

HOME DECOR

Going Green

Brighten up your living space by incorporating custom plant designs.

BY VIRGINIA SHANNON



With the autumn months almost upon us, and outdoor gardens starting to fade from bloom, now might be the right time to bring the garden indoors. For those who've struggled to keep potted houseplants alive—or been looking for a unique way to add some color to their living environments—here are three customizable solutions that purify the air and invite in some creative flair.

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PRESERVED MOSS WALL ART

Maintenance level: None

Various shades and textures of moss interact in a dynamic, framed artwork, custom-created for your space by Beth Tirapelli and Mari Breitenbach, co-owners of **Urban Garden Studio** in Danville. “The nice thing about moss is that you don’t have to have a green thumb,” Tirapelli says. “Once it’s put up, you don’t have to do anything; there’s literally no maintenance.” That’s because the moss has been naturally preserved to maintain its look and feel through the years. The designers can make moss art in any size or shape, build an elaborate (or basic) reclaimed-wood frame for it, and tailor the whole piece to your environment. urbangardenstudio.com.



CUSTOM PLANTERS

Maintenance level: Low

Rather than a traditional potted houseplant, consider a different type of presentation, such as a glass-walled terrarium (pictured above) or hanging air planter. **Sloat Garden Center**, with five locations across the East Bay, creates custom planters for clients who want their greenery to blend with—or stand out from—their decor. Alexandra Friedman, the head of community outreach at Sloat’s Pleasant Hill location, has even made planters out of client-provided seashells and hand-carved woods. She notes that terrariums and air plants—which derive most of their nutrients from the atmosphere—are particularly low-maintenance, only requiring watering once a week and clipping and grooming once a year. Sloat also offers workshops to help people design their own arrangements, as well as plant-care classes. “We are dedicated to helping our guests succeed with plants,” Friedman says. “It’s more than selling a planter; we make sure it’s the right one to fit their lifestyle and tastes.” sloatgardens.com.

LIVING WALL

Maintenance level: Moderate

Looking for a vibrant vertical installation that changes and evolves over time? Emeryville’s **Planted Design** specializes in living walls (above), encompassing many different types of plants, for indoor and outdoor spaces.

“Based on the environment where the wall will live, we select plants from hundreds of species,” explains Amanda Goldberg, the company’s founder and CEO. “We consider color, texture, pattern, fragrance, and size in order to achieve the greatest aesthetic effect.” These installations require water, sunlight, and occasional pruning; however, Planted Design can recommend irrigation systems and offers maintenance packages and education programs to support the living wall’s needs. For those who aren’t ready to commit, the company offers customizable living-wall rentals, too. plantedesign.com.