

# Country's Best cabins

## ***Make My Mantel Marvelous***

A gallery of inspiring ideas and helpful tips to create a mantelscape worthy of your hearth by Whitney Richardson



Two brilliant bouquets flank a piece of woodland artwork and add a touch of elegance to an otherwise rustic mantel. Artwork, mirrors, tapestries or other large display items should be no taller than two-thirds the distance between the mantel and the ceiling. *Credit: MossCreek Designs photo*



A

thin mantel complements the brick layout of this hearth, with subtle decor resting atop it. The varied heights of the lamps and books create a visually appealing display that entices viewers to give it a second glance. *Credit:*

*James Ray Spahn photo*



Simplicity in decor strikes the right balance with the powerful stone blocks comprising the hearth. Typically, no more than one-third the surface of the mantel should be covered with decorations; the mantel skirts that rule slightly with the addition of a sconce on either side of the central decor. *Credit: JK Lawrence photo*





Not everyone prefers a symmetrical arrangement for the mantel. (If done incorrectly, such layouts can look downright boring, too.) Here three candlesticks and a set of skis offset a dark-framed lifestyle image for an attractive asymmetrical setup. *Credit: JK Lawrence photo*



Though the mantel may blend perfectly with the surround, the mix-and-match style of the candles and sculptures atop it adds a visual punch, with an appropriately rustic image to draw attention to the hearth. *Credit: Rich*

*Frutchey photo*



One artistic focal point is complemented by a collection of knickknacks. The varied heights of such accoutrements keep things interesting without overpowering the mantel. *Credit: Cindy Thiede photo*





Two dominant pieces provide a balanced, symmetrical appearance on this mantel without creating an overly matching or dull look. The asymmetrical candle arrangement on the hearth box below provides added visual interest for the fireplace. *Credit: James Ray Spahn photo*



The cabin lifestyle is on display here, with snowshoes and a waterfall painting paired with Southwestern artifacts to tie in the mantel to the rest of the room's decor. Such relics also lend an air of authenticity to the cabin structure. *Credit: JK Lawrence photo*

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