps, making them ideal for any of us to simply and safely add character to our garden. Water being such a flexible medium, means there is no limit to the imaginative ways it can be incorporated into a scheme. Traditional favourites like the formal Victorian fountains suit the more mature property, where waterfalls and rills can be put to stunning use on a more modern scheme, adding impressive drama and spectacle.

The soft and reflective nature of water allows it to be perfectly combined with contrasting hard natural elements such as stone or glass, in which we create a sculptural and artistic focal point that is brought alive and given a living heart by the water, which in turn brings alive the space in which it sits. With the use of subtle mood lighting, it is in the evening when any water feature comes alive. The magical effects and reflections creating a truly magical atmosphere, encouraging one to stay and savour the pleasures of being outdoors with nature long into the evening, perfect for informal entertaining.

Creating that little 'oasis' is what we all try to achieve in our garden design and lives, and it is the subtle and hypnotic magic of water that invariably helps us succeed in creating our peaceful haven, that peaceful place in which we can escape and unwind...Enjoy! 🌿

Kevin Cooper Garden Design, 07791 560519.
www.kevincoopergardendesign.com