

The BIG picture

1 We filled a black and silver vase with an silk flower arrangement, ribbons and twigs. We give the twigs that twirly effect by soaking them in water for about a week and then wrapping them around a wooden dowel. When they dry out they retain their shape. **2** We collect twigs from Woolton woods, spray them black and make a wreath with them. We mix in silk roses and lilies which are coated with silver glitter and the centrepiece is a cinnamon scented candle which gives a really Christmassy smell.

3 The setting in the fireplace uses silk flowers, twigs and berries all held in place by an oasis block. The black and burgundy colours are used throughout to give consistency. **4** The fireplace garland is made in much the same way as the setting on the hearth. We've used lights here to add a warm glow over the fireplace, but we don't always.

5 Black trees are very fashionable again this year and the burgundy decorations look stunning. We've added ribbon in a haphazard way and the clustered the baubles in threes or fives, mixing shades, textures and sizes and we've used silk flowers. The explosion on the top of the tree is a floral arrangement with silk flowers, twigs and beads which adds height. The tree skirt is made of organza fabric in the themed colours.

