



Magical tree

by fashion accessories designer Basia Zarzycka



I'm inspired by fairy tales, forests, nature, and all things beautiful and mystical. I also love jewels and twinkling lights. I created this arrangement as I do everything else – unplanned and in a spontaneous manner. I never know in advance how my Christmas tree will look from year to year. Here, I've used eucalyptus branches, which give the room a wonderful fragrance. The branches were dyed a vivid royal purple, then embellished with pale silk roses with fake snow on their petals. Floral pompoms – made using traditional Victorian blooms such as lily of the valley, violets and pansies – were hung from the branches and scented individually with room fragrance.

'You can decorate your home beautifully for Christmas with scented dried or silk flowers mixed with crystalised fruit, berries and evergreens in a naturalistic way. Use modern or antique vases, and drape garlands from chandeliers, mantelpieces and chairs to create a fantastical look. Lights are very important to illuminate all the colours and bring a magical touch into any environment.'

The Basia Zarzycka boutique is at 52 Sloane Square, London SW1, (020) 7730 1660. You can also order Basia's accessories from her website, basias.com.