Natural Flower Box
Two tones are better than one on our pretty willow flower boxes. The boxes (ordinary terra cotta pots hide inside) are beautifully paired with our welcoming bamboo arch. Casually stacked and held in place with hot glue, the contrasting branches add interest to a charming botanical scene. Jute twine serves a mainly decorative purpose here—the brown and white branches came already intertwined in an assortment pack of dried twigs and branches.

Twisted for Texture
Don’t be afraid to add unexpected texture to your wooden creations. We used leather lacing (available in the Craft Dept.) as a rugged twist on ordinary twine.

Woodland Welcome
A welcoming arch (as shown on cover) marks the entrance to our charming garden retreat. To create this piece, we made a basic frame from iron rods. Then we covered the frame with sticks of pretty bamboo, held in place with ordinary floral wire and reinforced with decorative leather lacing. Next, we fashioned our welcome letters using armature wire (wire cutters and pliers were a must for this task), and covering with pretty buxifolia stems.

Twiggy Trellis
Delightfully uncommon and undeniably eye-catching, this rustic trellis is made from bamboo, curly willow, and pre-made grapevine wreaths. It’s a quirky addition to our natural oasis. Using photo as a guide, start with four pieces of long bamboo laid in a rectangle shape; secure all four joints with floral wire. Then wrap jute around wire to hide wire and add visual interest. Next, craft sides of trellis using curly willow, arranging the branches together in a diamond pattern as shown. Finally, wire in a collection of grapevine wreaths—using a variety of sizes for interest.
Instant Outdoors

Decorating just doesn’t get any easier than this! Wrap vine ribbon around a container and secure the ends of the ribbon with natural twine creating a removable “sleeve.”

Gone to Seed

Personalize garden-friendly gifts in a snap with versatile dried sticks and branches. We’ve used leftovers from previous projects to dress up store-bought seed packets. Trimmed with a craft knife and tied on with lengths of raffia and jute twine, these twiggy embellishments transformed gardening staples into unique botanical favors.

Branching Out

Gracefully fresh and naturally elegant, this beautiful willow-backed bench isn’t hard to make. We simply pieced together branches of curly willow forming a frame working with the natural shape of the branches to create the pattern shown. We secured the branches with dabs of hot glue and then wrapped with jute twine. Using a series of pre-drilled holes along the back of the bench, we slid the piece into place, and used screws to hold it tightly in place. Tip: There’s no wrong way to assemble this piece. The natural variation of the willow branches will make your bench a one-of-a-kind work of art.

Naturally Contained

This piece may look like it grew on the spot, but that’s part of our crafty illusion. Make a plastic planter fit seamlessly into a natural setting by adding rich salt cedar and tufts of lush reindeer moss. First, cut sticks down to size with a sturdy craft knife. Then use hot glue to adhere rows of twigs to the surface of the planter. Finally, we arranged moss around the base of the piece (hot glue kept it snugly in place). The result is rustic and ready to hold plants and flowers, even tools.

Spruced-Up Clay Pot

There’s nothing weepy about this willowy creation. It’s a bold accent for a porch or patio. To make a similar piece, hot-glue sticks of Asian willow to an ordinary clay pot. Then wrap rows of jute twine around the pot as shown, using hot glue to secure it to the willow. Finish with a dash of vivid color via a twist of deep red raffia.

Nature Squared

Get in a botanical frame of mind with this beautiful art project. Start off with a vintage print. Look to old magazines, antique books, or clip art disks for the perfect illustration. (Tip: If your print seems a little too pristine, age it with a tea stain or a distressing ink pad.) Then, bundle rustic birch branches as shown, arrange them into a frame shape and bind them at the corners with coordinating raffia. Use dabs of hot glue to attach the print to the back of the piece, and fashion a simple raffia hanger to display.

Instant Outdoors

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