



a full deck

Turn your deck into a destination/Take your deck from decoration to dwelling

By Elizabeth Noll

Too often decks don't get used. Here's how to turn your deck into a place you want to be.

Too often decks are just extra space. Even if they look nice—patio furniture, a grill, a few plants—they're just not a place where you spend time. A handful of elements can make the difference between an empty deck and one full of life. Shade and privacy are two crucial pieces of the puzzle: you want to

feel protected at the same time that you're enjoying the fresh air. The best deck is also a comfortable and stylish transition from house to garden. On these pages we've collected some ideas on how to create a welcoming deck where, instead of walking on through, you're tempted to pause.

cozy cottage

Abundant, chaotic, and colorful: this deck is like a cottage garden crossed with a living room. Lush, vivid plantings hug the seating area and soften the lines of the fence beyond, creating a cozy, protected space and at the same time an easy transition to the rest of the garden. (Note the shade umbrella at the ready.)



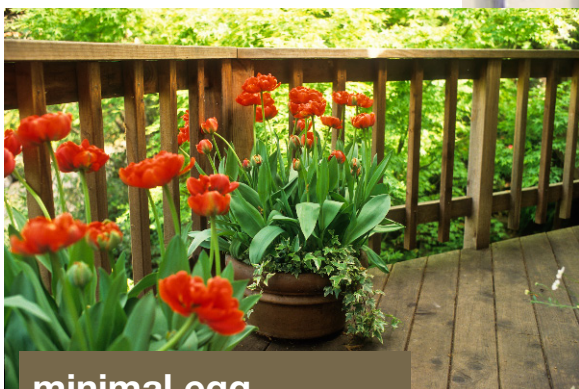


umbrella rescue

This broad, spacious deck is lovely, and the treetop view is awesome. Unfortunately the trees are too distant to provide protection during the hottest hours, when it's most needed. That could make this deck into a well-furnished oven with a view, but one thing saves it: the shade umbrellas.

the orangesicle principle

A few bunches of bright flowers will force a bland stretch of decking into the background. If you've got only a few square feet of space, go for the bold. Colorful or fragrant plants aren't essential to drawing you out on your deck, but once you're out there they'll make you want to linger.



minimal egg

White, round, and shiny draws the eye first, but this deck is really all about the lines of the pergola, which encloses the table and chairs and creates an intimate, private space. Tidy green vines slowly creeping up the trellis and into the lattice overhead provide a sense of slow motion as well as some added shade.



