

Stylish Solutions

Last Minute Holiday Décor Ideas

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3) DO: Use items that work year round. One holiday vignette was created with an eye towards re-use once the season was over. Because we were on a tight budget, we headed straight for Ikea. First stop? The carpet section. I often use carpet squares or Ikat rugs as placemats and runners to achieve a luxury look for less on dining tables, entry hall consoles and even in overscale powder rooms with large counters. Every element is multi-purpose and non-holiday specific. It was a massive hit. Fresh, fast and talk about budget friendly.

When you are battling holiday overload and really do need to ready your spaces, give yourself permission to wander the aisles of stores you can escape in for inspiration. I will set aside up to 90 minutes, identify the need (holder for silverware) not the product (a silverware holder) and start to wander. For this project, the light bulb went off in the bathroom accessories area when we saw a pretty display holding towels. The soft baskets looked like chunky white sweaters. Very on trend. Because we identified the need, our mind was open to different solutions.

Here are a few of my favorite closing thoughts:

- * I prefer faux to real when purchasing boxwood and moss unless you have a large budget and are OK executing repairs.
- * The time honored wreath can be laid flat on a table to surround hurricane candles.
- * The dried tree branch is the best free staple around. I use them raw, embellish with glitter, spray paint and even bejewel them for clients. Place a dried tree branch in vase with playground sand for weight bearing. Make certain the vase won't crack from pressure. Hang simple ornaments from the branches. Uplight for drama.

Have a blessed holiday and I will see you in the New Year!

If you need help with your decorating project, visit <http://www.couturechateau.com> or give us a call at (925) 386-0720. Happy holidays and Happy New Year!



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. For a complete blog post including photos of different guest hosting ideas, visit www.couturechateau.com/blog.

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