



Center Stage

AUTUMNAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT TELL A STORY. BY KELLEY L. MOORE

Seattle holds onto summer late into September, but when the leaves finally turn, and those moody, layered days of autumn are once again upon us, we don't complain. After all, this is a spectacular season for hikes and area explorations, and returning home from a fall jaunt with a few appropriately foraged souvenirs is a great start to bringing the Northwest fall inside.

Go beyond the conventional hanging dried corn husks to create a harvest-celebrating centerpiece that pleases the eye and has a narrative that will invite conversation. For example, craft a

mélange of artifacts found during a weekend getaway to the islands, including shells, fading grasses and a bur-nished leaf or two on a decorative tray. Add sepia-toned and black-and-white photographs of family and friends captured during autumns past and lodged in frames that evoke the season. Fallish frames in light and dark woods can be found at **Zanadia** (Wallingford Center, 1815 N 45th St.; 206.547.0884; zanadia.com), **Capers** (716 N 34th; 206.545.7876) and **Frame Up Studios** (3515 Fremont Ave. N; 206.547.4657). Fill your great-grandmother's bridge

Above: Kelley L. Moore and her favorite fall centerpiece. This sweet vignette features a piece of folk art, a Debbee Thibault angel (Tableau, 2220 NW Market St.; 206.782.5846) and vintage bottles filled with wheat and fresh mums sitting on a vintage silver tray (Fremont Antique Mall, 3419 Fremont Ave. N; 206.548.9140) that's capped by a cloche.

PHOTOGRAPHY
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Page 29: Don't have your great-grandmother's bridge trophies? Visit flea markets, junk stores and antique shops and peruse their treasures. By adding a small bottle or votive candle holder filled with water at the bottom you can transform any object into a unique container for your fresh fall arrangements. (Vintage trophies, \$8 each, Deluxe Junk, 3518 Fremont Place N; 206.634.2733).

This page: Mixing flora and fauna, layering various materials with a favorite sculpture or piece of art, adds depth to any arrangement. These cut-crystal candlesticks (\$38 each, Tableau) grounded by iron pigeons (Moore's own) and accented by orange roses and fuchsia lamb's ear create a romantic look. Don't restrict your centerpiece to the actual center of the table; off-center placement will add visual interest.

trophies with fresh flowers and meaningful stories will be shared over a mug of hot spiced cider. Pick fruits and vegetables of the season and fill a fabulous wood bowl (**Northwest Fine Woodworking**, 101 S Jackson St.; 206.625.0542; nwfinewoodworking.com) with green apples, pomegranates or gourds. Or, for a literal autumnal glow, gather together some of **glassy-baby's** (435 NE 72nd St.; 206.568.7368; glassybaby.com) hand-blown, fall harvest-hued glass votives (\$35 each) and display on a pedestal tray (espresso-toned turned wood tray, \$79, available at **Pottery Barn**; potterybarn.com).

A little imagination will keep your home and heart full of fall's beauty. ✦

Kelley L. Moore is president and creative director of her own event-planning company (kelleylmoore.com).

TIP Autumn proves the ideal time to dry hydrangeas and other late-blooming flowers, preserving their colors deep into the season. Wait until the blooms begin to dry on the shrub, then simply cut them, strip the leaves and arrange in your favorite container without water to dry. If you want the vibrant color of a fresh hydrangea you will need to suspend the entire bloom in silica gel, holding it upside down and completely covering the bloom. After four days you can gently pour out the silica gel and the hydrangea is preserved and ready to arrange. *K.L.M.*

