

Shahid Kapoor claims he's only met Huma Qureshi twice. P4 >>

FLOWER POWER

House in full bloom

Herald the onset of monsoon with flowers. *Phool mandis* in Delhi are in full bloom and this is the best time to get a big bunch and decorate your house with. Different kinds of flowers can be used to enhance different corners of your house and thankfully, there's not much expenditure involved. You can simply fish out your old canisters, colourful buckets, mugs, glasses, pen holders, just about anything to hold your floral decorations.

Designer Sapna Bhatia of Bring Home Stories label says, "The rainy season is indeed the best time to adorn your house with flowers. That's because flowers grow best right now, are relatively cheaply available and last longer. If in a hurry, just pick up *rajnigandhas*, lilies or jasmynes at traffic intersections. The first two can be placed in vases while jasmynes can be set afloat in an urn. They smell beautiful."

"For more elaborate arrangements, you can fetch daisies, lilacs, dahlias, laven- ders, hydrangeas, gerberas, peonies, magnolias, pittospor- um, berries and dozens of other colourful varieties. Roses are good for occasional decorations only as they don't last too long."

Talking about placement, Atul Kapur of Flowers Forever, says, "There are mainly



NATURAL Monsoon is the best time to decorate your home with flowers.

three kinds. The most common are the centre pieces – flowers in small containers placed in the centre of a table. Then there are the accent pieces – flower arrangements used to accessorise furniture such as on your bedside, near the sofa etc. Then there are the large statement pieces which are found in large homes or in hotel lobbies."

All of these can be done by oneself at home, but when it comes to outdoor landscaping, a little more effort and



candles in small containers nearby, it will make your garden look even more beautiful."

In case you want to decorate your garden walls, Sapna says, "Creepers will do the trick. Go for the beautiful bougainvilleas or else, the pretty pink Madhumalti (Chinese honeysuckles). Plant an aromatic raat ki rani close to the walls and you will be the whole neighbourhood's envy."

DHNS



AROMATIC Old jars can also be used to hold flowers.

money is required. If you have a sizeable garden, you can do very creative flower landscaping with the help of classical planters, pedestals and urns. If in a more playful mood, go for big baskets, antique lamps, bird cages and decorative bicycles to hold your flowers.

Atul says, "Planters and pedestals with an antique look give a very English look to your garden. But experimentation with baskets, bird cages and bicycles will impress your guests no end. If you can place a few incense sticks or float



DECORATIVE Bicycles can be used for outdoor landscaping.