

THE INSIDER

Expert Insights . Ideas to Try . What to Buy

Trellis, Accents of France. Chandelier, Niermann Weeks. Armchairs, Bungalow 5. Pillows fabric, Martyn Lawrence Bullard. Blue ceramic stool, Made Goods. Wicker planter (left), Amanda Lindroth. White pedestal planters, Wisteria. White pot, Ben Wolff Pottery. Plants, Costa Farms and Plantz. Floor tiles, Cement Tile Shop.

buzz Power Plants

The greenery trend is taking root. Houseplants, long the second fiddle (-leaf fig) to flowers, are gaining ground as a motif and a decor element, with a popularity unrivaled since the fern-crazed 1970s. Turn the page to dig in—there's no macramé, we promise.

To Have and to Hold

Even a simple philodendron comes to life in the right pot. Here, eye-catching planter pairings with style to spare.



1. A can't-kill faux fern that's sold in its own moss-dappled pot. Large Maiden Hair Fern. \$395. dianejameshome.com

2. Dial back the trendiness of a *Monstera* (aka Swiss cheese plant) with a rustic basket weave. *Monstera*. \$112. plantz.com. Large Aged Woven Planter. Terra-cotta. \$79. Iron Plant Stand. \$44. Aged Terra-Cotta Saucers. From \$12

each. campodeffiori.com

3. Tapering gray clay shows off a yucca cane's long, lean trunk. Yucca Cane. \$22. costafarms.com. Milton Pot #6. \$50. benwolffpottery.com. Iron Plant Stand. \$42. campodeffiori.com

4. Trailing ivy feels fresh in a chunky bowl-shaped planter. Ivy. \$15. costafarms.com. Aged Copa Planter. Terra-cotta. \$60.

Iron Plant Stand. \$97. campodeffiori.com

5. The pot's etched ridges mimic the snake plant's sleek, upright leaves. *Sansevieria*. \$10. costafarms.com. Kōbenler Dotted Pot, \$18, and Saucer, \$6. Terra-cotta. shopterrain.com

6. Chinese evergreen sheds its dowdy, dentist-office rep thanks to black-and-white jasperware.

Aglaonema creta. \$38. plantz.com. Burlington Pot. Jasperware. \$100. wedgwood.com

7. An elegant tureen-turned-cachepot keeps the focus on a *Calathea*'s lush, colorful leaves. *Calathea*. \$10. costafarms.com. Pont Aux Choux Soup Tureen in white. By Gien. \$304. fxdougherty.com

8. Contrast a Blue Star

fern's floppy, whimsical fronds with a wicker-look cachepot. Blue Star Fern. \$15. costafarms.com. Shadow Stripe Cachepot. By Roy Hamilton. Ceramic. bunnywilliamshome.com

On wall: Hedgerow Trellis wallpaper. yorkwall.com. *On table:* Zhen Fen fabric. pinturastudio.com. *Items without prices are available through a designer.*

Nursery School

Attention, late bloomers: You can still learn the ABCs of using vegetation as decoration. Take note as designers dish the dirt.



Don't Fear Going All-In

Frank de Biasi is such an enthusiast for the power of plants—"They bring literal life to a space"—that he didn't skimp on the greenery in the living room of his Park Avenue apartment. To create a tropical-garden vibe, he anchored the corners with arcing palms, sprinkled in short snake plants, and defined the area with a philodendron climbing a screen. Combined with the room's floral prints and bold strokes of color, "it's an escape from the city's drab grayness."

PHOTOGRAPHERS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: STEPHEN KENT JOHNSON; FERNANDO BENGOCHEA; VICTORIA PEARSON

Know the Limitations

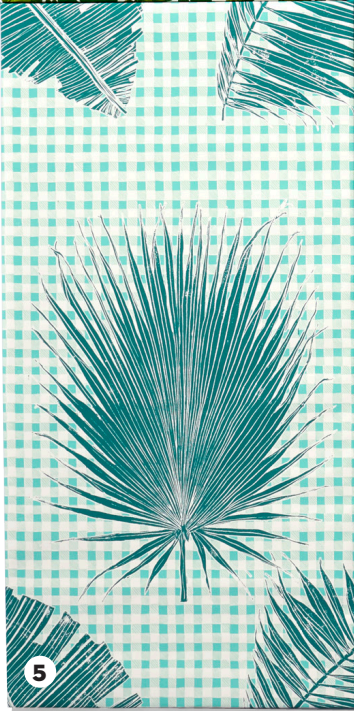
For the foyer of a Los Angeles home, Peter Dunham chose boxwood—the classic garden shrub—for its low, compact shape: "In this busy entry, anything tall would be intrusive." Set in a rustic terra-cotta pot and pruned into a ball to echo the circles on the settee's print, the easy-to-trim-and-train topiary (it thrives indoors!) welcomes guests with a "happy horticultural hello," he says. "It signals that this is a home where caring and nurturing happen."



Go Over the Top

David Netto's solution for adding drama to the double-height living room of a boho New York City apartment: a full-size palm tree. "The room is old-world Russian and exotic—Tolstoy would feel right at home," he says. "I needed an exclamation point, something to delight and dominate. You don't get that with an ashtray." Set amid sumptuous textiles and embroidered curtains, the plain terra-cotta planter "is perfect. There's already enough fancy here."





A New Leaf

With overscale, abstract, and painterly patterns, these leafy fabrics and wallpapers are anything but one-dimensional.

1. Chiswick Fern Fabric in yellow. By Ferran Textiles. Linen-cotton blend. johnrosselli.com

2. Costa Tropica Palm Fabric in Palmetto. Polyester. \$117 per yard. ralphlaurenhome.com

3. Fig Fabric in Cypress. Linen. \$142 per meter. fannyshorter.com

4. Fiddle Leaf Fig Wallpaper in Green Mist Blue. ferrickmason.com

5. Gingham Jungle Wallpaper in Jade. \$254 per five-yard roll. kranehome.com

6. Clive Fabric in Elephant Leaf. Linen. raoultextiles.com

7. Fern Stripe Fabric in Lime Green/Blue. By Jean Monro. Cotton. clarencehouse.com

8. Ferns Wallpaper in Light Greens on Blue. \$138 per roll. megbraffdesigns.com

9. Mille Feuille Wallpaper in Sky. By Raoul Dufy. christopherfarrcloth.com

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