

# Barefoot Luxury

Shermaine Maena Ong of Mosh Interior reveals how you can transform your balcony into a relaxing urban oasis



**This page:** Shermaine Maena Ong, founder of Mosh Interior; the B&B Italia Tobi-Ishi outdoor table by Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby, available at Space Furniture

**Opposite page, clockwise from top left:** A balcony designed by Mosh Interior featuring a sculpture by Julien Marinetti; daybeds upholstered in outdoor fabrics from Sunbrella; Kartell Audrey chair by Piero Lissoni; and B&B Italia Fat-Sofa and Husk armchairs by Patricia Urquiola, all from Space Furniture; Capri candle, from Tod's; Beosound 1 speaker, from Bang & Olufsen



## 2. FLORA AND FAUNA

The designer recommends lining your outdoor area with large or tall plants for privacy. "Many clients dream about turning their balconies into a beautiful indoor garden," says Ong. "Plants are important for shade, as they reduce heat and make the balcony bearable to use during the day."

Artworks can also help to enliven your balcony. Ong is a fan of French artist Julien Marinetti's *Doggy John* sculpture. "Sculptures can add character and a final touch that completes the whole look. This fun art piece will bring a playful element to any balcony space!"

## 3. GOING OUTDOORS

Homeowners with a spacious outdoor area can consider turning it into an alfresco-style zone for cheerful, casual meals. Ong recommends using the versatile Kartell Audrey chairs by Piero Lissoni in such an arrangement, as "the minimalist white chairs will complete your table setting seamlessly."

Creating the right mood is also important—the designer suggests scented candles and soft lighting to bring a calming feel to your balcony. She adds: "Wall lights and candles play a big role when it comes to crafting a relaxed ambience."

## 4. FIND YOUR ZEN

Transform balconies that are connected to bedrooms into cosy areas for meditation or reading with the right furniture. Ong highlights the B&B Italia Husk armchair (left) and Fat-Sofa couch (below), both designed by Patricia Urquiola. These furnishings feature rounded proportions, offering comfort and style in equal measure. Ong particularly admires the capitonné design of the Husk armchairs. "The plush upholstery is a plus point; it looks quite different from the typical outdoor furniture."



## 5. MOVE TO THE BEAT

Don't forget the impact the right tunes can make; a wireless speaker will allow you to stream your favourite songs as you unwind, elevating the idyllic atmosphere of your balcony. Among Ong's top picks is this stylish speaker: "The Bang & Olufsen Beosound 1 speaker has a sleek design that blends in with any modern furnishings."



## 1. FOR ALL SEASONS

Ong advises that all soft furnishings should be clad in outdoor fabrics that are quick to dry and will not fade in strong sunlight. Likewise, you should also choose materials that have been treated to withstand the rain.

One good example of weatherproof furniture with textures and forms inspired by natural materials is the B&B Italia Tobi-Ishi outdoor coffee table by Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby, available at Space Furniture. It takes inspiration from the ornamental stones that feature so prominently in Japanese zen gardens. "It's an interesting coffee table, with a stone-like finish and curved corners," she says.

