

Tips for Decorating with Silk Flowers, Plants & Trees

Interior Designer **Cathy Hobbs, ASID/LEED AP**, offers the following suggestions for adding faux botanicals to your home decor:

- Tip #1: We all love the look of fresh cut flowers – but when you consider their cost and the fact that they look nice for only seven days at best, very few people can afford to have them in their home year round. Purchase several faux arrangements and rotate them periodically. You'll spend far less than you will on fresh flowers while enjoying the same look.
- Tip #2 Silk flowers, plants and trees are the essential finishing touch for any room of your home. Every room is different so think carefully about size and color. Small stylish bud vases are a perfect accent for a desk, kitchen windowsill or bathroom. Larger centerpieces that combine a variety of silk flowers are a nice permanent addition for a foyer or dining room table. Plants and grasses brighten up an office or kitchen when placed on top of bookshelves or cabinets.
- Tip #3 Furnishing an entire home can be very expensive. Consider using a tall floor plant or tree such as a Japanese maple or silver birch to fill in a large open space like an entry way or living room with a high ceiling. Silkflowers.com offers a wide selection of decorative tree and plant containers that work with any décor. A faux plant or tree adds another layer of texture to the room, creating a finished look. And you'll never have to worry about watering it either!
- Tip #4 After time we all get bored with the look of a room. Instead of spending money to reupholster furniture or purchase expensive new window treatments, use a silk flower arrangement to add new interest to a room. Silkflowers.com offers such a large variety, it's easy to find one that will complement your existing décor and bring all of the colors in a room together.
- Tip #5 Silk florals are an easy, cost-effective way to alter the look of a room for holidays and with the change of the seasons. What could be better than a beautiful silk poinsettia that you can show year after year at Christmas or a silk autumn centerpiece for your Thanksgiving table?
- Tip #6 Asian inspired accents are popular in home decorating. Consider using a faux cherry bonsai tree in pink or white or a Japanese maple tree in an Asian inspired fishbowl for larger spaces. These trees are striking and will provide just the right amount of Asian flair for your home.

Cathy Hobbs, ASID/LEED AP, is the founder of the interior design firm **aphereä** (www.apherea.com) based in Williamsburg, N.Y. Founded in 2003, aphereä is a boutique style full-service design firm that in addition to executing high-end residential and commercial interiors, offers unparalleled design services to “do-it-yourself” design enthusiasts.