

Christmas decorations take a trendy twist this holiday season

Whimsical, natural looks top this year's trends

By Lacey Storer
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Although Thanksgiving is still a few weeks away, many people are looking ahead and already thinking about Christmas. While it may be a little early to string up the lights and trim the tree, it's not too early to start planning your holiday decor.

There's an abundance of new trends in holiday decorating this year. New spins on traditional decorations are always popping up, but this year holiday decorations are also taking a completely different direction.

One new trend for this year is the whimsical look, according to Amy Bramble, co-owner of the home interior store Once Upon A Time. Bramble said this look includes very bright, non-traditional Christmas colors. A whimsical display at the store had a tree festooned with neon green and bright pink decorations, surrounded by purple and silver trees made of tinsel.

Ornaments are also becoming more whimsical. Items like sparkly high-heeled shoes and oversized diamond rings have made their way onto Christmas trees.

Although whimsical trees are



Silver decorations, like the ones featured in this display, are an elegant way to decorate for Christmas. Using silver and crystal also gives off an icy feel, bringing the winter weather indoors.

a fun and funky way to decorate for the holiday, they're not for everyone.

"I think it's beautiful, but it's a little much for my taste," Ann Willey, a Cleveland, Mo., resident said as she browsed at the store's Christmas open house on Friday.

Willey's friend Penny Kampe agreed, saying she still preferred more traditional holiday colors. Both women admired a tree decorated with a burgundy-colored theme, covered with flowers, balls and bird or-

naments.

The burgundy tree displayed another Christmas trend for this year, which was the use of floral items as decorations. This trend popped up last year, but is becoming more popular for this Christmas, Bramble said. People can do trees entirely with a floral theme, or just pick one particular flower to accent other decorations.

Bramble said that when using a floral theme, pick a couple of flowers in either one shade or two colors that compli-

ment each other and go from there.

"You can use just about anything on a tree as long as it's the same tonal value," she said.

Two colors that are trendy this Christmas are silver and gold, used separately. Bramble said gold decorations give rooms a very elegant Christmas feel, while silver decorations can be used for an icy theme, bringing a bit of the winter weather inside.

Naturalistic decorations are also becoming popular for this

holiday season. Things like birds and butterflies are trendy ornaments. Natural-looking statues of moose and deer are big, and they can be kept out all year long.

And reindeer, whether natural or Christmas-y, are beginning to boom in popularity, Bramble said, much like snowmen did a few years ago.

One funky trend for this year is the use of feathers. Once Upon A Time has miniature trees and wreaths made of feathers in all colors, including

white, green, red and brown. The feathers are weatherproof, but shouldn't be put out in the sun.

"I think those are pretty cool," said Barbara Robinson, a customer from Overland Park, Kan. Robinson said her own decorating style for Christmas is unique. She uses colors like sage green and deep purple for her Tuscan-themed Christmas.

"I think people are doing a lot more different things than they used to, and I think that makes it fun," she said.

People are doing different things, and different trees. Nowadays, Bramble said, it's common for families to have more than one tree.

"The traditional tree is the family one, and the other is the one the wife really wants," she said. Bramble added that she has three trees in her house.

No matter what decorating taste you have, whether it be traditional or avant garde, anyone can put together an elegant holiday setting, Bramble said. An easy way to start is to pick one color, or one object — such as a snowman, angel or Santa Claus — and build around that. And there's no need to break the bank by overhauling your Christmas decorations all at one time.

"I think if people just add a couple things a year to what they have, that helps," Bramble said.



Christmas decorations made out of feathers, like these miniature trees, are a hot trend for this holiday season. These decorations come in colors like red, white, green and brown.

Easy ways to start a holiday decorating theme

If you don't have many Christmas decorations yet, or want to try out a new decorating theme, Bramble has a few easy tips on how to start.

1. Pick one object and build around it — It can be any object, or even a color, that you

love. Just make sure additional decorations match or complement it.

2. Use fabric — Fabrics are an easy and affordable way to tie a theme together. By putting fabric on your tree, or just covering a table with it, your theme be-

comes more coordinated.

3. Keep building on it — Your theme will grow if you just add a few pieces to it each year. You can also change it a bit by adding a new color or a new object.



Whimsical Christmas decorations, like those adorning this tree at *Once Upon A Time*, feature bright, non-traditional colors. This tree has pink and neon green decorations, accented with silver. Bramble said another element of the whimsical look was to have everything overdone, with lots of big decorations.

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