

FINISHING TOUCHES



This month **Sean Butler** discusses the importance of adding finishing touches to a project with some stellar examples for a cosy outdoor space.

There is nothing more satisfying than having a client with a budget, whether large or small, who's funds, match their brief. These clients come about through careful and well structured meetings, that manage their expectations. When clients are nurtured this way, they trust your opinion. Being able to deliver on all aspects of their brief is essential.

“CREATING THE FINISHING TOUCHES STARTS AT THE BEGINNING, NOT THE END OF A PROJECT”

Having had in-depth conversations with the client, you can start a project knowing exactly how it's going to end and come together. Otherwise, you may find yourself standing in the



Creating the finishing touches starts at the beginning, not the end of a project.

So, what is classified as a project's "finishing touches"?

For most clients it is the creation of the indoors, but outdoors. This means a need for high tech kitchens and not the simple grill barbecue, or replacing plastic and old wooden furniture with high end fabrics and furnishings, complete with cushions and outdoor rugs.

You could think about each garden area as a room. That room has three walls, mimicked

by hedges and perennials, an open side where it has a view, representing the window or access entry point. The room's floor is made of porcelain while your outdoor area utilises natural stone or decking. You will also need somewhere to sit.

Is it a bistro space for a small table and two chairs to enjoy a morning coffee? Perhaps it's a daytime dining area seating for ten or more people, or a relaxing sofa area with chintzy cushions, rugs and a cosy gas fire table?

Each space can be styled to suit each client, with unique touches being implemented, such as lighting activated via an app or using a key fob. You could also consider using softer, relaxed lighting for a truly cosy feel. You can also use storm lanterns and candles of various heights in clusters of threes, fives and sevens, while high impact can be achieved via the use of giant church candles.

Have warm throws to hand. It's nice to sit out and be warm – these are quick way to add texture, comfort and a little bit of luxury. Finishing touches are an art and a science, requiring thought, passion and meticulous attention to detail to leave a space truly complete.

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ABOUT SEAN BUTLER

Sean Butler is a landscape designer and director of Cube 1994. With a background in civil engineering, Sean has an in-depth understanding of the design, construction and maintenance of the physical and naturally built landscape. www.cube1994.com