

WINTERIORS

Worcestershire interior designer, Elaine Lewis, provides professional insights into how to adapt your interiors with the seasons

Nights are drawing in and we can celebrate the season of change by creating a home fit for hibernation. Cooler temperatures affect many aspects of our lives, including the activities in which we engage, the foods we eat and the style of clothes we wear. Just as cold weather might inspire a warm woolly sweater, it may also inspire warmer tones and accent colours in our living space.

As with our wardrobe, room schemes can become stale unless they are revisited and updated occasionally. So why not let the seasonal changes motivate some fresh design ideas in your home? It can be fun to refresh a room by introducing a new statement piece, a different or deeper wall colour or simply by having a mini splurge on lampshades, textured and coloured throws, candles and beautiful cushions.

Start by drawing inspiration from Christmas, although subtlety is the key. A warm Scandinavian or Nordic style is attractive and fashionable today; it is rustic, minimalist and cosy all at the same time. This style gives an amazing feel of comfort with natural wood branches, black and white, fir tree wreaths and rustic lanterns, which all compose a classical Nordic design to keep the winter out. Scandinavian style is characterised by wonderfully simple decoration with calming colour palettes and natural products such as pine cones and wreaths made of pine branches, all of which produce a beautiful scent which help relieve stress; and, of course, don't forget the reindeer, one of the main features of this style.

So if you like this idea, let's start with the tree. Choose something simple with a lovely pine smell and put it in a neutral

coloured basket. Next, you will need to consider lights and ornaments. Keeping a simple approach, try white or glass-only ornaments with a few string lights, which will create a surprising freshness in bare branches.

It's a good idea to consider how the autumnal tones outside can influence the look and feel of the interior, with examples of greens, browns and yellows combined with natural materials, such as wood; and warm, tactile fabrics including faux fur and large wool knits.

Talking of colours, any shade of mustard will instantly update your home this season and it is so easy to achieve: a new cushion, a new throw, even a new lampshade can bring this key accent colour into your home. Tasty and tangy, it is a shade that brings warmth, mixed with an eye-catching contemporary edge that makes it the perfect shade for the autumn and winter season. Mixed with accents of oranges and calm greys, mustard can be a great addition to any room scheme.

Thinking ahead, one of the emerging trends of the autumn and winter seasons, which is set to continue its influence through to spring and summer 2017,

Trusty accent cushions and throws can refresh a room; salvaged items have the ability to make any project unique, warm and important.

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An annex Elaine is currently working on, created as a Hunters' Lodge.

is the use of dark primary colours to bring depth to a room, especially within the green and blue spectrum. A palette of bottle greens and mosses can be layered up on their own for a single statement scheme, or can be toned with navy and dark inky blues. If the thought of going this dramatic strikes you full of interior fear, the trusty accent cushion and throw is the best way to enjoy this trend, especially when mixed with tones of grey.

Interior design does not have to be as expensive as you think. With the recent trend in salvaging, there are many architectural elements that lift an interior setting, ranging from the bizarre to the grand, so hunting around at a local flea market or reclamation centre might just unearth the perfect piece. Gothic candlesticks, a reclaimed vintage wooden sleigh, a silver tilley lamp or simply a church-style candle stand dressed with ivy and white candles can make a stunning table arrangement. They might be old, but



Image: Stillview Photography

Elaine Lewis has been professionally styling residential and commercial interiors for over a decade. She lives in Malvern with her family. See www.elainelewisdesigns.co.uk for more information.



interesting architectural materials are always in fashion. Adding salvage to your home also has the ability to make any project unique, warm and important.

And finally, look what's around you as colours for interiors are inspired by nature. Often the most beautiful ornaments and decorative objects are right on our doorstep. Filling vintage jars with fairy lights; making a home-made advent calendar from twigs, brown paper and ribbon; making hanging fir tree chandeliers . . . the list is endless; the personal satisfaction immeasurable. ■



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