



**Sarah  
Rowland**

CONDO CULTURE

# Patio garden on the cheap



When it comes to turning a small deck into a warm and inviting extension of your home, you don't necessarily have to shell out big bucks for a designer or landscaper.

You just need to know where they shop.

That's why we asked Michael Dezell, journeyman horticulturist and owner of Watershed Land Design, for some shopping tips.

So if you want your modest outdoor space to look like a pro hooked you up, here's how:

## Find Some Features

If you're tapped for decor inspiration, Dezell suggests heading down to Burnaby's Northwest Landscape & Stone Supply (5883 Byrne Rd.) for some ideas. There, you'll find water features, garden sculptures and planters galore. Which ought to get the creative juices flowing.

## Shine the Light

To create just the right ambience, Dezell recommends some low-voltage lighting to spotlight any features,

plants or art you may have displayed in this area.

Be prepared to play "hide the cord" though. The last thing you want is unsightly electrical wires snaking around your already limited space.

For a great selection of high-quality, long-lasting outdoor lights, he suggests checking out Vancouver Irrigation Supply Ltd. (1440 Venables St.)

## Warm Things Up

Warm and toasty on the patio during a summer rain will beat being indoors any day of the week.

In terms of outdoor heating systems, Dezell is all about standup gas lamps.

His favourite places to go for those are Vaglio Fireplace Ltd. (3600 East Hastings St.) or Crystalview Pool &

Spa in North Vancouver (104 Phillip Ave.).

## Furniture on the Cheap

You can go crazy, spending thousands of dollars on expensive wood patio furniture, if you feel so inclined.

But it won't last as long as composite pieces.

If you have all the right lighting,

If you're on a tight budget, there are many clever ways you can turn your patio or deck into a beautiful garden space. Potted plants (left) are an easy way to get started, while old furniture — or even some bargain buys from Ikea — can be readily used to add some rustic charm. FILE PHOTOS

heating and decorative features in place, your deck can look first-class all the way with just a few simple bargain buys from Ikea.

With clever shopping and creative design, you can make your patio or deck look designed by a professional — without the hit to your wallet.