Skip the *Vase*

Local experts share their favorite unexpected vessels to create eye-catching floral arrangements for the holidays

Written by **ALLISON LANE FARMER**



COURTESY COURTYARD LIFESTYLE

Reindeer-patterned square cachepot, $84

LOOK OUTDOORS

When displaying winter florals, designer Chuck Chewning likes to keep it simple. "I prefer to keep fresh cut flowers in tight, small arrangements in antique cachepots on the dining table, fireplace mantle and tabletops for a touch of holiday color." To achieve this look, the interior designer draws from his flagship store, Courtyard Lifestyle, where design coordinator Cuffy Sullivan shares a few of her favorite unusual vessels.

"Our low French urn comes in several sizes and makes a strong statement on a table, pedestal or as a pair at the front door," Sullivan says. The large piece can be paired with other planters or stand on its own. For place settings, mix and match from various mini pots to add color and dimension to your holiday spread. If you opt for Chewing's favorite vessel, a cachepot, Sullivan has the perfect selection. "We have plenty of cachepots and can't imagine a holiday without our reindeer-patterned square cachepot. At 7.5 inches, it's the right size for a table arrangement or as a pair on a mantel," she adds.

Forage for Florals: While poinsettias have long been synonymous with holiday arrangements, Chewning finds floral inspiration at home. "Being in the South, we have beautiful greenery available to us outdoors," Chewning says. "Magnolias and camellias are perfect to use throughout the house — I love the rich green color and the scale of the magnolia leaf with the golden underside."

MAKE A STATEMENT

When your arrangements are a work of art, shouldn't they be displayed in one, too? Cue Ashley McCorkle, owner of Southern Crafted, who suggests just that. In this case, a hand-hammered bronze bowl made by silversmith Adam Whitney. "Adam hammers out each bowl from a sheet of bronze entirely by hand, with each bowl taking many hours to complete," McCorkle explains. "Its bright faceted sides would make for a distinctive centerpiece floral arrangement for the holidays."

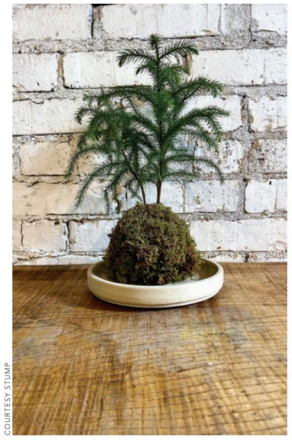
Hand-hammered bronze bowl, $950



COURTESY SOUTHERN CRAFTED

THINK OUTSIDE THE VASE

Brian and Emily Kellet, co-owners of STUMP, propose opting for small-batch, artisan pottery in lieu of conventional vessels. Pair yours with a rubber tree for year-round decor, and don't be afraid to think vertical, either. Case in point: STUMP's mounted holiday cactus is a clever way to add color in unlikely spaces and enjoy seasonal blooms and year-round greenery. For a low-maintenance option, consider a tropical glass terrarium.



COURTESY STUMP

Holiday Swap: Swap out your sad Charlie Brown Christmas tree with a Norfolk pine kokedama for a pop of holiday cheer in every season.

Mounted holiday cactus, $35



COURTESY STUMP



COURTESY ASHER + RYE

Antique brass party bucket, $300

FUNCTION FIRST

For the storage-challenged, devoting precious square footage to vases is typically a non-starter. That doesn't have to mean a home without floral arrangements, though, as Joel and Erika Snayd, owners of Asher + Rye, share. "Living in a townhome on Jones Street, our storage is limited, so we love when something is multifunctional, like this antique brass party bucket. This large vessel makes for the perfect wine or drink cooler and doubles as a beautiful container for large floral arrangements." With the holiday season upon us, they suggest adding this statement piece to your dining table to chill your bubbly or to hold a colorful punch of florals. Or, shake things up and try a combination of the two.