

FALL IS BEACH TIME
in Galveston

PUMPKINS, SQUASH & GOURDS:
Oh My!

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to Spruce?

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Excuse to Spruce

Usher in the season with simple touches that set the tone for family, festivities and fun.

BY STACY BARRY



Colorful accessories like these orange pillows can update a whole room.

The changing seasons and upcoming holiday festivities offer the perfect excuse to spruce up your home—and it doesn't require a total redesign to pull it off. Simple, decorative touches—splashes of color change here and there, festive accessories, seasonal florals—make a big impact in freshening up your home and setting a cozy scene to prepare for the arrival of family and friends in the months ahead.

Small touches like swapping out pillows in lightweight linens for lush throws in intense autumnal hues are super-simple changes to make. Inspired table settings punctuated by dramatic floral centerpieces also add personality and flair.

Big impact visuals in such common areas as front porches, foyers, staircases and mantles can give your home a totally new feel, and rearranging furniture (or switching things out from room to room) can create a new feel that welcomes guests and sets the stage for entertaining.

Three Houston-based design experts offer some simple, but striking tips for helping your home fall into the season.

A Splash of Color

As the weather cools off outside, well-chosen colors warm up your home inside. Rich shades of red, brown and orange conjure up images of pumpkins, harvests and changing leaves—things that inspire our fall design scheme.

Vibrant shades of orange have been everywhere all year and remain on trend for the coming season. That's because it's a feel-good color, says Beverly Vosko, owner of Beverly Vosko Interiors and Remodeling in Houston.

"Orange is a combination of the cheerfulness of yellow and the physical energy and stimulation of red," she says. "It's extroverted, uninhibited and it radiates warmth, happiness and energy."

Vosko, who also teaches a continuing education class on color theory, believes colors



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can very much set and affect moods. Some colors are soothing and calming, some not so much.

“Because orange is optimistic and uplifting, it’s a color that can rejuvenate the spirit and spice things up,” she says.

Adding orange accessories in with your fall décor is a definite sprucer-upper, and goes way beyond pumpkins and florals. Vases, pillows, throws and other decorative accents can help sprinkle the color—and the spirit—throughout your home.



A Grand Statement

If there’s ever a time to go all out with seasonal decorations, it’s December—a statement designer Kathy Anderson of Eklektik Interiors fully believes.

“It’s such a festive time of year. You should take advantage of this and decorate up big,” says Anderson, adding that the holidays are no time to be subtle.



Above: Metallics combine with silk orchids from Creative Branch to add an unexpected sparkle for the change of seasons.

Left: High-quality decorations and coordinating details, such as these from Eklektik Interiors, are arranged to make a big impact.

The most important element, according to Anderson, is using quality holiday decorations.

“There is a huge difference in quality with various manufacturers, so make sure what you’re buying is high quality,” she says. “It may be a bit more expensive, but it makes a huge difference in the overall look of your holiday décor. And the decorations will almost certainly last longer.”

Anderson suggests coordinating your décor, including such things as ribbons, colors and garlands from room to room to create a pleasing visual flow. And, again, don’t be afraid to go big.

Anderson adds that accessories, such as holiday pillows, collectible Santas or religious figurines, and other fun items make your rooms more interesting.

Elements of Surprise

As the creative force behind artVIA, Ariana Smetana is known for skillfully infusing modern elements with traditional styles to create timeless, yet fresh designs. This season, along with commonly used fall colors and décor, she suggests throwing in the unexpected to create a fun, eclectic feel. “We should not be afraid to mix metallics like gold, silver, brass and copper with fabrics, candles and other accessories,” she says. “Another direction may be to add tablecloths and napkins in dusty pale colors of blue or pinks instead of reds and greens. Or add pops of fuchsia or peacock blue mixed with gray décor elements and furniture.”

While these colors are not traditionally associated with the holiday season, they are shiny and festive, and “so popular right now,” says Smetana.

Floral arrangements also offer additional ways to surprise.

“I love to use fresh flowers—asters, bitter-sweet, cosmos, dahlias—but I also like to mix in bare, dry branches to signify fall, and then add a favorite color by spray painting them in metallics or another bright new pop of color.” ♦