

INSPIRE

An Auckland Home Show Publication Summer 2025/26

Summer
Entertaining
Salads
& Cocktails

Indoors Out
Shifting into
Summer

Build-A-Bach!
A step by step guide

Summer Ready
Outdoor Spaces



Welcome to the first-ever edition of INSPIRE - our brand-new seasonal e-magazine created especially for Auckland Home Show subscribers.

Summer in Aotearoa has its own kind of magic. Long evenings, warm mornings, and a season that naturally pulls us outdoors. It's also the time we refresh our homes, plan projects, fire up the BBQ, and start dreaming about the year ahead - and we wanted to give you something that sparks that same feeling.

Inside this Summer edition you'll find a mix of ideas, trends, and inspiration from the people who know home living best: our Auckland Home Show exhibitors. From outdoor styling and entertaining, to easy landscaping ideas, tiny-bach dreaming, smart home updates, and a Christmas gift guide curated by our team - it's a little something from us to you.

We're thrilled to finally share INSPIRE with you, and even more excited that this is just the beginning. Every quarter, you'll receive a fresh edition filled with seasonal home ideas, project advice, and inspiration handpicked for Kiwi living - all completely free for our subscribers.

Settle in, make a cuppa (or grab a cold drink), and enjoy the very first issue of INSPIRE.

— The Auckland Home Show Team

04

Small Spaces Big Possibilities
Guide to Building a Bach

08

The Jacobsen 2025/26
Residential Trend Report

12

Bringing the Indoors Out
Shifting Into Summer

14

Summer Ready Outdoor Spaces
A Quick-fix Style Guide

16

Cooking in the Open Air
From BBQs to Full Kitchens

18

Summer Colour Trends
Defining the Season

20

Set the Scene - Creating
A Dinner Table that Wows

22

Summer Never Tasted So Good
Three Fresh Summery Salads

25

Raise a Glass to Summer
Two Signature Cocktails to make

26

Alfresco Fun
The Soundtrack to Summer

28

Easy Summer Landscaping
Refresh Your Backyard

30

All I Want For Christmas
Is a Forever Home—Adopt a Pup

32

Smart Summer Security
Lock, Leave and Relax

34

Christmas Gift Guide
Shop our favorites from the page

Build—A—Bach

Small Spaces Big Possibilities

bach

/bæɪf/ noun (New Zealand)
A small, modest holiday house—typically near the coast, lakes, or countryside—used as a simple, informal retreat for weekends, summers, and family getaways.



There's something instinctive in the way New Zealanders think about space — open, adaptable, and close to nature. And that's best reflected in the great Kiwi bach, not as a sprawling seaside house, but as a beautifully crafted, right-sized retreat. From prefabricated cabins tucked into the bush to backyard pods that welcome guests or returning family, flexible living is having its moment.

New legislation now makes it simpler than ever to build a secondary dwelling up to 70 m² without consent, sparking a surge in smart, small-scale design. The result? Endless possibilities — weekend escapes, work-from-the-coast studios, or multi-generational extensions that make better use of the land you already own. Whether you're dreaming of your own tiny bach or planning to extend your property, it's a season of freedom — one where design, flexibility and imagination meet.



Feel the tranquility Noosa design from Zelo by Ashcroft Homes.

Location, location, location!
Endless views and privacy to burn.
This great prefabricated holiday retreat from The Little Big Tiny House Co.

Buying a Tiny Home as a Bach

For many, the dream starts with a simple goal: a place to escape. Prefab and transportable homes have opened up new ways to make it real — faster, more affordable and with less stress.

Look for reputable builders offering fixed-price packages that include delivery and setup. Most provide detailed floor plans and can tailor finishes to suit your taste or location.

If you don't yet have land, explore rural lifestyle blocks, regional holiday zones or sections within family properties. Good drainage, vehicle access and protection from prevailing winds make a big difference. Some owners lease land at campgrounds or shared coastal developments, combining community with low-maintenance living.

FEATURE BUILD—A—BACH

A pre-built pod (or two) is the perfect solution for a bach location or a crowded house. **Insert below and opposite top** There's an ideal tiny home for every perfect location — whether you're off-grid, or on. All pictures by The Little Big Tiny House Co.



Extending your Property with Pods and Granny Flats

Not every small home needs to be a getaway. Increasingly, Kiwis are using tiny houses, pods and self-contained studios as flexible extensions of their existing properties.

A 70 m² secondary dwelling can serve many roles — a space for grandparents, a base for returning adult children, or an independent retreat for guests or teens. Detached work studios are also growing in popularity, providing quiet, climate-controlled spaces that blur the line between home and office

Because prefab modules are designed for flexibility, you can start small and expand later — add a deck, link a pergola, or connect a covered walkway to the main house. The key is to design for connection: shared outdoor zones that bring everyone together while maintaining privacy when needed.

Small but perfectly formed Not just economic, small homes are built with clever design and quality surfaces and fittings. **Pictured below** Kitchen from Zelo by Ashcroft Homes.



Consents, Site Prep, Utilities & Compliance

Recent legislative changes mean that, under certain conditions, you can build a self-contained dwelling up to 70 m² without a building consent — provided it meets the Building Code and sits on the same property as an existing home. Always check the fine print with your local council to confirm zoning, setbacks and connection rules.

Site preparation is straightforward but essential: stabilise the ground, plan for storm-water runoff, and allow access for a truck-mounted crane if your home is delivered pre-built. Power, water and waste-water can connect to the main dwelling or operate independently with solar, tank and composting systems. A certified installer or licensed building practitioner should oversee all on-site work to keep you compliant and insured.

Design Inspiration

Use sliding or bifold doors to open the living area fully to a deck

Keep colours light and neutral to enhance a sense of space and calm

Incorporate built-in seating with hidden storage to save space

Add a simple outdoor shower or laundry nook for sandy-foot practicality

Use materials that weather well — timber, corrugated steel, or fibre-cement cladding



Design Ideas

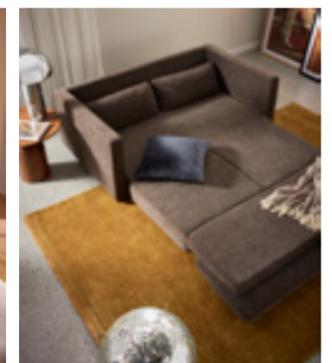
A great small space relies on good design. Think light, flow and multi-purpose living. Glazing and orientation are everything: frame your view, capture the sun, and make outdoor living the natural extension of your interior.

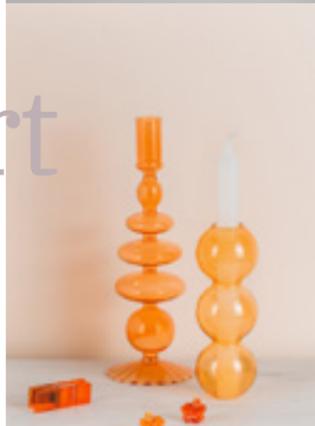
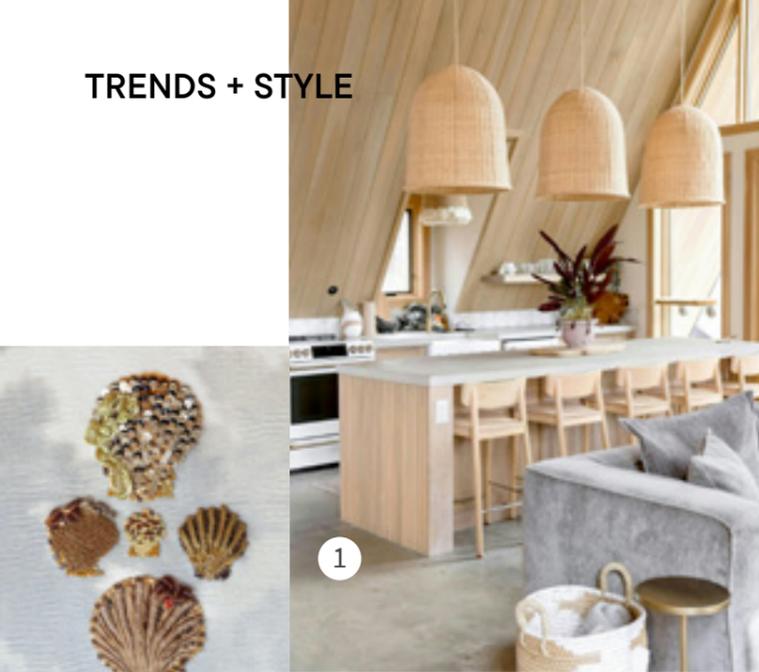
Quick Property Checklist

- Do you have space for vehicle access and service connections?
- Is your land stable and well-drained?
- Can you position a dwelling for sun and privacy?
- Are you comfortable managing site works and consent checks?
- Will it enhance your property's value or flexibility long-term?

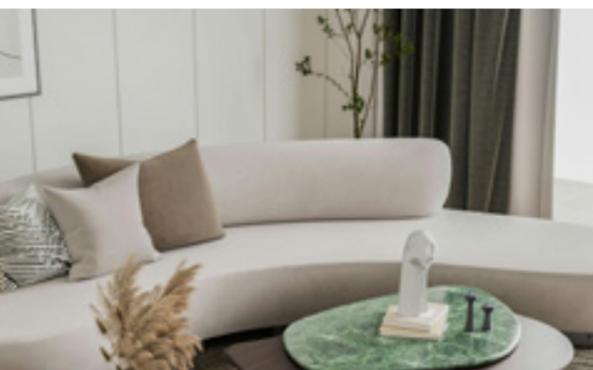
If you can answer yes to most of these, the timing couldn't be better. The modern bach (or backyard extension) is more than a structure — it's a shift toward simpler, more intentional living. Whether by the sea or in your own backyard, the same freedom applies: design smart, build light, and make every square metre count.

Pictured top right The best bach design basics feature in this interior by Auckland architect John Holley using Resene. **Centre** Add a touch of class to the perfect small space sleep solution with quality linens, throws and sofa-bed from Freedom. **Bottom** Smart, stylish and contemporary granny flat design from Zelo by Ashcroft Homes.





The Jacobsen 2025/26 Residential Trend Report



Download
the full
Trend Report
from Jacobsen
[Click here](#)

Soft Modernism Design for a Grounded, Joyful Life

As the world moves faster, home becomes the place to slow down – to reconnect with simplicity, texture and meaning. [The Jacobsen 2025/26 Residential Trend Report](#) captures this shift through five evolving design directions that celebrate craft, nostalgia and quiet optimism. Together, they tell the story of a new era of calm, tactile living.

1 Crafted Coastal The coastal look matures into something more layered and artisanal. Ocean blues, sandy neutrals and rope or ceramic textures give depth to familiar seaside palettes – modern, authentic and deeply connected to New Zealand’s island identity.

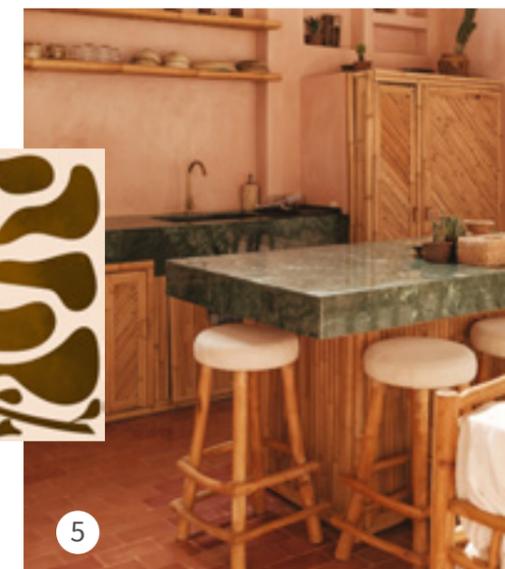
2 Playful Minimalism Joy finds its place in minimalism. Soft curves, bold shapes and confident colour – from celery green to butter yellow – bring energy to serene spaces. Tactile finishes and scalloped edges add personality without clutter, proving that simplicity can still be expressive.

3 Lowkey Luxe Luxury becomes understated. Lowkey Luxe favours refined materials over excess – travertine, linen, wool and dark timber paired with mineral neutrals and muted metallics. The result is calm sophistication and timeless design, where quality and longevity matter more than showiness.

4 Farmhouse Nostalgia Grounded in memory and heritage, Farmhouse Nostalgia embraces the handmade and heartfelt. Layered wood tones, buttery neutrals and heirloom greens create spaces that feel familiar yet fresh. Woven textures, rustic ceramics and vintage details add warmth and authenticity – a reminder that imperfection has its own beauty.

5 Artisanal Boho Craftsmanship and culture define Artisanal Boho. Natural fibres, boucle carpets and mixed materials like clay, brass and timber tell stories of place and process. Deep terracottas and oxidised blues create a lived-in warmth that feels soulful and sustainable.

Across all five themes, flooring grounds the story. Natural-look surfaces, loop-pile carpets and warm timber tones form the foundation for homes that balance function, comfort and style – the essence of Soft Modernism leading into 2026.





Tasman Teak Sofa by Design Concepts.

Bringing the Indoors Out The Shift Into Summer

As the days stretch out and evenings grow warmer, our living spaces naturally begin to shift outdoors. Decks, patios and courtyards become extensions of the home — places to unwind, share meals and make the most of the light. Today's outdoor furniture reflects that change, combining the comfort of interior design with the durability needed to thrive in the elements.

OUTDOOR LIVING

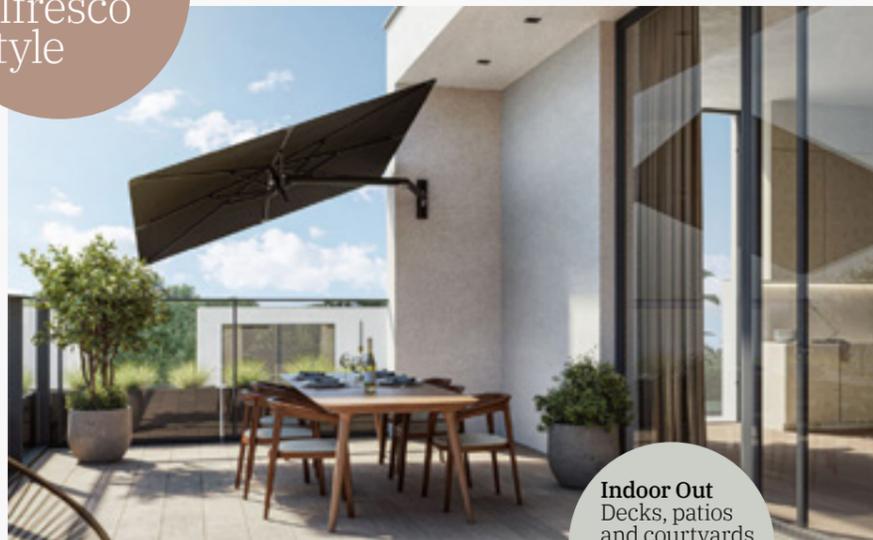


Stretch out in style with this Cambridge Outdoor Sofa. Below Beat the heat with this Paraflex UX Wall Mounted Umbrella. Both from Design Concepts.

Relaxed Living Alfresco Style

This season's look blends the softness of indoor comfort with the resilience of the outdoors. Think deep-cushioned sofas in shades of sand, sage and linen, woven chairs that breathe in the sun, and timber tables that age gracefully over time. The best setups are adaptable – a place to lounge with a book one day, host a barbecue the next.

Layering brings character and warmth. Mix natural textures like wicker, rattan and stone with patterned cushions or a soft outdoor rug for personality. A few large planters filled with native grasses or potted trees add greenery to a deck or patio.



Indoor Out Decks, patios and courtyards become extensions of the home.



Spaced Out Move easily between spaces from quiet retreat to lively get-together



Above Lounge room, dining room, sunshine or shade – and all outdoors! This well planned and considered outdoor space was curated by Russell Clark at Licensed Renovations.

Below When shade matters, this Retreat Wall Mounted Umbrella from Design Concepts. Right This outdoor lounge by Living Culture pairs louvre-roof shade with comfort and warmth of an outdoor fire. Below right Luxurious Arthur Modular Sofa and coffee table from Freedom.



Shade, Style and Comfort Combined



Trendwatch Deep-cushioned sofas bring indoor comfort to this season's outdoors look



Smart shade is essential under the strong summer sun. Retractable awnings, pergolas and cantilever umbrellas make the outdoors usable all day long, while today's fabrics are tougher and more comfortable than ever – UV-resistant, water-repellent and easy to clean. Arrange furniture to catch morning light and evening breezes – our changeable weather rewards a little thought.

As daylight fades, gentle outdoor lighting keeps the mood easy and inviting. Try solar lanterns, festoon bulbs or recessed deck lights for a soft, welcoming glow that draws people together.

A few small changes can completely refresh an outdoor space. Replace tired cushions, revive timber with a coat of oil, and add colour through ceramics, textiles or pots. Even moving furniture around can open up a view or improve flow for entertaining.

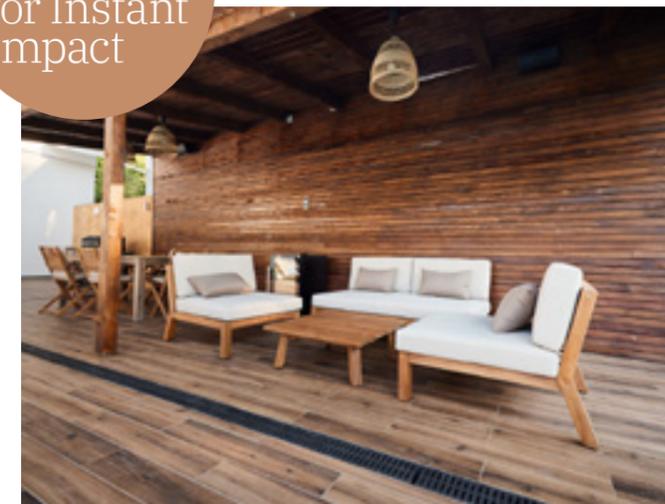
Outdoor living is about balance – spaces that move easily between quiet retreat and lively get-together, blending the comfort of home with the freedom of summer outdoors.

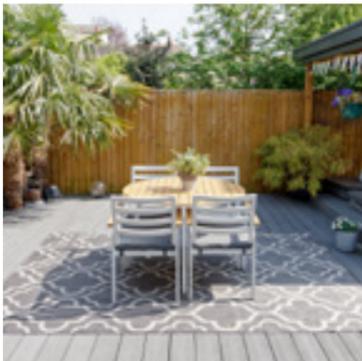
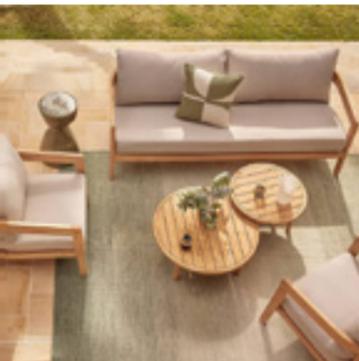
For more tips on getting your outdoors 'Summer-Ready' see our Quick-fix Style Guide on page 12



Mood Lighting Soft outdoor lighting keeps the mood easy and inviting

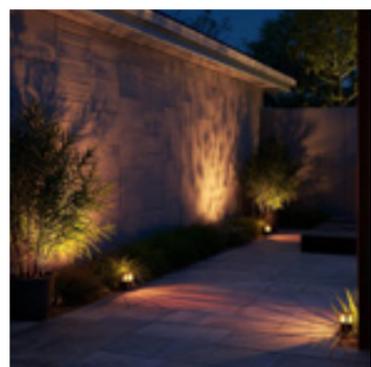
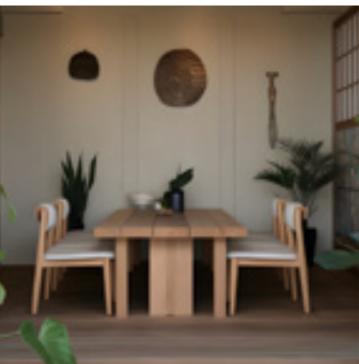
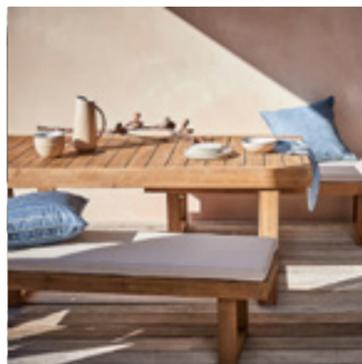
Simple Updates for Instant Impact





Summer Ready Outdoor Spaces

Summer is here, and it's the perfect time to transform your outdoor spaces into a stylish, relaxing retreat. Whether you're hosting friends, firing up the BBQ, or simply soaking up the sun, a few simple upgrades can make your deck, outdoor area, or backyard feel fresh and inviting.



Quick-fix Style Guide To Get Your Outdoor Space Summer-Ready

1 Lay Down a Statement Rug

An outdoor rug instantly defines a seating zone and adds colour, pattern, and warmth underfoot. Choose something weather-resistant and easy to clean. Bold patterns or vibrant colours can energise the space, while neutral tones keep things calm and coastal.

2 Update Your Furniture

Swap out tired cushions or furniture for pieces that balance comfort with durability. Lightweight, weather-proof options like rattan, teak, or aluminium make it easy to reshuffle seating for guests. Add a couple of outdoor poufs or a bench for flexible, grab-and-go seating.

3 Add Outdoor Décor & Accessories

Small touches make a big impact. Think lanterns, potted plants, colourful cushions, or outdoor throws. Mix textures and vary heights to create visual interest. Hanging plants or simple wall décor can also introduce a vertical layer to your space.

4 Light Up the Nights

Good lighting sets the mood and extends the use of your outdoor areas well past sunset. Solar string lights, lanterns, and LED candles add a warm, inviting glow, while subtle spotlights can highlight plants or architectural features—instantly making your backyard feel a little more magical.

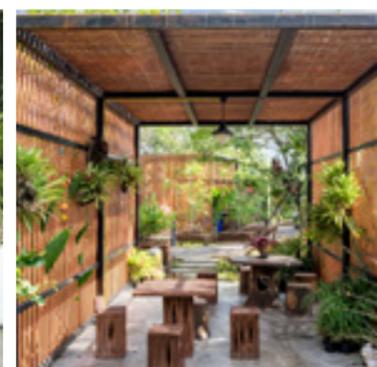
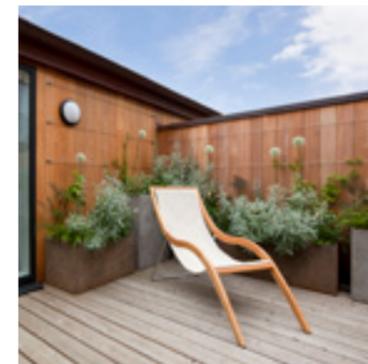
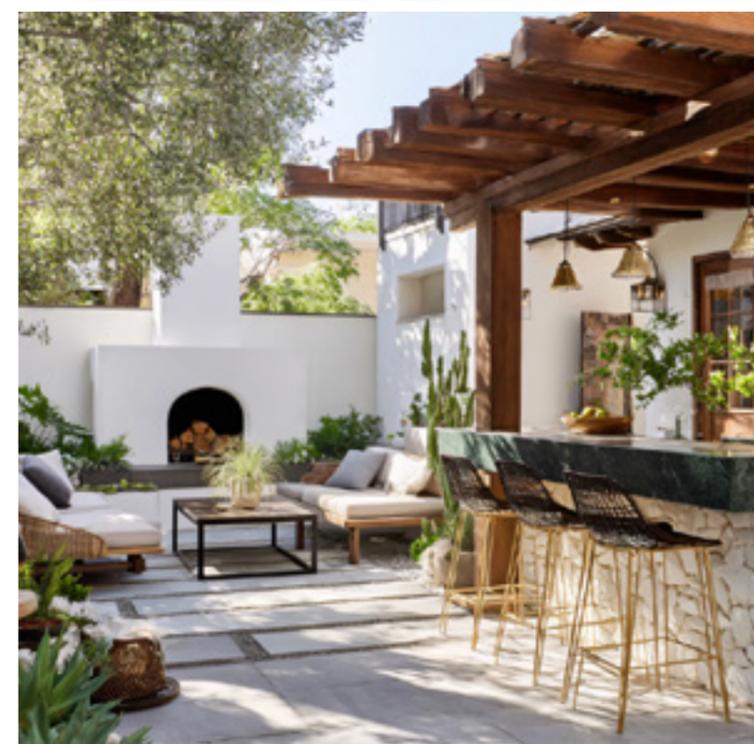
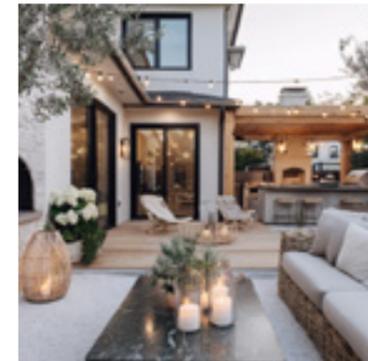
5 Create Zones

Designate areas for dining, lounging, and entertaining. Even a compact balcony can fit a small bistro set for meals, plus a lounge chair or hammock for relaxing. Rugs, furniture placement, and lighting all help define these zones.

6 Think Green

Inject life with fresh greenery - potted plants, herbs, or even a small raised garden bed. Plants soften hard surfaces, provide shade, and bring that lush, inviting feel to any outdoor space.

With just a few thoughtful updates, your deck, outdoor area, or backyard can become the ultimate summer escape. From colourful rugs and stylish furniture to clever lighting and fresh greenery, you'll be ready to entertain, unwind, and make the most of those long, sunny days.



Cooking in the Open Air BBQs to Full Kitchens

Cooking and dining outdoors is one of summer's great Kiwi traditions. From the smell of the barbecue drifting across the deck to family gathered under a shade sail, food always tastes better in the open air. What once meant a portable grill and chilly bin has become something more refined – outdoor kitchens designed for the way we actually live, entertain, and spend our long, light evenings.

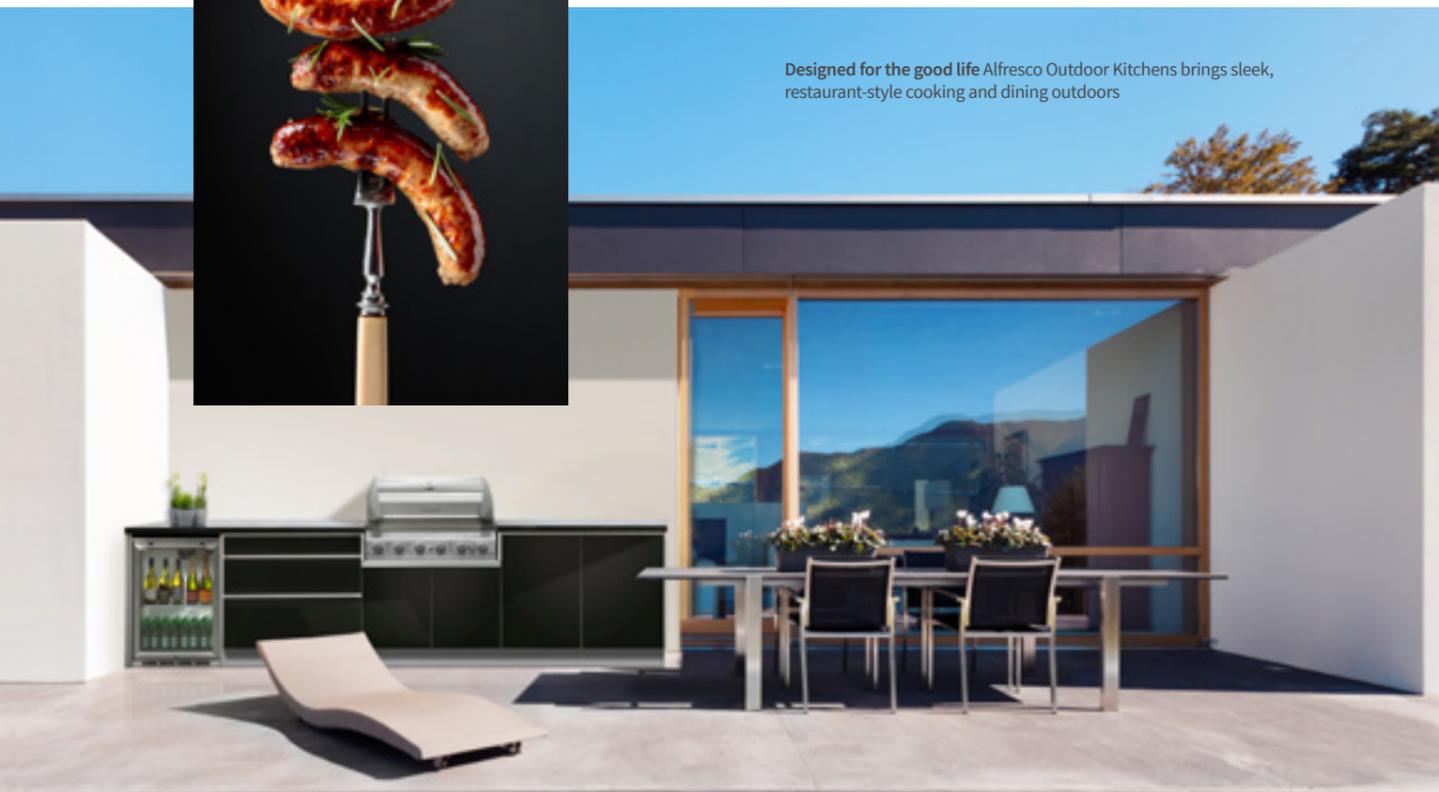


From Grill to Gourmet

Outdoor cooking is becoming more adventurous. Wood-fired pizza ovens, flat-top grills and smokers are now regular fixtures, adding variety to the classic sausage sizzle. Good lighting extends the night – focused task lights over prep areas, with softer glows around the table for atmosphere.



Designed for the good life Alfresco Outdoor Kitchens brings sleek, restaurant-style cooking and dining outdoors



Fire up your Summer

The best outdoor kitchens blend practicality with the relaxed spirit of summer. Some are full cooking zones with a built-in BBQ, sink and bench space; others are smaller setups tucked beside the deck or garden. It's all about bringing convenience outdoors without losing that laid-back feel.

Choose materials that handle the elements – stainless steel, stone, macrocarpa or hardwoods that silver off beautifully over time. Think about positioning too: keep the cook part of the conversation, but sheltered from wind. A bit of bench space, storage, and a comfortable spot for guests to linger make a big difference.



There's a certain culture around slow-roasted steak that goes beyond the grill itself – a mix of patience, ritual, and that unmistakable outdoor magic you only get when cooking over flame.

It starts long before the first sizzle, with rubs, marinades, the decision between charcoal or wood, and the slow anticipation as the fire settles into that perfect low, steady heat.

Around the grill, people gather, wander over, check the temperature, offer opinions, and linger in that warm pocket of smoke and conversation.

There's something bonding about watching a piece of steak transform over hours, soaking up the scent of manuka, oak, or lump charcoal, developing that deep crust and tender centre only slow cooking can deliver.

It becomes less about feeding a crowd and more about creating something worth waiting for.

Green Eggs & Steak



Thomas Winkler, resident grill master at BBQs & More, has built a reputation for his no-nonsense approach to meat, fire, and flavour – known for mastering slow-and-low cooking and turning simple cuts into something memorable. We asked Thomas to share a recipe you can make at home – that delivers true BBQ-star results

Reverse Seared Picanha

Ingredients

- 1.1 kg Picanha roast
- Your favourite BBQ rub (or salt & pepper, garlic)

Instructions

- 1 Preheat grill to 120°C using a 2-zone setup.
- 2 Trim silver skin and excess fat from the meat side.
- 3 Lightly crosshatch the fat cap.
- 4 Apply rub to both the fat cap and meat side.
- 5 Cook on the indirect side until internal temperature reaches 49°C.
- 6 Increase direct heat to 260°C.
- 7 Sear fat side down for 90 seconds, then fat side up for 90 seconds.
- 8 Rest for 10 minutes before slicing and serving.

Don't settle for just a basic 3-burner gas BBQ when there are so many other great new options out there – like this Big Green Egg – that grills, smokes, roasts and produces pizzas perfectly with consistent temperatures. Available from BBQs & More.

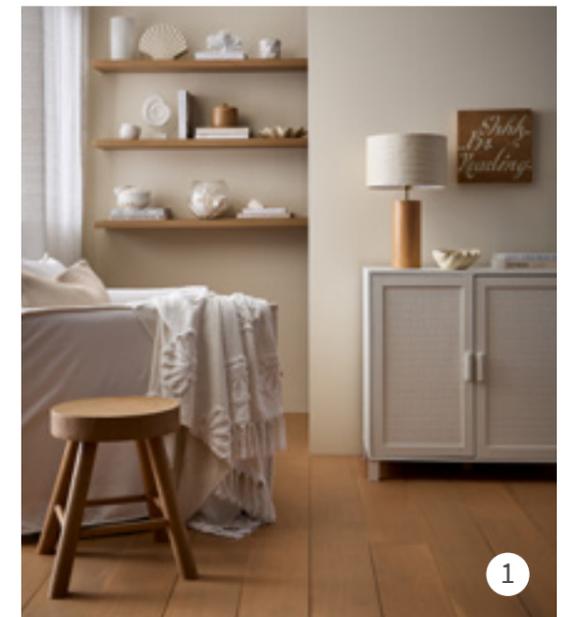


Summer Colour Trends Defining the Season



4

Resene is setting the tone for summer with colours that feel sun-washed, warm and effortlessly liveable. The season moves away from cool, crisp whites and sharply contrasting tones, embracing instead a more relaxed spectrum: gentle neutrals, beach-washed browns, sorbet pastels, grounding charcoals and wellness-inspired greens. It's a shift toward colour that feels calm and connected — shades designed to make every space feel brighter, lighter and easier in the warmer months.



1



2



3

1 WARM NEUTRALS are leading the trend. Shades such as Spanish White, Quarter Spanish White and Triple Spanish White bring a creamy, balanced glow that suits sunlit corners, reading nooks and relaxed living areas. Paired with timber finishes like Colorwood Bask, these tones recall soft coastal light and create spaces that feel settled and serene.

2 PASTELS are entering a more refined era. Instead of playful brights, the season embraces sorbet hues such as Soothe, Eighth Bison Hide and Half Moonbeam. Used on wide stripes, feature walls or colour-layered accessories, these tones filter light beautifully and bring a playful yet sophisticated energy into sunrooms and breezy lounges.

3 WELLNESS COLOURS are becoming a favourite for those seeking calm.. Grey-greens like Haven, Tasman and Rainee offer understated colour that still feels fresh and comforting. These restful hues are ideal for bedrooms, studies or any space where you want the palette to whisper, not shout.

4 EARTHY, SUN-WARMED YELLOWS and browns are also gaining momentum. Colours like Putty, Teak and Half Putty deliver gentle radiance without becoming overpowering. They shine in outdoor dining zones, on feature pots or garden walls, catching natural light and bringing subtle brightness to summer entertaining areas.

5 DEEPER TONES continue to define modern outdoor spaces. Gunsmoke, Bokara Grey and Woodsman Crowshead give decks, fences and exterior furniture a grounding sophistication, pairing effortlessly with warm timber, greenery and soft neutrals, particularly in evening light.

6 FOSSIL AND TRUFFLE inspired hues round out the season. Half Fossil, Double Fossil, Truffle and Quarter Biscotti are the new heroes of warm minimalism. Layered across walls, furniture and accessories, they offer depth without contrast, creating interiors that feel cocooning and quietly elegant.



5



6

Set the Scene

Create a Dinner Table that Wows (without the stress!)

There's something magical about inviting friends and whānau over for dinner, the laughter, the conversation, the clink of glasses... and yes, the mild panic about cleaning the house, sorting the menu, and making sure the roast doesn't turn to charcoal. We've all been there!

But here's the fun part: the dinner table. Think of it as your stage, your canvas, your moment to shine. Whether you're hosting a long Sunday lunch, a Summer BBQ or a cosy evening gathering, a well-dressed table instantly sets the tone. And the best part? It doesn't have to be complicated.

At the Auckland Home Show, we've seen everything from elegant minimalism to dramatic tablescapes that look straight out of a glossy magazine. With a little planning and inspiration, you can absolutely create the right vibe at home.

Here's how, with tableware from our friends at [Freedom](#).



Start with a Spark

Before you start pulling everything out of the cupboards, choose one source of inspiration to build upon. It could be:

- > A colour you're loving at the moment
- > A flower that's in season
- > A favourite ingredient (hello, citrus!)
- > Or even a holiday you're dreaming of

Then build from there. Layer textures, play with height, mix patterns. The aim is to create cohesive interest, without chaos. You're not just setting a table; you're creating an experience.

Your Table Setting Essentials

At the very least, you'll need:

- > Dinner plates
- > Cutlery
- > Water and wine glasses

But if you want your table to feel extra considered, add:

- > Fabric napkins (so simple, but so effective!)
- > Napkin rings or ribbon
- > Candles + holders
- > A centrepiece — large or relaxed and sprawling
- > A runner to break up the tabletop and protect surfaces

PESCE RESIN SALAD BOWL \$109
With matching SALAD SERVERS \$39.95



MATTIA VASE from \$49.95

Hot Tip from the Pros

Choose one big decorative moment, not ten. A lush vase of garden blooms or a long trail of greenery running down the centre will instantly elevate the whole setting.

Full recommended retail pricing shown, subject to change with seasonal promotions.



NARIEL HURRICANE CANDLE HOLDERS from \$49.95 each



PESCE RESIN NAPKIN RING
Set of four \$34.95

LINO NAPKIN
Set of two \$13.97



SOHO CUTLERY SET \$84.95



LUNA DINNER SET \$209



REMY Set of four
COCKTAIL GLASS \$59.95
WINE GLASS \$59.95
TUMBLER \$44.95

Summer
Never
Tasted
So Good



Long afternoons ease into golden evenings with glasses clinking over ice and plates full of colour. This season is all about easy elegance — vibrant salads, fresh fruit, and cocktails that taste like holidays. Whether it's a backyard lunch or a twilight gathering, summer is your moment to slow down and savour every bright flavour.

Tired of turning up with the same old potato or pasta salad? Mix things up with these three summery salads that are simple, fresh, and guaranteed to stand out at any BBQ or backyard gathering.

Watermelon
Strawberry
Caprese Salad

Move over classic fruit salads - this watermelon and strawberry caprese brings a bright, modern twist to the table. Juicy watermelon, sweet strawberries, creamy feta, and fragrant basil come together for the ultimate summer side dish. Finished with a light olive-oil dressing, it's quick to assemble, refreshingly vibrant, and ready to serve in minutes.

Ingredients

- 3 cups watermelon, cubed
- 2 cups strawberries, chopped
- 1/2 cup Feta, crumbled
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup fresh basil, torn

Instructions

- 1 In a large bowl, combine watermelon, strawberries, feta and olive oil. Season with salt and pepper and toss to coat.
- 2 Garnish with basil and serve.

delish.com



Tabouleh Salad
with Parsley, Dates
and Grapes

This lively salad comes from one of Nadia Lim's recipes, inspired by a trip she took to Turkey several years ago, where she fell in love with the fresh, herb-filled flavours of traditional tabouleh — and we think it's a perfect, colourful addition to any summer BBQ or entertaining spread.

Ingredients

- 1 cup bulgur wheat dried
- 1 lemon finely grated zest
- 1/2 cup lemon juice freshly squeezed
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 cup boiling water
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 – 2 cups finely chopped parsley
- 1 red onion finely diced
- 4 tomatoes seeds removed, finely diced
- 1/2 telegraph cucumber seeds removed, finely diced
- 2 cups seedless grapes halved (optional)
- 6-8 medjool dates stone removed, chopped

Instructions

- 1 Combine bulgur wheat, lemon zest, lemon juice, extra-virgin olive oil, water and salt in a large bowl and leave to swell until bulgur wheat is tender but still firm to the bite, about 1 hour. Drain off any excess liquid if there is any.
 - 2 Toss with all remaining ingredients just before serving and season to taste with a little more salt and lemon juice (if needed), freshly ground black pepper and extra-virgin olive oil.
- Serve with grilled chicken, lamb or beef, and hummus.

nadielim.com



Big Festive Salad

A vibrant, flavour-packed salad from greenkai.co.nz that's hearty, colourful, and guaranteed to impress at any summer gathering.

This crowd-pleasing dish brings together bold textures and fresh ingredients – proof that salads never need to be boring. Give it a try and it might just become your new go-to for effortless entertaining.

Serves 3-4
40-45 minutes

Ingredients

- 2 cups of chopped sweet potato/ kūmara
- 1 cup of chopped radishes
- 1 Tbsp Extra virgin olive oil
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- Salt, pepper
- 1 ½ cups of wild rice
- 2 cups of baby spinach
- 1 cup sliced apples (1 medium apple)
- 1 cup sliced orange (2 medium oranges)
- 1 cup pomegranate seeds/ sub. for cranberries
- ½ cup roasted pecans

Dressing

- 2 Tbsp Extra virgin olive oil
- Juice from ½ lemon
- 1 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp maple syrup
- 1 garlic clove (minced)
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp pepper

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 200°C and prepare the ingredients: chop sweet potato into 1cm cubes, chop radish into quarters, and place onto a baking tray.

In a small bowl, combine olive oil, garlic powder, salt, and pepper. Pour the mixture over the vegetables and toss to coat evenly. Bake for 30 minutes - toss halfway through the baking process.

In the meantime, prepare the rest of the ingredients. Cook the rice, and toast pecans.

To make the dressing, in a small bowl, pour olive oil, Dijon mustard, maple syrup and add minced garlic, salt and pepper. Whisk until well combined.

Remove sweet potato and radish from the oven and let cool. Assemble the salad, spread baby spinach on the bottom of a salad bowl, place roasted vegetables, wild rice, oranges, apples, pomegranate seeds, and toasted pecans.

Pour the dressing over the salad and mix well.

Serve chilled.

Enjoy!

Green Kai

greenkai.co.nz

Raise a Glass to Summer

Tahu Summer Cocktail



Ingredients

- 60 ml Tahu Gin
- 30 ml Pineapple Juice
- 20 ml Fresh Lemon Juice
- 15 ml Orgeat Syrup
- 8 ml Homemade Cinnamon Syrup
- 2 ml Peychaud's Bitters (about 2 dashes)

Method

- 1 Fill a shaker with ice and add all ingredients.
- 2 Shake well and strain into a cocktail glass filled with crushed ice.
- 3 Garnish with an orchid for a tropical, summery touch.

Tahu Distillery

Tahu is Aotearoa's first Māori-owned boutique gin, crafted in Whanganui with locally sourced botanicals. Its clean, citrus-forward flavour makes it the perfect base for refreshing summer cocktails.

Available online at tahudrinks.com and in liquor stores nationwide.

Here's two signature cocktails that bring together the best of Aotearoa's craft gin scene. Whether you're pouring Rifters' rugged, botanically rich gin or Tahu's heritage-inspired spirit, these drinks will light up your gatherings and pair perfectly with warm evenings and laughter-filled conversations.



Rifters Gifter

Ingredients

- 60 ml Riffers Original Dry Gin
- 15 ml Lemon Juice
- 30 ml Cranberry Juice
- 30 ml Grapefruit Juice
- Soda Water, to top

Method

- 1 Ice your glass.
- 2 Add Riffers Original Dry Gin, lemon juice, cranberry juice, and grapefruit juice.
- 3 Top with soda water.
- 4 Garnish with a slice of grapefruit and a sprig of thyme.

Rifters Distillery

From Arrowtown, Riffers Distillery crafts award-winning, small-batch spirits inspired by Central Otago's rugged landscape.

Featuring locally foraged botanicals and pristine spring water, their gins, vodka, and upcoming single malt combine exceptional flavour with sustainable practices.

Available online at riftersgin.com and in liquor stores nationwide.

ENTERTAINING

The Summer Soundtrack — Alfresco Fun

Face the Music High quality sound is easier than ever with powerful Bluetooth speakers that rival any home sound system. No cables, no wires, just party – the Sony XV500 X-Series Wireless Party Speaker pictured right >



Every summer has its own rhythm — music drifting through the evening, voices carrying over fences, and that sense that no one's quite ready to head inside. With the latest technology, it's easier than ever to shape that atmosphere — balancing sound, light and comfort so your backyard feels like an easy extension of home.

Turn Up The Summer

Music makes the moment. Compact, wireless speakers now deliver clear, even sound across open spaces without clutter or cords. They can hide among the planting, beneath seating or along the fence line, creating depth and warmth without overpowering conversation. With a tap on your phone you can shift from low-key background tunes to a livelier mix as the night unfolds.

Screens are part of the fun too. Weather-ready TVs and portable projectors make it simple to catch a match, stream a concert or enjoy a movie under the stars. Add relaxed seating, a few throws and soft light and you've got a backyard cinema that feels effortlessly social.



Backyard Cinema!

The Samsung Freestyle 2nd Gen LFF3CL Portable Projector turns any wall, ceiling, or campsite into a cinema, with crisp Full HD projection, instant auto-keystone, and 360° sound packed into a compact, take-anywhere design. Perfect for summer movies, backyard gatherings, or on-the-go entertainment.



Keeping It Cosy

As temperatures drop later in the evening, smart heating keeps everyone comfortable and the atmosphere relaxed. Slimline heaters, compact fire tables and modern fire pits make it easy to stay outdoors long after the playlist ends. In this outdoor zone by Licensed Renovations (above), a full fireplace pairs with a discreet mounted heating strip, showing warmth can be both effective and unobtrusive. Portable fire-pit coffee tables, like this Living Culture model (right), add flexible heat and style, creating a welcoming space for lingering into the evening.



Games For All

Nothing gets people talking like a good game. Backyard Chats' Tumbling Tower, Giant Connect Four, and the Deluxe Cornhole Set give guests something to do, laugh about, and share. From BBQs and birthdays to work dos and family gatherings, the right game breaks the ice fast — getting everyone moving, smiling, and chatting within minutes.

Left Deluxe Cornhole Set by Backyard Games.

Backyard Encore

Nothing brings people together quite like pizza: kids shaping dough, someone slicing tomatoes, another tending the heat. The Gozney Dome Gen 2 from Pizzata (right) turns pizza-making into an easy alfresco ritual, where simple ingredients, shared hands and a glowing backyard oven make the outdoors the best seat in the house. Across Aotearoa, outdoor entertainment is less about gadgets and more about flow — the way music, light and conversation drift through a warm evening. With a few thoughtful touches, any patio, deck or courtyard can hum with the sound of summer.





All I Want For Christmas Is a Forever Home

There's something about this time of year that brings out the very best in us - more generosity, more kindness, and a little extra room in our hearts. So, as we gather with friends and family and on what really matters, our team wanted to shine a light on a cause we care deeply about: the incredible work of the Saving Hope Foundation.

Saving Hope Foundation A Lifeline for Dogs in Need

Saving Hope Foundation is a volunteer-led rescue dedicated to rescuing and re-homing puppies and dogs across NZ. With more than 4,200 requests for help in the past year alone, their amazing team provides everything from emergency care and medical support to food, blankets, de-wormers, and guidance for families overwhelmed by accidental litters.

Their community outreach events and home visits help owners make informed, responsible decisions - ensuring safer re-homing, better welfare for mother dogs, and brighter futures for pups in need.

This Christmas, the Foundation has two simple wishes: more families looking out for each other to stop the cycle of unwanted litters, and more forever homes for the gorgeous dogs who have been patiently waiting for their happily-ever-after.

The 12 Puppies of Christmas

A showcase of adorable pups currently waiting for adoption.

This season, as we unwrap gifts and celebrate togetherness, we invite you to open your heart to twelve very special pups who would love nothing more than a family to call their own.

Poppy (F) A gentle sweetheart who loves cuddles and follows you everywhere like a tiny shadow.

Hopper (M) A bouncy, joyful boy whose happy feet never stop dancing.

Gabby (F) Chatty, playful, and full of personality - she lives up to her name.

Fred (M) A gentle giant in puppy form - big heart, soft soul, friendly, patient, and the perfect companion for families.

Scooby Doo (M) Sweet, lovable, and guaranteed to melt your heart.

Wally (M) A curious explorer always sniffing out his next adventure.

Sawyer (M) A loyal little lad who wants nothing more than to be by your side.

Ambro (M) Friendly, patient, and the perfect companion for families.

Sienna (F) A bright, confident pup who loves people and new places.

Velma (F) Smart, observant, and quietly adorable - she figures everything out first.

Kobe (M) Athletic, energetic, and always ready for a game of fetch.

Eden (F) Soft, calm, and angelic - she brings instant peace to any room.

Foster a Puppy

Fostering is the heart of rescue work. You provide the love and welcoming home environment - Saving Hope covers all food, vet care, and supplies. Once your foster pup is adopted, you can be proud that you've helped them take their first steps into a new life. It's life-changing, joy-filled, and deeply rewarding.

For more info, contact Saving Hope Foundation on info@savinghope.co.nz or via [facebook.com/savinghopenz](https://www.facebook.com/savinghopenz)



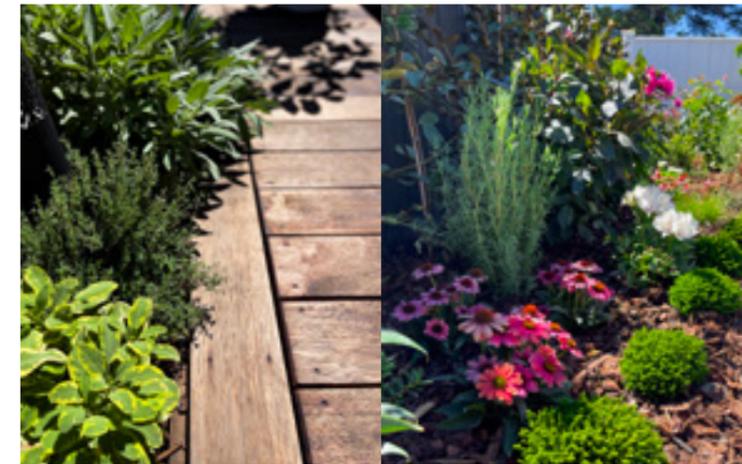
Easy Summer Landscaping



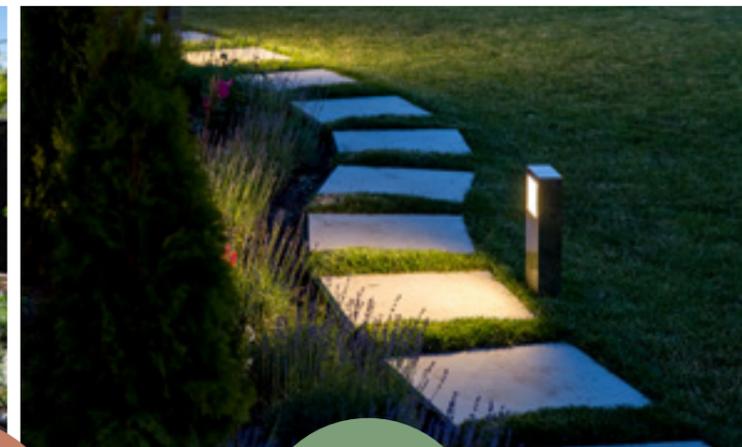
Start by thinking about how you actually use your outdoor areas during warmer months. Do you gravitate to shady corners with a book? Fire up the barbecue most weekends? Need space for kids, pets, or summertime guests? Once you know the purpose, the planting and layout decisions fall into place.

Low-maintenance greenery is the hero of a good summer garden. Lush subtropicals, hardy natives and drought-tolerant shrubs all thrive in heat with minimal fuss. Contrast textures – broad leafy plants beside fine grasses – to bring depth without overcomplicating things. For instant impact, cluster pots around entrances or outdoor seating zones to blur the line between indoors and out.

And don't forget the little touches that make outdoor living feel effortless: evening lighting, a corner herb garden near the kitchen, or a simple gravel path to keep feet clean after a swim. Small, thoughtful improvements often have the biggest effect.



When warm days arrive, outdoor spaces really come into their own – the lawn gets more use, the deck becomes the social hub, and even the smallest garden feels full of possibility. The good news? You don't need a total redesign to create a fresh, relaxing summer landscape. A few smart updates can transform your backyard into an easy-care haven that looks great and works even better.



Planting That Works

Choose heat-tolerant natives and subtropicals, for bold foliage and low upkeep

For a fresh, layered look mix evergreen structure with seasonal colour

Easy Entertain Zones

Position seating under natural shade or add a small pergola for midday comfort

Create "stations" – a prep bench by the barbecue, a serving table, or drinks corner

Lawn & Pathway Refresh

Raise mower height in summer to reduce stress and improve drought resistance

Use bark, pavers or gravel to define paths and protect high-traffic areas

Summer is the season to blur the lines between indoors and out, creating spaces that feel effortless, inviting and made for long afternoons that spill into warm evenings. Think relaxed seating, layered textures, leafy shade and lighting that sets the mood as the sun goes down. Whether it's a refreshed patio, a social deck or a full outdoor makeover, smart design brings comfort and character together.

Pictured This page and opposite left all by Parrot Landscaping.



Smart Summer Security: Lock, Leave & Relax

Summer is the season of long weekends, road trips, and a steady stream of friends and family coming through the door. Whether you're hosting, travelling, or splitting time between home and the bach, smart security can make your holiday simpler – and pairing it with a few old-school habits keeps your home protected from every angle. Here's your complete guide to a smarter, safer "lock-and-leave" summer.



Smart Doorbells See and speak to visitors anywhere

Pairing your lock with a smart doorbell instantly adds convenience and reassurance. A video doorbell such as Ring sends instant motion alerts, offers crisp HD footage, and lets you chat to visitors no matter where you are – at home, in town, or heading to the beach.

Whether it's guests arriving early, parcels landing on the doorstep, or neighbours popping by, you can see them, speak to them, and decide whether to unlock the door remotely. It's a simple upgrade that makes holiday comings and goings smoother.



Smart Cameras Check in on your home anytime

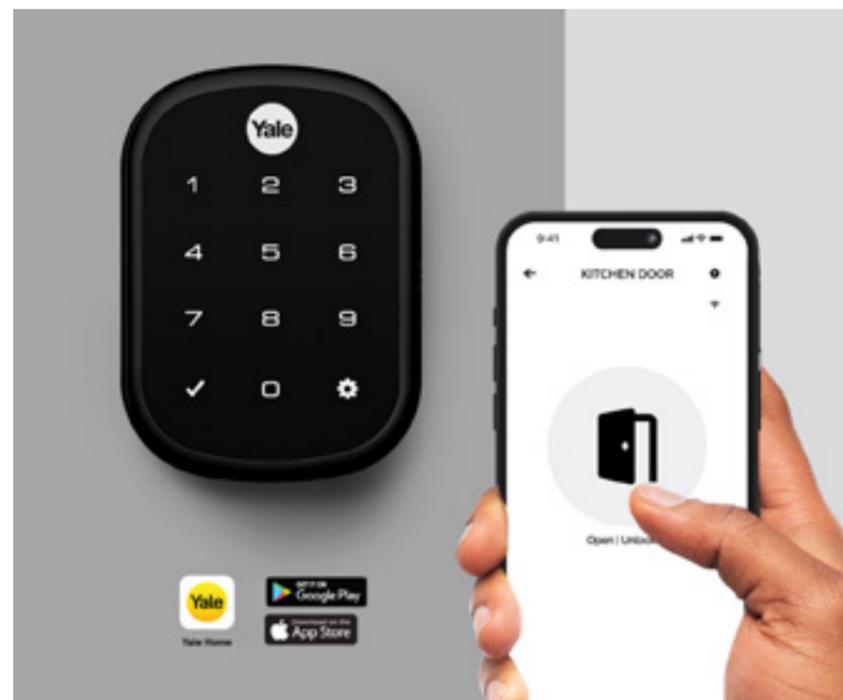
Add smart cameras and your lock-and-leave setup becomes complete. Wireless, easily mounted models like the Eufy SoloCam S220 (2K) run on battery or solar power, pair together as a multi-camera system, and let you view crystal-clear footage from wherever you are.

Place them beside entrances, driveways or the garage for instant alerts and high-quality video. Solar charging means long-term, low-maintenance monitoring – ideal for summer escapes when you're away for days or weeks at a time.

Smart Lock Effortless access when you're away

Smart locks are fast becoming the must-have upgrade for flexible summer living. Brands such as Yale offer app-based control, unique access codes for guests, and real-time lock status – perfect for holiday stays, pet-sitters, cleaners, or early-arriving family.

You can grant access for specific time windows, revoke it when guests leave, and keep track of who's come and gone. Modern models integrate seamlessly with Apple, Google and Alexa using Matter and Thread, removing the need for spare keys or awkward handovers. Just tap, lock, and leave.



Simple, Old-School Home Security Your Analogue Checklist

Remove temptation

- Put away tools, ladders, bikes and garden gear.
- Keep anything climbable or prying-friendly out of reach.

Check all locks and latches

- Ensure every window and door actually locks.
- Fix or replace any loose or weak hardware.

Avoid hidden keys

- Don't leave spares under mats, pots or rocks.
- Leave a backup key with someone you trust instead.

Secure the garage

- Lock the external garage door properly.
- Lock the internal door connecting garage and house.

Make the house look lived-in

- Keep curtains in their usual position.
- Use timers or solar lights at night.

Tidy the exterior

- Trim bushes around windows and pathways.
- Ensure outdoor lighting covers key access points.

Protect sheds and side access

- Lock sheds, storage spaces and side gates.
- Keep wheelie bins or movable items stored away.

Final checks before leaving

- Walk the perimeter and check all windows.
- Pull doors firmly after locking to confirm they're secure.

Let someone know

- Tell a neighbour or friend you're away.
- Ask them to collect mail or keep an eye on things.



Inspire Magazine Christmas 2025 Gift Guide*

Even Santa needs a little inspiration sometimes. So we've rounded up a selection of our team's favourite gift ideas, all hand-picked from Auckland Home Show exhibitors. Perfect for friends, family, or (most importantly) a well-deserved treat for yourself.



Click to Shop

VegePod—Kitchen Garden White \$299

Grow herbs and greens indoors all year thanks to self-watering wicking beds and full-spectrum LED lights. No need for sunlight — just plug in and grow.



Click to Shop

Freedom Krosh Throw \$119

A soft, breathable chenille throw knit in white. Lightweight and cozy — great for snuggling on the couch or layering on your bed.



Click to Shop

Sunday Culture Small Sand Wax Christmas Gift Box \$139

A curated, ready-to-gift box with three small sand waxes plus matches. Choose your scent mix and give a moment of warmth and fragrance. Limited edition.



Click to Shop

Alpine Spas Oslo Sauna \$2195

A space-smart, two-person infrared sauna made from FSC® Certified Hemlock with five Ultra Low EMF heaters, chromotherapy lighting, and an EasyPress™ control panel. Assembles in 45 minutes.



Click to Shop

Gozney Tread \$999 plus FREE Pizza essentials box (PIZZAXMAS)

Reach 400 °C+ and bake Neapolitan-style pizza in just 90 seconds with this portable oven. Lightweight, compact, and perfect for outdoor adventures or backyard pizza nights.



Click to Shop

Ninja SLUSHi™ Professional Frozen Drink Maker \$449.99

No ice, no blender — just pour your favourite juice or mix and let the machine do the rest. It holds 2.6 L and keeps drinks frozen for up to 12 hours. Ideal for parties, brunches or sunny afternoons.



Click to Shop

Kiwi Artisan Premium Truffle Gift Box \$79.95

A gourmet gift in a sleek matte black box: includes white truffle oil, black truffle oil, black truffle salt, and seasoning — all made with New Zealand-grown Périgord truffles.



Click to Shop

BrewKeg12.5™ Complete Pack Plus XL \$2299 (normally \$3191) Home Show discount applied at cart.

For the home brewer who wants the perfect pour every time, the BrewKeg12.5™ Complete Pack Plus XL is the ultimate system. Brew two 12.5L batches at once and pour cold and fresh from your own kegerator. Includes premium regulator, CO₂ cylinder, and all the gear. Proudly designed in



Click to Shop

Ryobi 18V ONE+ Hammer Drill 2Ah Kit (90-Piece) \$139

A versatile kit for DIY lovers: hammer drill, 2Ah battery, charger, 90 metal/wood/brick accessories, and a tool bag. Compatible with 200+ Ryobi ONE+ tools for even more power.



Click to Shop

Freedom Wellness Solis Red Light Face Mask \$499

(25% off with INSPIRE25)

Harness clinically-backed red and near-infrared light to boost collagen, reduce inflammation, and improve skin tone — all from the comfort of home. Offer: 25% off until 31 Dec with code INSPIRE25.



Click to Shop

Lyra Chair with Footstool \$2,870 (on sale)

The all-new Lyra blends luxurious comfort with modern style: high backrest, plush segmented cushions, reclining armrests, and a matching footstool make it a standout gift for anyone wanting to relax in elegance.

*while stocks last. Prices correct at time of publication

We hope you've enjoyed our very first edition of INSPIRE. Creating this magazine has been a true passion project for our team, and we're already busy dreaming up the Autumn issue, arriving in your inbox this March.

As a **subscriber**, this magazine is all for you - so if there's something you'd love to see in a future edition, a project you're planning, or a topic you want us to explore, we'd love to hear from you. Just reply to any of our emails and let us know.

Until then, we wish you a warm, relaxing Summer, a wonderful Christmas, and a fresh, bright start to the New Year. Enjoy the sunshine, the gatherings, and the little moments at home that make this season so special.

See you in March for our next issue of INSPIRE.

The Auckland Home Show Team

Keep up to date with the latest from us below and please SHARE!

aucklandhomeshow.co.nz



INSPIRE

An Auckland Home Show Publication

Autumn 2026

