



ENCHANTING FESTIVE STYLE

Interior designer Jojo Bradley talks us through some ideas for bringing some Christmas cheer to your home

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **SPURSTOW HALL**
FOR THE ENCHANTED FOREST



It's a Christmas when we need some festive cheer and to celebrate in style. However, it might also be a festive season where we are lacking either the inspiration or the will to make the most out of the celebrations. So to help spread some ideas we turned to Jojo Bradley whose experience team offer a personal bespoke interior design service. Together they create timeless interiors and carefully manage all aspects of large and small scale projects from start to finish.

Here, Jojo gives you some expert advice on how to transform your abode and give it the look of an enchanted forest...

We are always excited at this time of year in our house, as we begin the Christmas traditions; taking the boxes down from the loft, untangling the twinkling lights, adding to our bauble collections and decorating the house while festive playlists make us hum and

mince pies are demolished. Given the change and the uncertainty the year has brought us, however, it is more important than ever that we put on a fabulous show. The pandemic may have changed how we live, and how we will be celebrating but it does not have to stop us doing it in style (and without breaking the bank!).

Materials take pride of place in interior design and the forest provides an abundance of designs and motifs to be inspired by and so, this season we will be decking our halls with raw greens and natural wood to evoke the feeling of a crisp festive walk, bringing the outdoors into the warmth.

To recreate our Enchanted Forest look, first concentrate on the natural elements, greenery, foliage, raw wood, dried elements, like pinecones and last season's hydrangea, sprigs of holly and fir. Take a look outside and see what you can find. ➡



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Not only do these elements create a positive energy and a calming warm atmosphere, but foraging for your own decorating materials and natural beauties and berries, is a perfect way to spend a weekend in lockdown. Pop on your woollies and wellies and get in touch with nature.

It’s something that the whole family can get involved in. Before you do venture out though, think about your interiors and where the focus of your decorating will be, the fireplace, the tree, the dining table, and plan around it.

Have you some stunning panelling or wallpaper to create a feature wall? Do you want to build on your current décor? Or simply add a festive gesture or two? It is worth remembering that you don’t have to go overboard either in order to make a festive impact. Don’t forget that less is more, so





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keep it simple with just one or two colours or themes as a base. Natural greens capture the mood here, but don't forget to add warmer shades and textures to really bring it to life. One way to do this is with subtle sparkle. Metallics are still going strong this year, but they've taken on a warmer, vintage feel.

Opt for warm fairy lights on the tree, add bows, aged glass baubles or dip some pinecones in gold paint, all this will create a tree that is adorned with layers of lushness. And for the rest of the room, add candles that flicker and pick up the metallics of a centrepiece or a perfectly placed cut-glass decanter. Even a really paired back scheme will come alive in a little firelight.

Think about all the textures you can include too, the naturalness of the wood and foliage mixed with luxurious metallics, and the tempting velvet bows to all-natural jute and the pop of a holly berry or jaunty nutcracker. Don't forget to layer up the cosiness either. This can be achieved with some faux fur throws or chunky knits for that effortlessly co-ordinated appearance.

All of this can be used to create a country house idyll, with the go-to accent of natural green. Naturally simple is the statement this year and that is a trend that will never go out of style.

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MAKE UP A MANTELPIECE

If you're lucky enough to have a roaring fire in your home, make the most of it. Furnish it with foliage from your winter walks and hang them at varying heights to give a draped natural look.

You cannot go wrong with the traditional reds, greens and gold for a rich aesthetic. In fact, think of creating a stunning floral arrangement of red amaryllis, or cheery poinsettia perhaps.

Add light with warm glow fairy lights or mix candlesticks with tea lights – there are some battery-operated options to consider if naked candles don't suit your household. And extend this to the hearth with some hurricane jars or pillar candles. Don't forget though, that you need to leave room to hang the stockings with care. Choose a stylish metal hook or follow the natural theme and use a beautiful branch to make sure Santa doesn't miss them.

DRESSING THE TABLE

Your dining table will be the focal point at least once over the holidays so take your time to dress it to impress.

Extend your theme and achieve this simple look yourself with subtle sparkle and natural greens from fir tree sprigs to a simple rose adorning your table.

Always lay your table on Christmas Eve to avoid last-minute panics, and for perfectionists, like me, so you have time to make it just right. And take the time to iron your linens. I know I sound like a stickler, but there really is nothing better than a crisp clean napkin.

Layer your place settings to give them extra impact, mixing plain white china with special occasion ware and a festive flourish of mistletoe or ribbon.

Finally, there is nothing more personal than a handwritten place card. It doesn't have to be formal, traditional or complicated, but it is a thoughtful touch.

