

the Makers

Add some romance to your backyard with these inspiring and often simple ideas



HANGING OUT

What could be more romantic than a lazy swing in a soft pretty hammock? This resort-style hammock is made from soft lightweight cotton, with interwoven crocheted tassels and double-braided hangers. It has a quirky boho vibe. The soft breathable cotton allows cooling breezes to flow through. It's simple to attach between a couple of leafy trees; then pop on a comfortable pillow or two, grab a throw rug and spend a lazy afternoon recharging your batteries. Or you can buy a freestanding hammock frame and take it with you on a romantic picnic for two to create a relaxing getaway wherever you go. ivoryanddeene.com.au

PATH TO TRUE LOVE

Sometimes romance can be a journey to far-flung exotic places — here, it's all part of a short stroll down a pretty garden path. Romance is soft, muted colours and textures. It blurs hard edges, it flows with ease. In this inspired garden, large-format bluestone rounds are interspersed with soft dwarf mondo grass. Purple flowering Liriope 'Royal Purple' also features along with cascading Dichondra 'Silver Falls'. Designer Renata Fairhall says the planting for the garden focused on flowers, texture and form and most plants selected were also evergreen to ensure year-round beauty in the garden. renatafairhall.com.au





SNUGGLE UP

Take a plush comfortable sofa, add some plump cushions, a baby soft throw and some faux fur rugs and you have a divine, modern romantic look. The textile floor rug anchors the sofa; its colour complements the sofa frame. A chunky ottoman is the perfect place for the champagne glasses and chilled

sparkling wine if the mood takes you. The Camps Bay indoor/outdoor sofa by Uniqwa Furniture has a solid teakwood frame with an aged finish — it's ideal for undercover outdoor areas. The cushions are included in white with outdoor UV-protected mould/water-resistant fabric and Dacron fill. cranmorehome.com.au

AD



ROMANCE LIGHTS THE WAY

The soft shimmer of light sets the scene for romance. The Eva Solo sunlight table lamp has integrated solar-cell panels so you can have an intimate dinner party for two, four or more without electronic cables intruding on the look of the table. The lamps have an on/off switch and auto function, which means they can be set to switch off and on automatically at certain light levels. The lights can be placed wherever you need a hint of romance (and soft light for visibility). Sitting them on the wall extends the light, casting a luminescent glow on the tall buildings beyond the balcony. top3.com.au



NOT JUST FOR KIDS

Romance can be grand gestures, hearts and flowers, or it can be something cute and impossibly simple, like a few balloons. A pretty, aged wrought-iron chair tucked into a corner of the garden is given a dash of romance with a few generous, well-placed inflated balloons.

These pretty white and pink balloons are from Vintage Affair Balloons and they look simply divine in this garden setting. Add a little more sparkle with ribbons, tassels or whatever bling you choose and hold a romantic-themed garden party. vintageaffair.com.au



PRETTY IN WHITE

Sophistication, soft curves and beautiful symmetry abound in this romantic garden by Naturescape Creative. From the ornate pots with sculpted plants to the curved iron furniture and white-on-white colour palette, it's pure, luxurious romance. Dine under a canopy of stars at night sitting comfortably at the alfresco

table and chairs. A stylish undercover patio setting is made for afternoon high teas or for curling up with a good book. Here the striped cushion seating is paired effortlessly with the plush floral cushions. The romance is in the detail: it's all there — but not too much. Just the right amount in fact. naturescapecreative.com

Photo: Jenny & Neil Delmage

MADE FOR TWO

Romance can be bold; it can be festive and fun; it can even be quaint and quirky — it can be whatever you imagine it to be in your heart of hearts. Here the stage is set for an autumn gathering under the stars. The lush leafy outdoor setting casts a magic spell, creating an enchanting romantic scene. The Hampstead Jewel is an iconic stand-alone daybed, offering exceptional comfort for you and your loved one. It comes with Bridgman waterproof scatter cushions, with nine colours to choose from. We love this autumn-inspired set-up. bridgman.co.uk



THE FINISHING TOUCH

To create a romantic setting, location is key. Here, beside a river, the sounds of flowing water make a delightful backdrop. A weeping tree overhead provides shade to sit under, stretch your legs and wiggle your toes in the grass. A selection of pretty beaded mobiles hung from the tree's branches dance in the afternoon breeze. Relaxing by the water and enjoying the tranquillity of the quiet bushland setting is enough to whet your appetite. A crusty baguette, cheese, fruit and a long cool drink are on offer, served on a rustic makeshift table. After lunch, grab a pillow and take an afternoon siesta under the cool shady tree. nordicdesigncollective.co.uk

