

Flower Power

Flowers Make Your Home Blossom

(NAPSA)—People who want to create beautiful home interiors, host sophisticated parties and nurture loving relationships often turn to flowers because they are an easy and versatile way to express individual style and show love and affection.

At home, flowers make rooms feel warm and inviting. For get-togethers, flowers show appreciation to guests and hosts. And they help us express our feelings from a tender “I’m thinking of you” to a romantic “I love you.”

When choosing flowers for your home, interior designer Kelli Ellis—who frequently appears on HGTV—says consider the room’s style. For a traditional style, bring in an arrangement of flowers with full blooms, such as roses or carnations. In a room with a more playful look, try gerbera daisies or tulips. Ellis also recommends placing the flowers in areas that need softening or could use a burst of color. When it comes to color, Ellis says one of the hottest trends this year in decorating is monochromatic arrangements—flowers of different types that are all the same color. If you need help, Ellis suggests turning to a florist who can recommend flowers for any budget, can design in a vase you provide and can deliver on the same day if you want your blossoms in a pinch.

Adding flowers enhances celebrations, says lifestyle party expert Jeanne Benedict, who recommends looking for unexpected ways to decorate the event with flowers, such as tying ribbons adorned with fresh flowers around candles or placing individual stems in a goblet. If you’re invited to a get-together, thank the host by bringing a big bouquet or a flowering plant in a fun container. The host will be



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instantly happy and remember you long after the party is over. If you’re unsure of what type of flower or plant to bring, ask your florist for suggestions.

Flowers convey almost any message, and Christine Arylo—author of *Putting Me Before We*—says when giving flowers, select the flower that reminds you of your friend’s unique spirit and include a note linking the flowers to him or her. If the flowers are for your sweetheart, place the flowers so your loved one will find them by surprise or have the florist deliver them when he or she least expects it. Arylo also suggests sending flowers that are linked to a specific memory or event. For instance, if you met in spring, tulips or spring blooms could be just the ticket.

Ellis, Benedict and Arylo suggest getting to know your local florists so you can rely on their knowledge and experience when making flower choices. To learn more, visit www.aboutflowers.com. To find a florist by city, state or ZIP code, visit www.nationalfloristdirectory.com.