

TIMES LIFE

rev up your life!

BRING HOME THE SPARKLE



Minimalism is sophistication

Let 2019 be the year of sophistication in home-decor. Freshen home spirituality and that should reflect in your home. This festive season is all about minimal decor. Most people, in an attempt to add shine and sparkle to mirror the season, tend to go a bit overboard. This year it will be less about tiling and more about creating the festive atmosphere with just a few tasteful accessories. Think low flower arrangements of your favourite colour sprinkled all over the house, lighting perfumed candles, mixing hanging plants with fairy lights and displaying delicate polished silverware - smaller festive decorations can be used to create wonderful vignettes around the house.



Use new colours

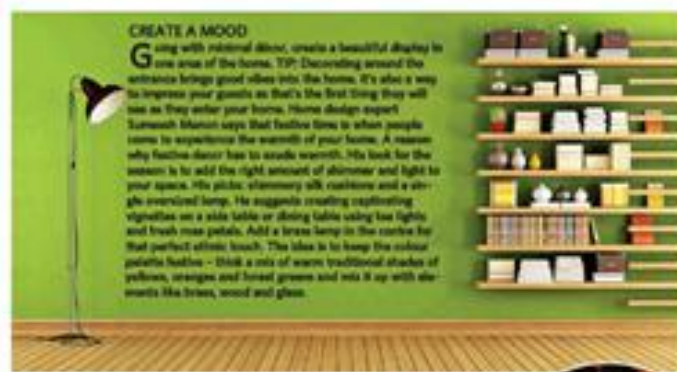
Go for some new colours in your home from coral (Pinterest's 2020 colour) or apt for 'New Year's in home decor' - led by forecasting agency MCGRAW-HILL. The colour for interiors, yellow and many are also going to see a surge this season. Interior designer Sarah Davidson says that the festive season is India is usually a heavy play of colours. "Make bold design choices when you are designing a space. An ornate glistening piece of traditional and ornate art is an excellent way to bring the festive spirit inside your home," he suggests. On top of the plain walls to add some energy to social and common areas like the dining or living rooms. If there's no accent you want, go for a statement chair or wallpapered walls to tickle up the space to welcome festive home.



Shiny cushions and ornate candles are the best ways to bring festivity home. Pick coral, sandalwood or patchouli as fragrances.

Accessorise in style

Stock up on table runners, place mats and coasters to add a clean touch to your dining table. In design, try and weave in culture for a tribal rug. Be perhaps a star, or a Paga embroidered wall decoration. Be it an abstract or a traditional - use ornaments in your decor. For instance, heavy velvet bags can be used as candle holders or bottles stuffed with fairy lights or a shawl can be made a fancy wall hang.



CREATE A MOOD

Going with minimal decor, create a beautiful display in one area of the home. Tip: Decorating around the entrance brings good vibes into the home. It's also a way to impress your guests as that's the first thing they will see as they enter your home. Home design expert Sameer Mehta says that festive time is when people come to experience the warmth of your home. A reason why festive decor has to create warmth. He says the season is to add the right amount of shimmer and light to your space. He picks shimmer silk cushions and a single oversized lamp. He suggests creating eye-catching vignettes on a side table or dining table using tea lights and fresh rose petals. Add a brass lamp in the centre for that perfect ethnic touch. The idea is to keep the colour palette festive - think a mix of warm traditional shades of yellows, oranges and forest green and mix it up with elements like brass, wood and glass.



Add some sparkle

What's the reason without added lighting? Fairy lights are a staple for decorating your home. Give your home the warm glow of LED lights. Create your own magical display of lighting using both green garlands, strings of twigs and twinkle. Also, place interesting dips all over. Put outdoor lamps and high-light lighting around the home. Immersive lighting gives a unique signature of warmth. You can even hire a lighting designer to give you tips and make your lighting captivating during festival time.



Also, be smart and use energy-conserving lighting that doesn't damage the environment. If you are lighting candles, go for the best wax ones or soy-based candles as they don't cause indoor pollution. If you are using incense, use natural incense.

Creating vignettes on a side table or dining table with tea lights and fresh rose petals and brass lamp in the centre adds that perfect ethnic touch. Make sure that there is an equal mix of warm traditional shades of yellows and oranges with elements like brass, wood and glass. - Sameer Mehta, home design expert



TEASE WITH TABLEWARE

Deck your table with fancy serveware, including tumblers, trays, bowls, and other cutlery. Always have a signature centerpiece as it elevates the look of the table. Also, some soft accents around the table help in elevating the experience. Pay attention to details - flowers, shiny cutlery, fancy china, bright food tablecloth all the mood right. Even your serveware should be classic. Focus on textures, as they add visual interest.



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



Prep your home

Decorating the festive period is the best time to re-evaluate everything in your space, and let go of stuff that no longer gives you joy. Decluttering is the single most important starting point when beginning to set up your home for the festive season. It allows you to make space for the new things. Through professional deep cleaning should follow it.

Refresh your fabrics. Reupholstering certain pieces in your home, at regular intervals, helps keep your home alive and buzzing with brand new energy. It is a great way to maintain the freshness of your spaces. Buy versatile lanterns and tea light holders. The season, be it Diwali or Christmas, calls for candles and beautiful lighting. Invest in lanterns that hold large pillar candles, as well as modern decorative tea-light holders. Be sustainable. Think of how to reduce waste and opt for products you can reuse, which is really important for sustainability. Handmade pottery and ceramics will be another great way of decorating your home. - Eliza Khattar, interior expert



Use the lanterns as they are. Or for the same use, go for the same lanterns. That's all you need to dress up a corner of a table.

MINIMALISM IN DESIGN

There's a 200 per cent rise in mindfulness decor according to Pinterest. More people are incorporating mindfulness in interior design.

LESS BLING, MORE SPARKLE

This year it will be less about bling and more about creating festive atmosphere with just a few tasteful accessories.

Get a terrarium

Play with textures and shiny surfaces to add glitz and glam. Candles designer Rame Singh suggests going for terrariums. You can even create a shiny terrarium display using gold-coloured artificial wreaths in shiny glass pots with shimmering gold tones, copper, brass, and silver finishing. Combine with shiny candleholders. Singh suggests, "Terrariums help you add a soothing feeling of the hills to your living room and make it festive for the season." FYI, terrariums are custom gardens and a way to get the outdoors in. Also known as miniature gardens or fairy gardens, terrariums are air purifiers, energy boosters, and stress busters. From a chipped copra.com you can anything can become a mini garden. All you need are a few pebbles, soil, a layer of activated carbon, sprinkling of water, and an assortment of cacti and succulents. Singh advises sifting through old crockery, tableware and glassware in your cupboard to find interesting options from bottles to jars to golden bowls and even tumblers and bowls - almost anything works well. It's also a great gift for the season.



Use the same jars, bottles, tumblers as the base for your terrarium.



PAINT A WINDOW FRAME

Changing the colour of a window frame makes it stand out. To add energy to the room, try a shade of orange, while against teal or, if you'll love a dash of sunshine, go for yellow.

PAINT YOUR BOOKSHELF

A great touch of colour can be added by painting the bookshelf. You can go for a vibrant shade of orange, and the made-in-a-contracting shade.

