

THE BEST

Ideas to Try & What to Buy

1. Small Square Rodin Planter in Stone. \$59. ballarddesigns.com

2. & 3. Small Estate Zinc Ring Square Planter. \$310. Preserved Boxwood Globe. \$165. restorationhardware.com

4. Crescendo Round Slate Rubber Self-Watering Urn. \$70. homedepot.com

5. & 7. Scroll Handle Tub and Linwood Urn. Cast stone. From \$130 each. campaniainternational.com

6. Sweet Bay Double Ball artificial topiary. \$151. atgstores.com

8. Small Ring Handle Iron Planter. \$128. shopterrain.com Somerset House Doorway Mural background. From \$81. surfaceview.co.uk.

Antique Terra Cotta tiles in Peach. \$24 per sq. ft. xsurfaces.com

Topiaries available at most local nurseries.

buzz Lush Life

Topiaries are easily the most polished of plants (so stately!), but they're not snobby: They don't require a Versailles-size estate to make their manicured mark. Even a tiny one, perfectly placed, can boost a room's style quotient. >>

WRITER KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS PHOTOGRAPHER STUART TYSON/STUDIO D. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES



Garden States

Even ancient Romans made topiaries, a symbol of man's attempt to harness the wild. Here, five inspiring places to see them in some delightfully unnatural habitats.



Longwood Gardens

Industrialist Pierre S. du Pont's 1936 topiary garden just outside Philadelphia is open to the public, with many of his original yews—like the tiered “wedding cake”—still standing. longwoodgardens.org



Lotusland

Montecito, California's answer to buttoned-up British topiaries? Footloose versions—including a camel, a chess set, and a 25-foot clock made with succulents in 1955—at the former home of Polish opera star Ganna Walska and her sixth husband. lotusland.org



Ladew Topiary Gardens

Release the hounds! This iconic 22-acre Maryland garden is an *Edward Scissorhands*-esque vision sprung to life, with a butterfly, a lyrebird, and Churchill's top hat rendered in evergreen. ladewgardens.com



Pearl Fryar

After purchasing a house with a blank slate of a yard in Bishopville, South Carolina, army retiree Pearl Fryar got to work, turning castoffs from local nurseries into intricate shapes that he trims himself every four weeks. pearlfryar.com

Green Animals Topiary Garden

California privet, yew, and English boxwood are transformed into elephants, ostriches, and—yes!—teddies at this Portsmouth, Rhode Island, estate overlooking Narragansett Bay. newportmansions.org

Have a Ball

You don't need a hedge fund (or pruners) to enjoy a topiary's elegant shapes and forms.

Custom framing enhances a print.



Hand-painted by Italian artisans.

1. In the Orangerie Watercolor Note Cards. 6" x 8 1/4". \$4.75 each, with envelope. architecturalwatercolors.com

2. Toparie Silkscreen Print. \$75 for 18" x 24". waynepate.com. Shown in frame from jpocker.com

3. Topiary Napkins. \$65 for four. oka.com

4. Custom Crest Creator. Rubber-and-wood stamp. \$62. stephaniefishwick.com

5. Topiary Ceramic Plates. \$175 for four. scullyandscully.com

6. Topiary Tea Towel by Pomegranate. \$25 each. biscuit-home.com

7. Orange Grove by Radish Moon. Belgian linen. Available through a designer. supplyshowroom.com

TOPIARIES FOR ALL



LOW MAINTENANCE
Silk plants demand only the occasional dusting. Mixed Cedar artificial topiaries. \$45 for three; the tallest is 6 1/2" H. atgstores.com



MEDIUM MAINTENANCE
Culinary herbs in the kitchen are easy to trim. Rosemary Topiary. \$20 for 3 1/4" H pot. williams-sonoma.com



HIGH MAINTENANCE
Type A's, get out your shears: This requires regular pruning. Boxwood Topiary. monrovia.com. Iron Cross Frame Planter. \$198 for 19 1/2" H box. shopterrain.com