

LIVING

SOMERSET

DECEMBER 2017

COMPLIMENTARY

Relax

TRY A BAMBOO
MESSAGE THIS
CHRISTMAS

PEACEFUL FARMHOUSE

BEAUTY NEAR
QUANTOCK HILLS

FUNKY FURNITURE

BRIGHTEN UP
YOUR HOME



Christmas tree
Magic
HELP CHOOSING THE PERFECT FIR TREE



On-trend decorations

Mel Thorne of Country Knoles interiors gives advice on creating Christmas interiors to get yourself in the festive spirit

Christmas is a season of abundance. From the wealth of colours, lights, sights and sounds to the varied tastes within this festive period everything stimulates our senses, comforting us with a warm sense of familiarity. Home to me at Christmas is the most important thing. Creating a cheerful, welcoming and fun environment to celebrate the most wonderful of seasons with my family. Every year I try to find new ways to decorate our home. I will always use the same decorations as I want to give my children the memories and the

feelings of comfort and familiarity I have when I see my parent's home decorated with items I fondly remember from my childhood. Inspiration comes from everywhere and this year I will be bringing the outside in. In one final nod to the Pantone colour of the year "Greenery", I will be using natural textural elements to add interest to my decorations. Using twisted willow as an alternative Christmas tree, hanging baubles from the branches swathed in fairy lights is a lovely welcome on a hallway table. I also like the idea of hanging my Christmas cards



from the branches to create a lovely collection and focal point.

Lighting up a dull corner with a bough dressed in hanging decorations, lights and ribbons looks fantastic. The smells of the pine will fill your home and provide a gorgeous festive aroma for the season.

My advice is to make the most of every space. Hang a myriad of baubles across the width of windows as well as clustering decorations and hanging them in the corners of rooms. This also works well from or around light fittings as they really dance in the glow of the light.

Decorating the banisters of a stairway is always a fabulous way to add a little Christmas cheer to an otherwise sparse area. This year I will be paring back with a "less is more" approach and using natural foliage, lights to add a soft glow and large ribbon ties to add a sophisticated but stylish look to the hallway.

The same approach to a mantelpiece is effective. Collect an array of candle holders and vases and display them along the length of the fireplace. This coupled with some foliage or flowers as well as some candles to give that enchanting bobbing glow provides a lavish yet simplistic look.

Consider the same approach to a coffee table. A collection of different candles, vases and pots on a tray on the coffee table or a sideboard provides a lovely display both in the day time using the foliage/flowers and in the evening with candles lit.

However you choose to decorate your home this Christmas – whether it is pared back Scandi chic or in a traditional English style – make sure it is bursting with colour, texture and soft light to envelop you in that lovely warmth of Christmas.

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