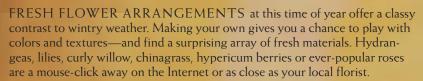


As the temperatures drop outside, warm up your creativity inside. Two Milwaukee experts offer advice on fresh floral arrangements and table setting ideas. There's more to work with than you might think.



For design pointers, we turned to Michael Gaffney, owner of Tulipomania European Flower Market and the Milwaukee School of Flower Design, to explain a few simple techniques, including pavé (pronounced pah-VAY) and zoning. Pavé is a jeweler's term and describes a close-together, cobblestone effect designed to hide a metal base. Floral designers use the concept to divide arrangements into sections; each boasts distinct colors and textures. Zoning groups similar colors or types of flowers in vases.

Michael frequently works with Dana Golubeff, display designer and linen buyer for George Watts and Son, a 135-

year-old department store in

Milwaukee. Her tabletop

# ORANGE YOU GLAD

The 11-inch-tall main arrangement uses a pavé technique (see story, left). Place floral foam in a silver vase, then set peach 'Tropical Amazon' roses head-to-head like jewels in a tennis bracelet around a silver ornament. Fill the edges with ivy, Fraser fir and hypericum. The small arrangements represent a zoning technique. similar but non-matching holders. The short silver vases hold alstroemeria and 'Candida'



# **Design ideas**

Even novices can create fresh arrangements, designer Michael Gaffney says. Here's how to get started: **BEGIN WITH A COLOR PALETTE** For Christmas, you may want traditional variations of red and green (think roses and evergreens) or white, such as lilies and tulips. But don't be afraid of something different, such as peach-colored roses and chartreuse hypericum berries. **CHOOSE FROM A LARGE SELECTION You** 

can order almost any type

of flower from a floral shop or online vendors (see our

buying guide on page xxx for sources). Look in your own yard for fresh evergreens and holly to snip as filler green**PLAN A FOCAL POINT** 

Flower design is based on how the human eye works, Michael says. Look for something your eye can focus on. An element that is heavier, more pronounced or darker goes in the center.

**DETERMINE YOUR** 

**SCALE** Decide the height and width you want your arrangement to be (low? tall? wide? narrow?), then fill that space with flowers. It sounds almost too easy, but this tip helps you select a determine the

look.

**MAKE FLOWERS LAST** 

**LONGER** A cut flower starts to deteriorate in two ways: surface evaporation and bacteria in the water, Michael says. To combat the first problem, spray the arrangement with a preservative such as Clear Crowning Glory to seal the surface. To prevent bacteria, make a fresh stem cut and let your flowers take up water for about 12 hours before adding a preservative to the water. (Small grains in the preservative can block the flower pores if you add it first.)

# ZEN PAVÉ ROSES

ngle of three roses across and five down. Fill the edges with evergreens and ivy



# **Tabletop tips**

Dana Golubeff has thousands of items to help create the George Watts & Son display tabletops, but her ideas work just as well at your house. MIX AND LAYER DIFFER-**ENT PATTERNS** "I mix a lot of expensive pieces with inexpensive items on a table, such

as little vases or napkin rings," Dana says. "I will use all the same style of water glasses, but I may add a different style of champagne flute, or add a colored goblet, or chargers, or a service plate." She also layers china styles to give her settings more depth. "It's fine to mix silver and gold," Dana says. "I like to mix shapes of plates and bowls, such as square plates on round." For layering, Dana also likes Annieglass, a dishwashersafe pressed glass with either gold or platinum rims.

#### **CHOOSE A COLOR THEME**

"Christmas can be hard to change out because of the tradition of using red and green, but you can vary the shades, such as burgundy with lime," Dana says.

### **SWITCH GEARS FOR** A FRESH LOOK Each year,

try a few inexpensive ways to change your table's look. Use different tablecloths, napkins, place-card holders or individual salt-and-pepper shakers at each place setting.

#### **ADD SOME FUN TOUCHES**

Decorate individual place settings with ornaments that can double as take-home gifts for your guests.







## TOPIARY LILIES

(Above, left) Begin with longstemmed 'Casa Blanca' lilies. tie the stems together and push them into floral foam inside a 7-inch-tall silver urn. Our design is 32 inches tall. Lilies usually last about two weeks from bud to bloom.

# FLOWERING MARTINI

(Above, right) Remove the ornament and fill the small opening with bits of flowers add water, or simply allow the flowers to wilt. Any ornament

### **ORNAMENT-AL**

(Right) Fast. Easy. Effective. Fill a martini glass with 1-inch holiday balls for a festive look. end of the evening.

## **CURLY WILLOW**

(See photo, page xx) Cut a block of floral foam to fill a rectangular tray. Measure the three square votive holders out the foam to accommodate them. Insert twigs of curly willow cut as high as you'd like Fraser fir and hypericum. ■ Stylist: Sue Ellibee

