

# nesting

# style

PERSONAL SHOPPER SARA GLASSMAN

## Quick mantel makeovers



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• Freshen your mantel for change ideas. Try these easy seasonal spark to your home.

By MARY CAROL GARRITY • Scripps Howard

### IDEAS

- Fill a beautiful vase with seasonal picks, such as gerbera daisies for summer.
- Art such as vintage botanicals or a garden pot with an aged patina.
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- A wreath of seasonal blooms and an apothecary jar filled with lemons.
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- A tray decorated with a summer scene.
- Glass-walled lanterns holding candles.
- Tall candlesticks accented with glass cloches covering a bird figurine.
- A weathered garden statue such as ivy topiaries in globe- or circle-shaped.
- A formal silver tray.
- A pot filled with seasonal greens.



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**TIPS**  
**Overlapping items** slightly adds visual interest.  
**Display items** with different heights to give your still life movement and eye appeal.  
**Build layered displays** with an odd number of pieces.  
**Arrange them in a triangle**, with the tallest in the center; place small- and medium-sized pieces on each side.  
**Arrange them in a V**, with the taller pieces on each side and a smaller piece between them.  
**Mix rustic and refined** pieces for drama.



### LOCAL JEWELRY DESIGNER

Liz Oie  
[www.oiejewelry.com](http://www.oiejewelry.com)  
 Available at Epitome, 3395 Galleria, Edina  
 952-920-2978

I don't wear a lot of jewelry, but I adore this local designer's flair for classics that feel modern and fresh. She also uses only gold, sterling silver and semiprecious stones. A version of this necklace and earrings set was auctioned off at the Starkey Hearing Foundation Gala in June.



Here are some of my Twin Cities favorites.

JOEL KOVAMA  
 Star Tribune

### CLIQUE

Wayzata  
 She peddles cutting-edge European designers, like this dress (McQ by Alexander, \$478). It's fun to browse the whole Minnetonka during the summer.

### BEAUTY LINE

elli.com

This local salon has extensive hair care and body products developed in Burnsville. This new addition to the line, **Moisturizing Fig Body Spray (\$17)**, gives your body a nongreasy sheen and has a subtle fragrance that doesn't overpower.



### LOCAL HANDBAG ENTREPRENEURS

Urban Junket  
 Available at [www.urbanjunket.com](http://www.urbanjunket.com)  
 Grethen House N'etc  
 3928 W. 50th St., Edina  
 952-926-8725  
 While working for Best Buy, Tracy Dyer and Tracy Arnold wanted chic, sophisticated laptop bags. They searched and couldn't find anything up to their style standards, so the twosome decided to design their own. Their leather computer bags will debut this fall. In the meantime, the two have been producing other bags, such as Gabs for Urban Junket (\$283, pictured). It's available in different sizes and converts into six shapes; there's also a detachable shoulder strap.



## A cooler float

• These five pool hammocks made a splash with the teams of testers.

By CHARLES PASSY  
 Wall Street Journal

If you're going to get in the pool, you might as well get wet.

That's the idea behind a new generation of hammock-style pool floats that keep you partially in the water. They often have some netting at the bottom or an angled design that's partly above and partly below the surface — letting you lie back and keep cool at the same time. And they generally cost less than \$75. Manufacturer SwimWays has expanded its line of hammocks from three versions to more than 20 since 2004, adding models with recliner-style footrests and cup holders. PoolToy.com, an online merchant, says hammock floats are among its biggest sellers, with sales for the category growing at least 20 percent annually over the past few years.

This called for a strenuous day at the pool. We bought five and took them for a dip with a group of water-lovers aged 8 to 50. The floats all made a big splash with the testers — and the designs did spare us the unpleasant surprise of getting reacquainted with the water after an afternoon of floating in the sun. But one model stood out: the Kelsys Deluxe Water Hammock Pool Float, for \$29.99 from Alsto's. Its inflatable frame and mesh bottom made us feel as if we were serenely suspended in zero gravity. Just as important, the float could fold up easily for storage — for those sad days you have to leave the water.



ALSTO.COM

### DELUXE WATER HAMMOCK POOL FLOAT (Best Overall and Best Value, pictured above)

Alsto's  
[alsto.com](http://alsto.com); 1-800-447-0048  
 \$29.99 (Last week, it was on sale for \$24.99); standard shipping adds \$9.99

**The good:** Float — a "mesh bed" surrounded by inflatable framing — keeps you positioned gently on the water. "So comfy," said one tester.

**The bad:** It takes a while to get a feel for how to fold up the product into its flat, circular carrying case, but it's cleverly designed.

**The shopping:** For a general retailer, Alsto's carries a surprising number of cool water-oriented items, including a floating "snack buoy."

### MUMMY SHAPED POOL HAMMOCK

PoolToy.com  
[pooltoy.com](http://pooltoy.com); 1-877-766-5869  
 \$26.95; standard shipping costs \$9.33

**The good:** If you like purely inflatable floats, here's an option — it's more like an inner tube with some plastic in the middle for support. Testers thought it was a cute idea.

**The bad:** PVC float wasn't as comfortable as the others; one kid tester said it was too "bouncy."

**The shopping:** Smooth. Lots of toys and floats here.

### AQUA HAMMOCK UNSINKABLE FOAM LOUNGE FLOAT

Comfort1st.com  
[comfort1st.com](http://comfort1st.com); 1-443-539-1440  
 \$69.95; shipping costs \$10.95

**The good:** Dense foam hammock felt durable and angled shape offered "the preferred amount of wetness," according to one tester.

**The bad:** As with all but the Best Overall, your legs dangle in the water, which might not be as comfortable for taller people. Its all-foam construction takes up more storage space.

**The shopping:** Looking for a pricier toy? Company sells a water trampoline for \$2,500.

### ALOHA MESH HAMMOCK

PoolRafts.com  
[poolrafts.com](http://poolrafts.com); 1-800-605-8007  
 \$19.95; standard shipping is \$6.95

**The good:** Simple and straightforward. It's a piece of mesh fabric with inflatable tubes at both ends.

**The bad:** There's so little framing on this hammock that you can end up sinking fairly deep. Plus, the inflatable ends weren't as cushy. A spokeswoman says the float is popular with people who want to get really wet.

**The shopping:** Site has more than 500 pool rafts, from one in the shape of an orange slice to an "air mat" for two.

### POOLMASTER HAMMOCK WATER LOUNGER

Sports Authority  
[sportsauthority.com](http://sportsauthority.com); 1-888-801-9164  
 \$34.99; standard shipping adds \$5.99

**The good:** A slightly more comfortable version of the hammock from PoolRafts.com — the inflatable ends are covered.

**The bad:** It didn't leave us feeling quite as buoyant. But if you like staying soaked that might not be a problem.

**The shopping:** Site has more than 40 pool items under lounges/recliners.



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Liz Oie  
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### LOCAL FASHION DESIGNER

Amanda Christine  
 Cliché Boutique  
 2403 Lyndale Av. S, Mpls.  
 612-870-0420

Sure, this dress (\$169) looks simple, but it fits and flatters just about everybody who wears it. "I love to make garments that are wearable, comfortable, so any girl could wear them, not just models," said Minneapolis-based designer Amanda Christine Natzel. She succeeded. (I have a version in white that I adore.)