

Daily Telegraph

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HAY COOKBOOKS
WORTH \$39.99 EACH

home



Living history

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into a modern gem **18**

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with these cool seats

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patch on your balcony

A breath of fresh air

Relaxing outdoors used to require little more than unfolding a few plastic chairs under a shady tree. These days, though, many of us are spending good money on what has truly become an outdoor living and dining room.

Matt Cantwell from Secret Gardens of Sydney says there are a few things to consider before you hand over the credit card.

"Probably the thing that people most often get wrong is scale," he says. "For the furniture to work well, it has to fit the space as well as be comfortable."

For larger spaces, he suggests opting for sturdy chairs with robust arms big enough to rest

a coffee on while smaller spaces could do with a lighter touch with cafe-style chairs.

Small spaces are often best serviced by built-in benches. Avoid overcrowding with furniture and statement pieces.

Where the indoor area flows immediately into the outdoor space, Matt says there is no point duplicating seating. So, instead of a second dining space, an outdoor lounge might be appropriate.

As for materials, Matt says be aware that almost all outdoor furniture requires maintenance, although almost nothing beats the old 1970s timber setting. ■
Robyn Willis



7 Although they look like they've come straight from the living room, these are hand-woven from recyclable polyweave material on a commercial-grade aluminium frame. **Tamarama Outdoor** \$1095 (chair) and \$360 (table), from Eco Chic, ecochic.com.au



5 Adding a little 1950s charm to the outdoor dining experience is easy with this beautiful reproduction chair. The galvanised metal finish makes it suitable for outdoor use. **1955 Carver** \$455, from Le Forge, leforge.com.au



6 For a versatile outdoor chair, it is hard to go past this one. It's the perfect spare chair when guests drop by. Finished in renewable timbers on galvanised steel base. **Turon dining chair** \$349, from Eco Outdoor, ecoo outdoor.com.au

4 This replica chair is made from powder-coated steel, is stackable and comes in a range of colours. **Replica Tolix chair** \$149, from Life Interiors, lifeinteriors.com.au



1 Rock your cares away in style with this retro-style outdoor rocker. Made from UV-filtered PVC on a galvanised steel frame. **Acapulco rocker** \$795 (plus GST), from Acapulco Chair, acapulcochair.com.au

2 It may look like traditional wicker but the Binya chair is tough. Its weather-resistant wicker is over an aluminium frame with a comfy cushion. **Binya wicker dining chair** \$98, Patio By Jamie Durie range from Big W, bigw.com.au



3 The traditional director's chair has been updated thanks to the Bilby chairs. Made from FSC-certified eucalyptus. It has weather-resistant fabric. **Bilby chair** in oyster white \$48, and \$88 (table), Patio By Jamie Durie from Big W, bigw.com.au