



FUNCTIONAL FASHIONABLE

Save a Piece of Summer

Marin Rose

My particular brand of organizing has a strong aesthetic influence. I believe that mostly form and function make good partners, which is how my organizing business evolved into light decorating, too. When I'm working with a client, I often start with cleaning out the media console and end with moving the sofa. It's a thorough home makeover, from inside out.

With the last gasp of summer at hand, it's a nice time to think about saving a piece of it to warm your décor as we head into fall. So this month I offer up a few simple tips for natural, affordable fall accessorizing.

While they're still to be had, cut a few blooms from the flowering plants in your garden. Arrange them in a vase or a different vessel, such as a pitcher or bowl, without water. They'll start out with the full color of summer and dry into earthy, textural features throughout the coming weeks. Hydrangea is a perfect choice.

Clip sprigs of greenery, delicate branches and grasses to hang on a door, lay across a table or stand in a tall vase. Last year I enjoyed my first southern winter with a few of these simple arrangements placed throughout my home.

As much as I love avocado, I've noticed recently that its season has come to an end in Georgia. I've purchased one too many from the store, where they appeared deceptively ripe, only to find them hard and flavorless at dinnertime. Avocado seeds, however, are beautiful year round. Their rich, chestnut-like appearance makes them a great alternative to decorating with the ubiquitous pinecone, and they're a small reminder of the creamy, fresh goodness of summer guacamole. Wash them thoroughly and collect in a glass bowl or use them as vase filler.

If you're crafty, it's tempting to take these ideas to the next level, creating wreaths and swags, and carving tiny cornucopias into the avocado seeds. If those projects bring you pleasure, by all means, craft away! Just remember that if you're short on time and over-extended with back-to-school pressures, keeping it simple is as beautiful an option as any.

Above all, keep in mind that the beauty of plants and flowers is partly in their temporality. In a few weeks or months, the dried blossoms that graced your September home will have become washed-up, decaying garbage, at which point they should be laid to rest in the proper trash receptacle. There'll be new buds to enjoy come spring. In the meantime, a few new covers for your throw pillows are lasting, and make a dramatic difference in your home's seasonal flavor without too much time or expense.

Questions? Email [functionalFashionable@gmail.com](mailto:functionalfashionable@gmail.com).



Marin Rose owns and operates Functional, Fashionable, a professional organizing, decorating & home staging company. For more information, visit functionalFashionable.com.