



Ways to transform your home into

WHY NOT give a lift to your decorating scheme this year and add some unexpected touches, none of which needs to be expensive.

You need look no further than your ribbon box to fashion a bright and cheerful door trimming. Just snip off varying lengths of different colored ribbons and either tie or sew them together at the top. The more ribbons the better.

Attach a fat bow to the top and in no time at all you will have created a door decoration that will welcome guests.

For truly inspired touches one should turn to Sunny O'Neil, a floral designer and expert on Victorian Christmas traditions.

Her work is on permanent display at the Smithsonian Institution, and Christmas trees of her design have been displayed at the White House.

Although these credentials are singularly impressive, the ideas and how-to hints that she prints in "Sunny O'Neil's Flowerletter" are doable by

just about anyone.

Having a buffet dinner party? Try this dramatic arrangement from "The Flowerletter." Materials needed: six apothecary jars in varying heights, fresh flowers, votive candles, cranberries.

"Group the apothecary jars, these are the kinds of jars you probably have around the house to store pasta, beans, etc., and fill with cranberries and a taper. A single red flower, such as a carnation or ardstromaria, is inserted into each jar and supported by the cranberries.

THESE FLOWERS probably will be purchased from a florist so they'll be conditioned. If you buy them from a street vendor recut the stems about 1 inch, put them in a bucket of warm water, leave them in place until water cools, then place them in the jars. Place the jars in an uneven line on the table with votive candles and extra berries sprinkled at the base of the composition to tie it all together."

For a new tabletop Christmas tree,

O'Neil suggests a brilliant red one using cranberries again. Children could help with this one.

"Don't let decorating with cranberries bog you down. Cranberry trees are really pretty and regardless of what most articles say, they need not be tedious to make. Materials needed: cranberries, Styrofoam cone, red spray paint, optionally straight pins, needle and thread, fine wire, fresh greens.

Paint the cone red if you like. String cranberries as you would popcorn and pin the berry nearest the knot to the bottom of the cone. Most of the "how to" articles insist every berry on the whole cone has to be held in place with a straight pin, not so.

AFTER PINNING" the first berry, pin every fourth berry or so on the bottom row, then wind the berry strings around and around the cone. For a bow on top string cranberries on a fine wire 17 gauge, form it into a bow, and pin it to the top. Place the cranberry tree on a bed of greens.

Since Christmas is brightened with

candles throughout the house and in the entry hall, O'Neil shows how to create new candlestick holders from old vases.

"This unique candle holder is a large cut glass vase, the kind that spends most of its time on the shelf because it's too big and needs too many flowers to fill it.

In its new guise it is a sparkling decoration especially suitable for a hall table. Place a votive candle (with its own glass holder) in the vase, surround the base with a wreath of bed of greens and perhaps a bow for added color."

A few touches like the following and Christmas will be merrier and cheerier than ever.

"McCall's" country charm home is both whimsical and lavish. They suggest greeting guests with a spray of pine branches, accented with large pinecones and red ribbon. Wind pine boughs around a hamster or drape on a mantle. Add baskets of pinecones and red berries for old-fashioned charm.

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