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STYLE AT HOME

Decorate your Thanksgiving tabletop like a pro with these four design inspirations

KATIE LAUGHRIDGE
Tribune News Service

It could be argued that the heart of the home on Thanksgiving isn't actually the kitchen but the tabletop, where you will gather with family and friends to share in the splendor and harvest of the season. Toasts will be made, glasses clinked, and heap- ing dishes passed around.

Hosting Thanksgiving can come with a lot of pressure, but creating a beautiful tabletop doesn't have to add to the stress. We rounded up some Thanksgiving tabletop design inspiration that is sure to wow your guests – almost as much as your pumpkin pie recipe.

1 Get creative with pumpkins

Pumpkins just may be the darling of the season, so incorporating them into your tabletop decor may seem a bit too on the nose for some, but we believe that with the right pairings they can leave your tabletop feeling full of whimsy and warmth.

For this look we wanted to highlight the juxtaposition of the bright orange with the classic blue and white chinoiserie for a chic and preppy feel. Gold accents tie in the colors of the season and present as the perfect partners for this palette, highlighting its warmth with a glow that silver just couldn't have accomplished. Dainty orange pumpkins are piled high at each place setting, and mirror the orange tones found in the beautifully detailed dinner plates. White pumpkins are peppered throughout the table, adding depth to the design without taking away from the fiery autumnal centerpiece that resides at the heart of the table. White pumpkin-shaped soup tureens are the perfect unexpected



HANDOUT PHOTOS/TNS

This tabletop celebrates the rich golden hues of the fall season.

complement that are sure to bring joy to your guests.

2 Try a modern rustic look

If you're tired of orange come the Thanksgiving feast, opt for a muted, earthy tablescape with hints of fall (not the full color palette!). An early fall dinner party is the perfect way to transition to the new season and celebrate your new design.

To make your rustic, farmhouse style table a little dressier for the holiday without making it look out of place, add a voluminous, laid-back floral arrange-

ment and use woven linens. I also love the pairing of the moody dark-colored dishes with the sunflowers, black candlesticks and cream-colored serveware.

3 Lean into the colors of the season

If you love the traditional Thanksgiving look, make sure to include plenty of autumnal shades like brown, burnt orange, ivory and moss. Think neutrals are boring? No way! Not if you incorporate plenty of textures. Believe me, when peppered with rustic vessels, pampas grass and dried flowers, a mostly monotone



Gold is the theme of this tablescape, from the floral centerpiece to the dish details.

table looks incredibly elegant.

Another thing I love about this tabletop is elements of it can carry throughout the seasons to the holidays. The sentinel deer, birch tree-covered hurricane, and even the wooden candlesticks could perform double duty.

4 Let your place setting do the talking

Thanksgiving is a time to really let loose with your designs – really get creative! For example, the beautiful gilded antlers you see on the place setting? They're actually stocking hangers for the mantle. We just love what they added to this stately setting.

For me, this look is all about the place setting. A vertically

stacked place setting sets a striking tone and ensures no detail is missed, as your eye travels from the height of the centerpiece to take in the splendor of the dishes. We recommend this for an adult-only table, as stacked dishes may resemble a Jenga tower to little hands. Gold takes center stage in this design, supported by muted white pumpkins and natural elements such as raffia and tortoise detailing on the silverware.

Adapted from nellhills.com. Katie Laughridge is the owner of Kansas City interior design destination Nell Hill's. For more information, contact Katie at info@nellhills.com. ©2022 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Sometimes pests develop resistance to pesticides

JEFF RUGG
Creators Syndicate Inc.

Question: I sprayed for weeds in my yard and aphids on my roses, and neither treatment seemed to work. Do you think my two biggest pest problems have developed resistance to pesticides?

Answer: Pesticide resistance is a serious worldwide problem, but there are other possible reasons your sprays did not work. It would take genetic testing of your pests to be sure. Is it possible that you didn't follow the label directions and applied the products incorrectly?

Some products are less effective if the pH of the water you use is not correct, and they can become even less effective the longer they sit in the water before being applied. For instance, the fungicide Captan has a half-life of 32 hours in water at pH 5, but only 10 minutes at pH 8. My house's water

has a pH of 9, so I don't use Captan.

All plants, bacteria, viruses and animals are chemical factories. Insects and plants are in constant chemical battles as plants try to create toxic chemicals that stop insects and insects create methods to bypass the plant's defenses.

People use plant chemicals such as neem oil and pyrethrin and create new formulations of pesticides based on plant and insect chemicals. It should not be a surprise when plants, bacteria, viruses and animals adapt to resist pesticides just like they adapt to the other chemical toxins in their environments.

Pesticide tolerance is the natural ability of a species to survive and reproduce after pesticide treatment at a normal use rate because the species is already naturally tolerant. Because of genetic differences, tol-

erance to a pesticide can exist in individuals of a population of pests prior to the application of the pest controls.

Pesticide resistance is the inherited ability of individuals to survive a pesticide application that would kill a normal population of the same species.

Pesticides kill susceptible individuals and not resistant individuals. Resistant individuals then reproduce and may or may not pass on the ability to resist the pesticide. As more resistant individuals survive, the majority of the population becomes resistant to that pesticide. The genetic variability of the susceptible individuals is lost, meaning that the chemically resistant individuals may be weaker in other areas, such as cold tolerance. Cases of resistance have been found in all types of pests.

Genetic changes that cre-

ate resistance are not just to manmade chemicals. Some insects are now resistant to the natural bacterial insecticide Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). Other insects have changed their behavior. Mosquitoes in some places now stay outside buildings during the day. Corn rootworms in corn to soybean crop rotations spend an extra year in diapause during the soybean year.

In each general category of chemical treatment, such as herbicide, rodenticide, etc., there are groups of chemicals that work in different ways. Switching between pesticide groups with different modes of action can delay resistance. Manufacturers often recommend only a few consecutive applications of a pesticide before moving to a different pesticide group.

GARDEN Hints and Tips

Pesticide Sprays

Sprays are commonly used to suppress herbivorous sucking or chewing insects. The pH of the spray water is very important.

General Rule

- Most herbicides, insecticides and fungicides perform best in slightly acidic water (pH of 4 to 6.5)
- Water with a pH higher than 7 is alkaline. Many pesticides undergo a chemical reaction in the presence of alkaline water that reduces their effectiveness.

Half-Life

Many pesticide manufacturers provide information on the rate at which their products break down due to reaction with water. This rate is usually expressed as the 'half-life,' or the time it takes for 50% of the product to break down.



Creators.com Bob Kait

Plumber: Modern residential wall-hung toilets have a hidden feature

ED DEL GRANDE
Tribune News Service

Question: Hi Ed: I recently read your article on making a bathroom feel open and airy by choosing space-saving plumbing fixtures. You briefly mentioned a wall-hung toilet with the tank hidden inside the wall. Can we have more details on this toilet?

— Billy, New York

Answer: While the concept of a wall-hung toilet with the tank mounted inside the wall has been around for a while, today's concealed tank toilets take space-saving and toilet technology to a new level.

First, the new electronic-type models are more than just a toilet because they can include so many options. Aside from the extra leg room and the comfort height wall-hung bowl, features can include:

- A wall-mounted actuator plate with dual-flush settings

- Automatic flushing
- LED night lights
- Remote control
- Full bidet functions complete with self-cleaning UV light washing wand
- Warm air drying
- Auto-deodorizer
- Heated seats
- Hands-free seat lid opening and closing

All this plus the precious space-saving design help make a wall-hung hidden tank toilet a standout choice from the pack.

Master Contractor/Plumber Ed Del Grande is known internationally as the author of the book "Ed Del Grande's House Call," the host of TV and Internet shows, and a LEED green associate. Visit eddelgrande.com or write eddelg@cs.com. Always consult local contractors and codes. ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

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10 YEAR TAX ABATEMENT

5217 Lynx Court \$329,750

New Construction - estimated completion December 2022. Take advantage of the 10 year tax abatement. Gorgeous Elk Creek Community w/ pond and Club House. Come see this 1386 sq ft townhome w/ 2 bdrm/2bath. 2 stall heated garage and tons of additional custom amenities and upgrades included at a spec home price. UV, 60" electric fireplace, quartz tops, walk-in pantry, heated garage, and 50 gal water heater. Convenient Sioux City neighborhood and Sgt Bluff Schools. HOA \$250 per month includes, snow removal, landscape mowing/trimming, irrigation and Club House w/ pool & fitness center. Design elements subject to change and availability.

ELK CREEK, SC

10 YEAR TAX ABATEMENT

5224 Lynx Court • \$475,000

New Floor Plan - Story & 1/2, 2441 sq ft, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, oversized 2 stall heated garage. Main floor primary suite, walk-in the shower & closet, dbl vanity, open kitchen w/ island, and LR w/ fireplace & tile surround, main floor laundry and guest 1/2 bath. Upper level has 3 large bedrooms, 2 w/ walk-in closets and full bath with dbl vanity. Convenient Sioux City neighborhood and Sgt Bluff Schools. 10 yr tax abatement. HOA \$250 per month includes, Club House, fitness center & pool, snow removal, landscape mowing/trimming, irrigation. Design elements subject to change and availability.

DAKOTA DUNES, SD

Sample

814 Crooked Tree Lane • \$690,000

Welcome to the Willows at Dakota Dunes. Experience this Brand new floor plan! Story & 1/2 with main floor primary suite, laundry and luxurious open design with vaulted ceilings, wall of glass looking out onto back covered patio and gorgeous landscaped berms. 3 bedroom/2.5 bath townhome w/ oversized 2 stall garage w/ golf cart door. You will love the location and the layout. Willows HOA manages yard care, irrigation and snow removal. HOA fees to be determined.

RIVER VALLEY, NSC, SD

211 So Canterbury • \$519,750

3bdrm/2 bath's stall heated garage completion November 2022 New layout and new construction. Custom designed 1801 sq ft ranch w/ 3 bdrm, 2 bath on main floor, located in River Valley NSC, SD. Take advantage of SD tax structure 1801 sq ft open concept design to enjoy and the concrete covered deck right off the kitchen. So much potential and main floor professional custom design choices already made. Master Suite features large closet & bath, w/ dbl vanity & tile walk-in shower. Luxurious vinyl tile floors, electric fireplace, island, solid surface counters, main floor laundry and walk-in pantry. Daylight windows in lower level for amazing future finishes and Genko Rhino windows on the main. Upgraded counter tops throughout the home, heated garage and electric fireplace.

New "build-to-suit" lot listings:

2644 Albatross/Lot 25 Claret View - \$142,900
2682 Albatross/Lot 27 Claret View - \$162,900
17 Spanish Bay - Dakota Dunes - New Price - \$285,000

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STYLE AT HOME

Set the mood with chandeliers

KATIE LAUGHRIDGE
Tribune News Service

Lighting is an important part of any home and can make or break a well-designed room in the flip of a switch. I realized the other week after receiving an email from a reader that I have not touched on this important (and sometimes tricky) topic in quite a while.

She was wondering, as I am sure many are, about how to pick chandeliers for the dining room, kitchen, bedroom and family room. What are the styles available? What size is required? How do we hang them?

While hanging them isn't my specialty (thank goodness for electricians!), I do have some tips for selecting the ideal light for your rooms. (Side note: I love getting reader requests and suggestions for these articles! I am here to help, so knowing what you are looking for just gives me an excuse to dig deep into my decor knowledge and provide!)

Back to the matter at hand: the ever-elegant and eye-catching chandelier. While builders' lights can technically get the job done and prevent stubbed toes and knocked-over knickknacks, they are also often an eyesore I want to replace as soon as possible. Lighting is a statement-maker and is one of the first things you notice when walking into a room. A well-designed and placed light fixture can take a room from a 7 to a 10.

We've come a long way since the original candle chandelier days of fire hazards past, and you have hundreds of styles to choose from when add-

ing lights to your home. I personally love the grandeur of an elegant and over-the-top chandelier in the right situation, usually in the entryway or grand room of the home where the ceiling height and space allow it to fully shine.

Few things are as disappointing as a crowded chandelier. I also suggest using what I would consider more everyday options like pendants and lanterns for high-traffic areas where you want style, but more importantly, functionality. These spots include bedrooms, kitchens and bathrooms, to name a few. However, the type and style of your light fixture ultimately comes down to the use, size and shape of your room.

The math for figuring out the size for an open room chandelier or light fixture — meaning you are just centering it in the middle of the room — is quite simple to do. Start by taking the width of the room in feet and then add the length of the room in feet. For example, if my open living room is 20 feet by 15 feet, my number would be 35, which means I would be looking for a light fixture that is around 36 inches wide. When it comes to the height of the chandelier the usual rule of thumb is about 2 inches per foot (some might say 3 inches, but I don't like for my tall guests to have to duck!). This means that an 8-foot ceiling would be able to accommodate a 16-inch-tall fixture.

In the shop we tend to place our lights a little differently and center them in our displays instead of by room due to our open

concept and vignettes. This means we center our fixtures above our beds in our bedroom settings or over the coffee table in our living rooms, which is a great tip for creating individual spaces when working with an open floor plan.

Things change a bit when centering a light fixture over a specific table or area in a room. If you are going to have a chandelier in your dining room, I highly suggest centering the fixture over the table, or else it can look like you accidentally put your table in the wrong spot. The ability to do this depends on the shape of the room and lines of your ceiling, but it's a good place to start. To get technical, a light fixture over a table should be at least 12 inches narrower than the table (same goes for length to avoid bumps and bruises) and have about 45 inches of space from each of the walls in the room. So, if your table is 85 inches long, you could potentially have a fixture that is up about 72 inches long. Sometimes it can be hard or impractical to get a light that large, which is where multiple fixtures make a great solution. I love the look of matching pendants over a long table or kitchen island. I suggest trying to keep them anywhere from 25-30 inches apart when using smaller scale fixtures and keeping them 30 to 35 inches above table height.

Adapted from nellhills.com. Katie Laughridge is the owner of Kansas City interior design destination Nell Hill's. For more information, contact Katie at info@nellhills.com. ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.



ELENA ELISSEEVA, DREAMSTIME/TNS

The National Wildlife Federation says a layer of leaves is good for the environment and critters.

Why you shouldn't rake your leaves this autumn

NANCY CLANTON
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

The temperatures are dropping and the leaves are falling. They always do.

Before you pull out the rake, however, consider this: Just leave the leaves where they fall.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, fallen leaves create their own mini-ecosystem.

"Many wildlife species live in the leaf layer as their primary habitat — including salamanders, chipmunks, wood frogs, box turtles, toads, shrews, earthworms, millipedes and many insects species," David Mizejewski wrote on the federation's blog.

Some creatures use fallen leaves to sur-

vive the winter. Luna moths, great spangled fritillaries and woolly bear caterpillars (which become Isabella tiger moths) spend the colder months in leaf layers — some as eggs, some as pupae and some as adults.

"If you rake up and throw away all of your leaves this fall, you'll be getting rid of these beautiful and beneficial insects, many of which are pollinators," Mizejewski wrote.

These insects are also a food source for birds feeding their young in the spring.

Many critters rely on fallen leaves to get through the winter.

Beyond helping those creatures, you can help the environment and yourself by not bagging up the leaves and sending them to a landfill.

Yard wastes, including leaves and grass clippings, account for nearly a fifth (more than 31 million tons) of all garbage generated in the United States each year, making it the second largest component of the municipal solid waste stream, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Because leaves and grass are relatively clean and biodegradable, EPA states, there is no reason for them to be in a landfill.

Instead, use the leaves instead of buying mulch. Using leaves will "help to enrich your soil, lock in moisture and protect your plants," according to hortmag.com. It's important to shred the leaves, however. You can do this with a mulching mower, shredder or leaf blower on the vacuum setting.

Experts say a thin layer of unshredded leaves is fine, but if it gets too thick it will prevent air and water from reaching the soil.

Yard refuse, such as leaves, grass clippings, straw, and non-woody plant trimmings can be decomposed, the University of Georgia Extension states on its website. The dominant organic waste in most backyard compost piles, it says, is leaves.

Leaving the leaves will save wildlife, the environment and, possibly, your back, which are three good reasons to limit your raking this autumn.

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DESIGN RECIPES

10 ways to blend black and gold

CATHY HOBBS

Tribune News Service

Whether in fashion or home decor, the color combination of black and gold is one of the most popular. From artwork and side tables to hardware handles, the combination of black and gold is both bold and luxurious and some may argue timeless.

When looking for ways to incorporate or blend black and gold into your home, here are some top tips.

1. Choose inspirational pieces as a springboard to a black and gold color palette. Items can include artwork, furniture and even accents.

2. Repeat elements of black and gold in the same space to create a cohesive look and feel.

3. Blend black and gold accents into your space to add sparkle and sense of glam.

4. Incorporate portable design elements to add both color and texture, such as toss pillows and throws.

5. Pick large pieces to help ground a space, such as oversized pieces of art or

even mirrors.

6. Consider using the color black, as painted accent wall, door or trim color.

7. Use upholstered items like sofas and chairs as foundation elements from which to build a black and gold color story.

8. Create a sense of contrast when possible while using black and gold elements.

9. Pair black and gold with hints of green or yellow for a fresh yet unexpected sense of contrast.

10. Look for opportunities both large and small. Larger items such as upholstery and artwork can bring in elements of color, and so can smaller items such as side tables and accessories.

Cathy Hobbs, based in New York City, is an Emmy Award-winning television host and a nationally known interior design and home staging expert with offices in New York City, Boston and Washington, D.C. Contact her at info@cathyhobbs.com or visit her website at cathyhobbs.com. ©2022 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.



SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

An abundance of black and white accessories adds a sense of luxury and richness to this living space.

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HANDOUT/TNS

Black and gold artwork helps to ground and elevate this luxurious living space.

ASK THE PLUMBER



KOHLER/TNS

Upgrading to a glass door for a tub and/or shower setup can make a huge decorative difference in any bathroom.

Behind the curtain information on glass shower doors

ED DEL GRANDE
Tribune News Service

Question: Ed: We're building a bedroom addition complete with a master bath. We plan to install an alcove-type shower or tub/shower unit. We also want a glass shower door in place of a shower curtain. What glass door choices can work for us?

— Beth, Connecticut

AnsWER: Upgrading to a glass door for a tub and/or shower setup can make a huge decorative difference in any bathroom, along with the convenience of using a glass door in place of a shower curtain. The door itself can also add

value to the bathroom as well.

Basic glass door choices for an alcove shower or tub/shower can include:

Sliding tub/shower door: Two sliding glass panels for a bathtub unit that are also used for showering.

Sliding shower doors: Same concept as the tub/shower door except designed for larger shower only units.

Pivot shower door: Swinging or hinged door for smaller shower-only units.

Finally, there is a new style concept called "bath screens." This is again for

tub/shower units. It's basically a half-size glass tub door to partially enclose the shower area of the tub.

Bottom line: Even when you add up the extra costs, upgrading to a glass shower door can be a clear choice to make.

Master Contractor/Plumber Ed Del Grande is known internationally as the author of the book "Ed Del Grande's House Call," the host of TV and Internet shows, and a LEED green associate. Visit eddelgrande.com or write eddelg@cs.com. Always consult local contractors and codes. ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

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ASK ANGI

What flooring type should I install?

PAUL F. P. POGUE
Ask Angi

Flooring is easy to forget for all the same reasons it's essential. It's always there, it's the part of your house you probably touch the most, and you don't look at it very often. But high-quality flooring can make the difference between a "pretty good" room and an outstanding one.

Here are six of the most popular flooring material options and what benefits they can bring to your home.

Luxury vinyl

"Luxury vinyl is possibly the most significant development in flooring in the past decade," says Angi Interior Home Expert Rachel Zepernick. "It was considered a secondary option for a long time, but developments in technology have made luxury vinyl tiles or planks into popular options."

Luxury vinyl is available in many colors and designs, and can be installed relatively quickly. LV is durable and resistant to scratches, making it an excellent choice for families with children or pets or any high-traffic area. It tends to absorb sound, too. With proper care, luxury vinyl flooring can last decades.

Hardwood

Wood can be one of the most expensive flooring types, but it brings many benefits. These floors don't need much maintenance, and when they get worn out over time, refinishing makes them look good as new. If well-maintained, hardwood flooring can last up to 100 years. Furthermore, hardwood comes in a wide variety of colors and designs to match almost any aesthetic.

"Hardwood is an elegant and traditional material, so it's still one of the most popular flooring types, with a high return on investment," Zepernick says. "They also deliver a luxury look



MICHAEL PETTIGREW/DREAMSTIME/TNS

Different flooring options bring a variety of pros and cons.

that nearly no other flooring type can match."

Ceramic tile

Ceramic tile gives a very solid surface and minimalist, modern look that's ideal for kitchens and bathrooms. The tiles are very strong and easy to clean. They're very allergy-friendly since they're less likely to collect pollen, dust or bacteria.

Ceramic tile prices vary widely. The most basic glazed ceramic tiles might cost about \$1 per square foot, while porcelain, marble and granite tiles cost double that. For high-end tiles such as mosaic, glass, or metal, you may pay as much as \$25 per square foot. Because ceramic tiles are labor-intensive, you'll pay more for installation.

Bamboo

Bamboo grows rapidly in a

wide variety of climates. This makes it one of the most sustainable choices on the market, since bamboo is a grass that regenerates faster than hardwood trees.

Floors made from bamboo have low maintenance needs, and they're moisture resistant. Since bamboo floors are delivered pre-finished, they're easy to install.

"Bamboo's biggest drawback is that while durable in the long term, it can scratch easily," Zepernick says. "While bamboo manufacturers are expanding the variety of looks available, bamboo still has a distinct appearance that might not necessarily fit your decor."

Cork

Cork flooring is made from the bark of cork oak trees. Like bamboo, it's one of the most en-

vironmentally friendly options you can choose for your floors.

This material brings many advantages in addition to sustainability. Cork floors are slightly soft and naturally soundproof, and they maintain heat well. You won't hop out of bed and put your feet on cold hardwood with cork floors. It boasts an excellent lifespan and can last for 30 or 40 years with proper maintenance.

Cork does have its downsides. It's durable, but not as much as other materials. Pets and heavy furniture can easily cause significant damage to the floor. It also needs to be sealed every few years because it tends to absorb liquids. Direct sunlight can discolor cork over time as well.

Engineered hardwood

Engineered hardwood combines plywood with a hardwood

layer at the top and a clear acrylic finish. Engineered flooring is also much easier to install than hardwood, thus costing less for labor. The protective acrylic layer helps prevent stains and makes cleaning a breeze.

"Engineered wood brings together the best aspects of multiple wood types," Zepernick says. "It tends to be less expensive than hardwood but delivers a similar look with great durability."

However, while durable, it can still dent, scratch or gouge. And you can't repair or refinish engineered hardwood planks. You can only replace those areas.

Tweet your home care questions with #AskingAngi and we'll try to answer them in a future column. ©2022 Ask Angi. Visit at angi.com. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.