

Wild and WONDERFUL

Embrace botanicals, both printed and fresh, and use them to add the wow factor. Floral designer Heike Hayward demonstrates how to make it work beautifully





Advances in digital printing have had a huge impact on fabrics and wallpapers, with oversized flowers and leaves appearing in almost every collection. Floral designer Heike Hayward has embraced this trend wholeheartedly with a range of florals, which she's translated onto wallpaper, fabrics, table linen and even rugs, all available at her new shop in Stellenbosch, Fleur le Cordeur. Combine these with lush indigenous foliage, she advises, to surround yourself with nature's beauty.

1 GO FOR GREEN

If a whole wall in a floral is a bit daunting, then restrict it to a scatter cushion and concentrate on lush greenery instead. For maximum impact, Heike dressed a plain mantelpiece with a number of white vases, which she filled with rose bush branches, sprigs of salvia, creepers such as ivy and philodendron, and succulent spekboom. Heike's advice is to choose containers and vases that can hold a lot of stems such as her head vases.



2 IN FULL BLOOM

When using oversized designs as wallpaper, choose a plain fabric for the furniture (like this ochre sofa) to create a strong contrast, especially if you're including a floral rug as well. Keep the look light with openwork metal tables. Bring it to life with aloes and trailing

foliage, such as ivy and helichrysum. If you don't have suitable vases, Heike recommends wrapping vessels with fabric offcuts secured with ribbon as she did on the table at the back. "This looks very effective for a themed occasion or in a dull space," she says. ▷



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3 CLEAR INTENTIONS

No room on the coffee table for a lush foliage arrangement? Opt for a transparent coffee table in glass or acrylic and place the arrangement underneath. “This way it looks decorative and fun, but doesn’t take up surface space,” says Heike, who used dracaena, ruscus and philodendrons in her composition.

HEIKE’S TIP:

“In these settings I’ve used a combination of indigenous and exotic greenery. There’s no waste, as a lot of the branches and leaves can be placed in water to root or in a pot filled with a mix of river sand and compost until they root and then planted in the garden.”

4 WELCOME HOME

“If your entrance hall is bland, make an impact with a bold arrangement,” Heike encourages. “It doesn’t have to be large. You can supplement existing potted plants with strelitzia and banana leaves and strands of ivy. Add a couple of stinkwood branches. It’s all about working with what you have and what is readily available in your garden.”

5 SETTING THE SCENE

A beautiful table shows your guests that you care. Create a romantic,

jungle vibe with lots of leaves.

“You don’t have to buy anything,” insists Heike. “Pick some trailing branches and leaves from the garden or the side of the road. Arrange them down the centre of the table for a natural organic feel.” Here she’s complemented ivy and philodendrons with her large floral napkins. “The secret here is to stick to fresh green foliage. Another idea is to introduce succulents, which will last a number of days and can then be replanted in the garden.”

6 ROMANTIC INTERLUDE

In a bedroom where you are asleep for most of the time, you can go for sensory overload, says Heike, who showed how effective the layering of different floral designs can be. The Beau wallpaper, Beau headboard and Roelene scatter are all available from her store. For the nightstand, she kept it simple, mixing pretty granadilla vine with strelitzia leaves and salvia sprigs in pastel coloured glassware, which complements the bedlinen. **GH**

SOURCE Fleur le Cordeur fleurlecordeur.co.za

