



DECORATING TIPS

CREATING THE PERFECT CENTERPIECE

Think in triangles...

When creating centerpieces and mantel forms, always work toward the middle with your largest, most-prominent piece in the center. This buildup makes for a dramatic look and also creates a focal point for your guests. Creating decorative forms rarely comes with “rules,” but this is one with few exceptions.

Be unpredictable...

Add interest to a classic look by choosing fun and different elements for your forms. Lanterns, candles, garden statuary, or a large, unusual piece of fruit...let your creativity guide you when choosing the prominent piece. If you opt for a more classic overall look, accent your form with something more out of the ordinary.

Fuller is better...

Once you have your large pieces on your iron form, don't forget to fill in the holes with lots of little pieces. Nuts, berries, boxwood sprigs...the list of filler items is endless. The fuller you can make your arrangement, the richer and more festive it will seem.

Color is paramount...

Whether you choose a more monochromatic look or one bursting with color, be sure to choose your color wisely and keep it balanced and evenly dispersed. If you go the monochromatic route, find a way to add in a bit of color to offset your primary color scheme. Alternately, if you use a lot of color in your design, try to stick with four or five main colors that will make up your theme, and keep your arrangement focused around that. When you are almost finished, stand back to view your work. This will give you a different perspective and will illuminate spots that are too concentrated or out of balance.

Don't “Color inside the lines”...

Let your arrangement flow out onto the table or mantel. Add leaves and greenery underneath to fill in the space between the form and the surface on which it sits. Then add a little excitement to the arrangement by scattering a few nuts or berries around the surface. Your arrangement will be fun for guests to look at!