

Homes

ADD SOME FALL FLAIR TO HOME DECOR

Mother Nature offers plenty of inspiration for the cozy season

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Special to Postmedia Network

If you're a fan of seasonal decorating, Mother Nature provides plenty of inspiration in the fall, from acorns, pinecones, leaves, pumpkins and gourds to crisper days that invite you to amp up the coziness.

"Always on trend is incorporating natural elements into your décor by foraging for seasonal finds. Branches, acorns and colourful leaves can be used in arrangements or as standalone pieces," says Lindsay Thornton, founder and creative director of Cornerstone Design & Build in Oakville.

"When I think of fall, I naturally think of warmer tones: burnt orange, deep yellows, even more wood as leaves are shed. These are all easy things you can incorporate into your living room with a few simple swaps."

Adding pillows is an easy way to introduce a change of colour to your spaces. "We recommend clients just buy a new pillow cover and reuse their existing pillow insert to avoid unnecessary storage. When adding pillows, think of adding in a more solid pattern in your dominant colour and a small pattern or a large-scale pattern in a complimentary colour," Thornton says.

Consider adding accents of colour or wood to coffee tables or built-in shelving to tie in with the pillows and pull the colour story through the room. "Adding in a beautiful throw also comes in handy on cooler nights and adds a layer or coziness," she says. "You can either drape it over a



Designer Lindsay Thornton **SUPPLIED**

couch or chair or place a few in a basket near the fireplace."

Each year offers a new set of design trends and 2024 is certainly no exception.

Not sure where to begin? Thornton offers a roundup of decorating trends for autumn:

EARTHY TONES AND NATURAL TEXTURES

Think earthy tones like terracotta, olive green and deep browns paired with rattan and reclaimed wood to add depth. Complete your look with woven throw blankets, rustic wooden accents and ceramic vases with matte finishes.

LAYERED TEXTURES

Combine a variety of materials to create a rich, cozy environment. "Consider mixing chunky knit throws with velvet cushions or layering a wool rug over a woven mat," Thornton says. "The juxtaposition of textures adds visual interest and comfort, perfect for cooler weather to come."



Complete your look with throw blankets, designer Lindsay Thornton advises. **CORNERSTONE DESIGN & BUILD**



Designer Jessica Cinnamon suggests layering sofas and arm chairs with cozy textiles. **STEPHANI BUCHMAN**

RUSTIC ELEGANCE

This trend remains a fall favourite and blends refined, classic elements with rugged, farmhouse charm. "Incorporate elegant, antique-inspired pieces like gilded mirrors or crystal chandeliers alongside rugged wooden furniture and galvanized metal accents. This mix creates a balanced and sophisticated autumnal look," she says.

BOLD PATTERNS AND PRINTS

Traditional fall patterns like plaid and houndstooth remain popular, but this season ushers in bolder, more eclectic prints.

"Look for geometric patterns, abstract designs and vibrant floral motifs in your fall textiles. These

prints can be introduced through throw pillows, rugs or even wallpaper, adding a modern twist to classic fall décor."

SUSTAINABILITY

This trend also remains a major influence as many homeowners embrace vintage and eco-friendly décor by opting for upcycled or locally-sourced materials.

AUTUMNAL ACCENTS

Subtlety is the name of the game this season. Thornton suggests forgoing the bright pumpkins and 'fall' signs in lieu of a few standout pieces.

"Woven baskets filled with pinecones and softly glowing candles in autumnal scents can infuse your

MORE DECORATING TIPS

Jessica Cinnamon, principal designer and founder of Toronto-based Jessica Cinnamon Design Inc., offers simple ways to add a touch of coziness to your interiors:

- Nestle seasonal natural elements like pinecones, acorns and leaves in a bowl or tray in the entranceway and on the kitchen island and coffee tables.

- Group and nestle decorative gourds or few small white or orange pumpkins on top of books or candle holders.

- Introduce branches to your vases. Introduce rich, earth-toned accessories, dishes and wooden trays.

- Layer beds, sofas and armchairs with cozy textiles in pillows and throws in autumnal shades of rust, mustard, browns or crimson.



Add branches to your vases, advises designer Jessica Cinnamon. **STEPHANI BUCHMAN**

home with seasonal charm without cluttering," she says.

"We also love using cabbage plants instead of your traditional pumpkins on the porch."

WARM METALS

Brass, copper and bronze accents are making a comeback this fall and add a touch of warmth to any room. Ideas include light fixtures, picture frames and decorative accents. "They complement the earthy tones of fall."

COZY NOOKS

Creating a reading corner or small lounge area decorated with plush cushions and a warm throw is popular for fall, she adds.