



## WITCHES, GHOSTS AND GHOULS, PUMPKINS, AND CREEPY CREATURES TOO ...

Houston's Regina Gust, of Twins Design, shows readers how to create frightening and inviting Halloween décor.

Regina says she “usually has three types of Halloween clients” – those seeking “spooky, whimsical, [or] natural décor.” For her spookier designs, Regina uses branches to create a chilling ambience. “I love working with branches,” says Regina. “Willow bundles, grape vine wreath, lichen branches – you can create so many dimensions with them.” Branches are both versatile and good for a design’s underlying structure. In Regina’s recent Halloween designs, she used lichens to construct a cave around a homeowner’s doorway. She hung scads of moss and spooky ornaments from the cave’s branches, making the interior feel woody and enchanted. For another Halloween arrangement, Regina stuffed an urn full of the twigs and then, later, added holiday ornaments, transitioning the bundle into a Christmas display.

In order to create a more whimsical, only slightly frightening look, Regina incorporates smiling ghosts, tons of glitter, and miles of ribbon. “Make it colorful,” suggests Regina. To

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give readers a taste of her fanciful style, Regina explains how she transformed an ordinary piano into a ghoulish, glam-rock instrument - "I [decorated the] piano with black glittered candelabras, black crystals, and orange and black tulle." Funky witch hats and smiling black cats also make appearances in Regina's whimsy Halloween designs.

For clients seeking a harvest Halloween aesthetic, Regina includes more natural accessories. Pumpkin lined walkways lead to homes full of quirky arrangements, which include fall leaves, acorns, fuzzy owls, and pinecones. In her harvest homes, Regina often uses cheesecloth to achieve a softer look. "Cheesecloth is really fun to decorate with," says Regina, "You can spread it and drape it over doors and furniture...[or] hang it every which way over the mantle." Burlap ribbons and dried flowers are also cute, natural accents.

To make her designs more dramatic, Regina borrows elements from the stage. The Gobo, a device typically used to project images across a theatrical set, adds radiant movement to Regina's Halloween décor by casting images of ghoulish creatures across wall spaces. The fine point LED light also adds shine to Regina's work. And under these shimmering lights, larger than life Halloween props, including spiders "as big as the front door" and "skeletons the size of a Smart Car," make Regina's Halloween décor an absolute spectacle. TH&L

