

WARM YOUR HEARTH

Fireplace décor that makes an artistic statement—even without the fire

By Adriene Biondo

HISTORICALLY, WINTER HAS BEEN a wonderful time for gathering family and friends at home around a warm, inviting fire. That engaging glow oftentimes seems to transform a fireplace into a welcoming focal point that turns a mere house into a cozy home with year-round enjoyment.

However, owning a fireplace doesn't mean always having to build a fire. There are a multitude of ideas that easily convert an unit or out-of-service fireplace into a fabulous centerpiece, an option that is particularly timely considering the state's vital Spare-the-Air regulations and bans surrounding wood-burning fireplaces.

One popular way to liven up a fireplace that's not in use is with sculptural fireplace candelabra, which fit neatly

into fireplace boxes, and are easy to use, operating with votive candles, or with standard or LED tea lights.

Another trend in fireplace décor is to consider your entire fireplace, mantel, and surround as a single cohesive design element. Thinking literally outside the box offers endless artistic opportunities—from displaying a bold sculpture or painting, to arranging a collection of pottery, to showcasing flowering orchids or plants.

As a word of caution, never leave a fire or candles unattended; and be sure that fireplace accessories are out of the reach of small children.

Here's hoping you find inspiration among our dozen fireplace statements below, and you're able to bring out the beauty of your hearth all year long.

1 Aura Life Sculptural Insert

Since this fiery custom-made sculptural insert gives the illusion of dancing flames, there is no fire needed, though candleholders can add a nice touch. Can also be used as a tabletop candleholder. 14 inches high x 17 inches long x 4 inches wide. Made to order, can also be custom sized. \$180. auralifefore.com



2 Plow & Hearth Candelabrum

This double-tiered iron candelabrum provides the ambience of a fire minus the hassle of building one. Durable iron construction. Holds seven candles (not included). 21-1/4 inches wide x 12 inches deep x 10 inches high. Imported. \$79. plowhearth.com

3 Birch Log Candleholder

For a traditional look, set up this 15-votive birch-log candleholder, which features three tiers of natural birch logs. Each piece is handmade and unique with varying coloration and bark textures. Can be used indoors or outdoors. 6-18 votive option. Fits standard 1.5-inch tea lights. Free shipping. \$115. thebirchhomeco/etsy.com

4 Fleur De Lis Bird Candelabrum

Introduce a bit of woodland-inspired style with this perched-bird design that completes your hearth with a combination candelabrum and screen. Compatible with either votives or tea lights. Constructed of dark brown wrought iron. 26 inches high x 26 inches wide x 5 inches deep. Imported. \$184. wayfair.com

5 Sundberg Fire Glass

Add vibrancy, reflections, and efficiency to your indoor fireplace (or outdoor fire pit) with non-melting, high-temperature lava glass. Heat-resistant Sundberg recycled fire glass is non-toxic and safe to use, with no fumes. Available in a dozen colors. Average glass size is one-half inch. Ten pound bag: \$66. wayfair.com



7 Lurdes Tree-Themed Screen

This tree-themed single-panel screen adds an artistic accent to a working or non-working fireplace. Hand-forged with hammered-iron finish in brushed gold. 32 inches high x 48 inches wide x 6 inches deep. \$358. wayfair.com

8 Bedford Firescreen

The Bedford Firescreen adds versatility to a contemporary- or classic-style room. Free-standing, single-panel screen adds flair by day or by night. Constructed of high-quality steel in a burnished brass finish. 39 inches wide x 8 inches deep x 31 inches high. Recommended for indoor use only. \$599. potterybarn.com

6 Pilgrim Fireplace Screen

Woodlands' 'Pilgrim' single-panel contemporary fireplace screen features an elegant, intersecting pattern that adds mid-century style by day or night. Matte black, natural iron finish. 39 inches x 31 inches. Hand forged; allow one-eighth inch tolerance due to hand forging. Lifetime warranty. \$304. woodlanddirect.com

9 Faux Coral

For a seaside touch, lacy white coral brings texture to an interior fireplace display. Add depth by displaying multiples. Offered in two sizes: 16 inches wide x 6 inches deep x 13-inches high, or 20 inches wide x 6 inches deep x 20.75 inches high. Resin-mounted onto a black MDF base. Imported. \$129. potterybarn.com

10 Heath Ceramics Cluster

World-renowned Heath Ceramics are a pride to own and display around the home and as a handsome grouping in and around a fireplace. Edith and Brian Heath founded Heath Ceramics in Sausalito in 1944. Shop Heath online or visit their Bay Area brick-and-mortar retail locations. Prices vary. heathceramics.com

11 Transparent Forms Cluster

Blown-glass vessels dazzle the eye with their shapely silhouettes and jewel-tone colors, easily lending themselves to a candlelit fireplace setting. Sizes range from 5-20 inches high, and 4.5-10 inches in diameter.

Colors (L to R): turquoise, saffron, lime, orange, cobalt, ruby, and hyacinth. \$255 and up. artfulhome.com



12 Moonbeam Log Insert

Add charm and character to your fireplace with this handcrafted stacked fireplace cover insert. Made from dried cedar/juniper cut in various depths .5-2.25 inches; and in widths 24-50 inches x 20-40 inches high. Arranged on cabinet-grade plywood with your choice of stain. \$220 and up. moonbeamwoodworks/etsy.com

Photography: courtesy fireplace product suppliers