

Not moving? improving Beyond the back door

Many homeowners have taken the opportunity in recent years to carry out major and minor improvements to their properties, preferring to increase the value of their existing homes rather than entering into the volatile property market. In 2011 it looks like the trend will continue.

Home refurbishment is also an opportunity to upgrade appliances, materials and fittings to the latest environmentally friendly and cost effective innovations and models. Each month, long-established St Helier company, Romerils, will be offering advice and ideas on how best to improve a home and increase the value of properties.

More and more people these days are not only improving their interiors but also wanting to maximise their outdoor living space. Given the right approach and some thoughtful planning, your garden can become an extension of the home, almost another room to maximise and enjoy. One important consideration is access. Choose bi-folding doors, for example, to replace the plain old 'back' door and create an interesting way to blend indoors and outdoors. Temperature is another. Patio heating, no longer just a functional addition but now often stylish and innovative, helps to compensate for Jersey's lack of a Caribbean climate. Some of the latest, such as Chillchasers as seen on TV's Dragon's Den, ensure heating is concentrated on people – not the air. Having dealt with access and temperature, one of the most important choices for your outdoor living space is the furniture. Far from making do with plastic chairs and tables, the latest ranges, such as those produced by Modena, offer stylish and high quality all-weather options designed to enhance any outdoor space, whatever the size. The choice has never been greater. And to complement the furniture, think about other items



such as water features, barbeques, chimineas, firepits and something to keep the kid's occupied while you relax over a well-deserved drink.

Another increasingly popular outdoor addition that adds to the relaxing ambience is a spa. These days they are available for all budgets. Starting from around £599 for an inflatable spa, up to the height of luxury such as those supplied by Twilight Fit featuring the option of a treadmill or exercise bike, sound system, afterglow lights and even a TV. Speciality spas are also available, such as the Bio Magnetic Therapy as used by top athletes, and swimming spas for extra health benefits. Last but not least, don't forget the decorating and flooring. A choice of wall paints,

wood stain and decking treatments are on offer to brighten your outdoor living area. Finally, remember to sit back, relax and enjoy your efforts!

Outdoor living products and advice are always available at the Romerils Dumaresq Street store. For a consultation or more information including brochures, advice and prices contact Sean on 07700 728722 anytime.



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