



# Setting the Stage

## *Decorating a Fireplace Mantel*

Inside this issue:

**Fireplace Mantel** 1

**ReDesign** 2

### Candles

Candles and candlesticks that accent the color of the room are often used as decorative accessories on fireplace mantels. The candle flames compliment the glow and warmth of a working fireplace and add height to the fireplace mantel display so that your eye is drawn upwards. A grouping of three candles in various heights works best. Select an aromatic candle with a scent that speaks to you for example aromas can be as subtle as gardenia to sage.

### Greenery

As the holiday season is approaching, you don't have to limit yourself to traditional holiday greenery and aromas, such as poinsettias and pine. You can use any plant or flower from bamboo to orchids to roses. Garlands draped across the mantel add a festive feel to the fireplace. Cover the mantel with evergreen branches for texture intertwined with tiny white lights or crystal snowflakes add to the festive mood of the season.

### Layering

The "three plus one" principal

that most interior designers follow is a great way of creating an interesting design for the fireplace mantel. As previously mentioned, groupings of three works best, whether it be candles or framed pictures. When you group your "three" selected objects on one side of the fireplace mantel, be sure to select objects that are different heights. Think in terms of layering and not lining them up in a row like soldiers. Experiment with bringing one forward, one visually overlapping another, or tucking one slightly behind another. The "one" object that is placed on the other side of mantel should be larger than all three objects put together.

### Mirrors

Mirrors are a classic way to decorate a fireplace mantel. They tend to expand the area in a room by reflecting light back into a room giving the illusion of more space. You can create drama by hanging a mirror with a strikingly different frame to add a little excitement to the space if that is the reaction you want to create.

Group together an arrangement of different sized and shaped mirrors with frames that are similar in colour, width, or style to create a spectacular display which draws attention to the focal point, the fireplace. Lay out and experiment, on the floor, several different arrangements with various styles until you are happy with the most appealing one. Always keep in mind, balance and proportion.

[www.fireplace.com](http://www.fireplace.com) describes several fabulous examples of arrangements. For example, six square smaller mirrors in wide frames (three over three squares or three over three diamonds) can make a great visual statement and cost much less than one large mirror with an expensive frame. A bowling pins arrangement of diamonds with tall candles or tall vases on either side to balance out the arrangement can be another interesting possibility.

Special points of interest:

- Try these simple decorating tips for your fireplace mantel
- ReDesign for the holidays



## *ReDesign for the holidays*

The time of year where we take time out to spend precious moments with friends and loved ones is almost here! With shopping to get done, gifts to wrap, cleaning projects and meal/dessert preparations, it can be quite overwhelming. On top of all of that, your home could use a few improvements and updates but that may not be in the budget at this time. It couldn't be a better time to consider a **ReDesign** of your principal rooms. Let us help in alleviating some of the stresses that come with the holidays. **ReDesign** is an amazing transforma-

tion using existing furnishings, artwork and accessories to create a unique and functional space or a dramatic room makeover. We will meet with you to assess your personal preference profile and will address specific needs or requirements. We will find the best arrangement for **your** furnishings by establishing the ideal balance, scale and beauty in your space. We will return to **transform** your space into a charming, functional and comfortable space that uniquely highlights and reflects your personal style.



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[www.stssettingthestage.ca](http://www.stssettingthestage.ca)