

The secret garden

SHOPPING The furniture at Essentially Metal is charming and enchanting



ENCHANTING WOODEN Range of garden furniture

Stepping into Essentially Metal, surrounded by their range of outdoor furniture, is like tiptoeing into a modern-day version of Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel "The Secret Garden".

Right from the entrance, mosaic-work and mild steel garden furniture is positioned at every available corner and level. Conducive to any kind of weather, anti-rust and water-proofed, the store's outdoor range is a delight.

Made from seasoned wood, powder-coated mild steel or stainless steel, the furniture is added with materials like cane, acrylic, glass, weatherproof fabric and twine – including decorative polycarbonate, terracotta, tile mosaic, painted and stained glass.

A black web-like hammock to hang in your verandah or under a tree, swings to sway in your garden, benches to work on a project, loungers to soak up the sun next to the pool or a lovely tea-table set for your landscape garden. The variety of styles and designs is wide – from box-like squares in wood, spiralling black metal to fairytale gar-

den chairs with leaf and butterfly designs.

But the drift of the collection at Essentially Metal is charming and enchanting. With imaginative designs and ideas that work their way into the range, the outdoor furniture definitely opens a door into a peaceful, green world that will have you enjoy a moment of quiet with your plants, hear the birds chirping, nurse a cup of tea or enjoy a joke with friends and family.

With bright orange walls, and flat metal trees to add to the creative collection, butterfly armchairs and leaf-shaped square chairs capture your eyes and imagination. Innovatively titled "A knight's tale", "Butterfly Mar Posa", "Central Park" and "Park Avenue", this is a collection for both the dreamy and the purposeful. But, the butterfly armchairs look uncomfortable and could only serve a decorative purpose and as part of your landscaping design!

Some swings have thoughtfully incorporated canopies so you can let your creepers grow, attached plant

stands and an attached table/glass stand. There is also a cute cycle planter, designed like a mini tricycle where you could place magazines or plants. Mosaic-top round and square tables with broad leaf patterns and chess-patterns also add to the creativity and colour. The rough stone top table with side benches, leaf-shaped centre table along with a host of glass and wooden-top side tables and chairs have interesting designs.

The price ranges from Rs. 1,800 to Rs. 5,500 for chairs, Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 10,000 for tables, Rs. 13,000 to Rs. 30,000 for swings and hammocks, Rs. 13,000 to Rs. 25,000 for sun loungers. The exterior range can also be made to order and customised to your tastes and preferences in colours and designs. The range is also ideal for apartment and office complexes with landscape gardens. Essentially Metal is open from 10.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m., Monday to Saturday at No. 8, Andree Road, Shanthi Nagar, off K.H. Road, near Axis Bank. Call 32519572.

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