

Festive furnishings

Decorate your home in style this Christmas season with a tree as the centrepiece

Cassandra Houghton

THE festive season has officially arrived, and with it brings a plethora of firs and pines, tinsel, bells and lights.

Those with a love of Christmas entertaining will know it's time to decorate; this year, think DIY succulent wreaths, minimalist metallic branches, and vintage baubles, however just a little effort is all that's required to make your house look suitably cheerful.

Designer and blogger Kylie Brady from diy-decorator.com.au says the two main themes when decorating for Christmas are by colour and style, and the theme you choose should coordinate your tree, table setting and exterior.

"One of the easiest ways to decorate your home for Christmas is to decide on a simple colour palette," she said.

"Traditional colours schemes include green and red or gold and silver, then there are contemporary palettes which change each year.

"I have noticed that 2016 has produced a lot of rose gold, copper and peacock-themed tones.

"The alternative is to create a style theme, which will determine the types of decorations you choose. Scandinavian and Nordic themes are popular at the moment, or there are more traditional ideas like winter wonderland, vintage, rustic or novelty.

"Many retailers curate a few different themes a year - choosing one can make decorating easy."

Creating small Christmas displays around the house can be an effective way to decorate.

"The dining table, sideboard, entryway or foyer, and kitchen bench are all spaces to display festive elements like garlands, Christmas cloches, lanterns and ornament clusters, while a staircase can showcase letters such as joy or noel, or baubles tied along the balustrades," Ms Brady said.

"Or if you're one of those lucky people that still receives physical Christmas cards, you can display them using mini pegs and string, or peg them to branches in the shape of a tree to create an impressive wall hanging.

"Decorate your windows with fairy lights or themed bunting, hang mistletoe in the entry, and put thought into your table setting -

consider using flowers, low vases, a tiered cake stand filled with foliage, or a wreath with decorations in its centre.

"One of my favourite Christmas decorations is a wreath - I practically hang one on every door. Some of the more popular styles are made from boxwood, magnolia, red berry, pine or fir, baubles, and hessian."

The Christmas tree should be the centrepiece of your home's festive decor.

Ms Brady said the tree can be as minimalist or as full as desired, but that lights were essential for ambience.

"The lights will look great if you weave them all the way towards the trunk so they have depth - ensure you have some lights at the tips of the branches and some deep inside the foliage," she said.

"My best tip for festive decorating however, is that you don't need to go all out - just start with one thing such as your tree or wreath, and gradually add more detail."



DISPLAY: Entry display featuring Ferm Living Christmas Stocking - gold splash available from norsu.com.au



WREATHS: Dusk Christmas Wreath (left) available from roguehome.com.au Copper Wreath (above left) available from etsy.com/au/shop/foilingstar

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