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Perfect Patio

Colorful gardens inspire this Wash Park terrace.

Interior designer Lane Oliver (www.leointeriordesign.com) likes to use bold colors in her designs. So it's no surprise that when she set out to transform her Washington Park patio into a cheerful gathering place, she used the yellow and red-orange geraniums in her English-style flower garden as inspiration. "The bright yellows and poppy reds are cheerful and lively," says Oliver, "which makes the space feel happy." Here, her tips for making any backyard patio a knockout. —**CHERYL MEYERS**

Stay True ▶

Be sure the patio reflects both the interior of your home and your personality. Think about how you'll use the space: Do you want a peaceful and quiet atmosphere or a place to entertain?

Oliver's Fave ▶

"I love the boldness of the striped fabric on the cushions," she says. "I like the scale, color combination, and simplicity of the pattern." Find similar prints at Phoebe Marsh (595 S. Broadway, 303-282-8600).

Do Over ▶

Use what you already have in a new, fresh way. For this patio, Oliver painted her antique wicker pieces white to create a consistent finish. Tip: Make sure to recoat wicker with spray paint every year to protect the wood canes.

Color Rules ▶

Mix fabrics, colors, and textures—like a kelly green garden stool and striped chair cushions. Just choose a predominant color, while ensuring that all of the colors complement each other.



◀ Stand Out

Use bold accents to bring life to a monochromatic design. Brightly painted chairs or hand-crafted aluminum tables add splashes of color and textural intrigue.

PRIME PICKINS
Four Denver home stores for colorful (and affordable) outdoor accent pieces.

5 Green Boxes
Go there for...paper lanterns and funky vases. 1705 S. Pearl St., 303-282-5481, www.5greenboxes.com

Cost Plus World Market
Go there for...mosaic tile tables and picnic-ware (trays, pitchers, and glasses). Multiple locations, www.worldmarket.com

The Tended Thicket
Go there for...garden accessories, like ceramic pots and figurines. 1034 S. Gaylord St., 303-722-6815, www.thetended-thicket.com

Z Gallerie
Go there for...resin garden stools or colorful and whimsical lanterns. Multiple locations, www.zgallerie.com