



natural beauty

As you prepare to open the door of your home this holiday to welcome family and friends, find inspiration in these inviting wreaths created by Circle Home and Design. The floral-designing trio of Karen Pearson, Vicky Vernile and Jayne Langton adds flair to basic greenery in these festive outdoor winter wreaths. Written by Natalie Bahadur
Photography by Stacey Brandford

SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE HILLCREST – A VALENOVA INN & SPA, PORT HOPE, ONT.

citrus twist

A colourful delight of citrus and aqua, the Van-kleek Hill wreath is named after the small eastern Ontario town where many of the design's dried elements grow naturally. *Setaria*, *Celosia*, hill flower, and blue, green and aqua hydrangeas sit in a dried greenery base; accents of faux amaryllis, lemons and limes add vibrant colour.



leafy simplicity

► Abundant layers of magnolia leaves (the stand-alone element in this classic wreath) are wonderfully rich and luxurious. The thick leaves curl naturally as they dry, says Karen, giving the design fabulous depth and texture. "This wreath looks great year-round." ►



country manor

Think fireside leather club chairs, winter tweeds and a rambling English country manor. That, Karen says, is the inspiration for The Country Estate wreath, which combines bay leaf

and magnolia with dried fruit and artichokes, and a flourish of pheasant feathers. When it's not making a statement on a front gate, this wreath is perfect for a den or library.



bird song

The aptly named Partridge in a Pear Tree wreath is a playful depiction of the favourite Christmas carol. Green berries, jewelled pears and, of course, a feathery partridge nestled amid a base of seasonal greenery give this traditional wreath a dash of something special. A subtle but sophisticated colour palette of green, silver and white adds easy elegance, while the generous handmade silk bow with beaded fringe keeps it light and lively. ▶



christmas classic

"This traditional wreath embodies the holidays," says Karen. All-natural materials include a fragrant mixture of fresh incense cedar, white pine tips and seeded eucalyptus. Elegant accents of rosehips, sumac and pinecones, and a cheerful red-and-green tartan bow dress it up.

individual style

► A gate becomes personal and welcoming with a monogram wreath on it. Made with fresh boxwood secured to a wire form, the oversize script initial adds instant impact to an entryway. The greenery, Karen says, will maintain its colour and shape for many months in outdoor temperatures; once dried, it can be hung indoors as well.

decor outdoors

How can you ensure your wreath weathers the winter with style and durability? Karen Pearson of Circle Home and Design shares her tips on choosing and caring for outdoor wreaths.

- **Choose a wreath to complement the style of your home.** For traditional, go with fresh evergreens, red and green colours, and tartan ribbon; for contemporary, try neutral colours and clean lines.
- **Ensure the colours of the wreath and the surface it hangs against complement each other.**
- Consider the size of the wreath, as **it should be in proportion to its surroundings**, such as a door or window.
- **Go for an evergreen-based wreath made with fresh pine, boxwood or cedar** – all excellent choices for the outdoors, as cool temperatures help them last the full season. One made from dried natural materials should be brought indoors on wet, windy days.
- **Avoid hanging your wreath in direct sunlight** to prevent fading.
- **Hang your wreath in a protected area** like an overhang or porch. On blustery days, you may want to bring it indoors until the storm is over.

for info about The Hillcrest – A Valenova Inn & Spa, see WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 194