

A photograph of a sunlit living room. In the center is a white fireplace mantel with a large, ornate gold mirror. On the mantel are two blue and gold vases and a bouquet of flowers. The wall behind the mantel is light blue with white paneling. To the left and right are cream-colored armchairs with dark wood frames. In the foreground is a round, ornate metal coffee table with a glass top, holding a white teacup and saucer and a bowl of fruit. A small table to the right holds a potted plant with red flowers. The floor is light wood.

Sun Country Elegant

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NATURE'S BOUNTY

Forget accessories that feature beautiful fruits and vegetables—use the real thing! It's only natural to plop flowers fresh from the garden into a vase and on a table or to pluck a bunch of fruit and pile it on a plate or in a basket for the kitchen counter. These simple gestures can look elegant indeed. It's also elegant to follow the example of baroque-era paintings and pile extravagant mounds of glorious fruits, vegetables, and flowers on huge trays. Palm Beach interior designer Jack Phillips does this with real aplomb and artful effect. The trick is to:

- ✦ Use the freshest fruit, flowers, and vegetables—and only for a brief period.
- ✦ Choose containers that are just as rich-looking as the fruit—like an over-scaled porcelain platter, lacquered tray, painted-wicker or French wire basket, silver box, or glass bowl.



Opposite and above: Designer Jack Phillips uses nature's bounty—fantastic fruits and plants—as very tasteful, highly decorative, and ultimately edible accessories. His secret: heaps of various fruits for contrast.

- ✱ Think texture. Mix shiny with matte surfaces. Tuck in tree branches, twigs, or leaves with fruit. Add polished stones, shiny seashells, or colored marbles. Tie a silk ribbon around a bowl, vase, or basket handle.
- ✱ Adopt a more-is-better attitude. Never stop at two of anything when four will look better.
- ✱ Layer your arrangements. Circle your container of fruit or vegetables with smaller arrangements, such as ceramic cups filled with baby's breath or Queen Anne's lace. Add large chunky candles to the mix.
- ✱ Get more attention by using exotic fruits or vegetables or unusual combinations.
- ✱ For a dressy living room, use a decorative vegetable in a fancy container.
- ✱ Leave fruit and vegetables in edible condition. Do not fold, bend, spindle, or mutilate them so that they go from display to dump. Plan to have your cake and eat it, too, so to speak. Practicality can be very elegant.

WINDOW DRESSINGS

Add to the interior view with window finery. Architecturally rich windows need not be dressed when privacy or light control are not issues. But just the right window treatment adds an extra dimension to even the most artful architecture. It may add exciting pattern, intriguing texture, or a softening line that turns the window into a focal point or finishing touch.

It is not necessary to invent a new and different window treatment. Traditional window treatments have proven themselves over time. New fabrics and trims update these timeless treatments, keeping them fresh and beautiful.

No window treatment should look contrived. Simplicity is the key to true elegance. The simplest of draperies, together with unique or special hardware, will transform a plain-Jane window into a focal point. For example, plain beige linen panels with tab tops hung over an iron pole