

Today at the Tallinn College of Engineering, the President of the Republic took over the patronage of the Estonian home decoration movement from President Arnold Rüütel.

Arnold Rüütel, the previous advocate of the home decoration movement, was proclaimed an honorary member of the Estonian Home Decoration Association, and was presented with the association's highest honor-the merit award with golden garland.

When handing over the mission of patron to the President of the Republic, President Rüütel noted that he is pleased that the home decoration movement has acquired such broad dimensions. "During the last five years, the concept of one's home has expanded to include rural municipalities, schools, companies, and in the future could also expand to include counties," said Arnold Rüütel.

According to President Ilves, Estonia's towns and communities have become much nicer, thanks to people who want to live in a beautiful environment. "City planning and architecture have become hot current topics. This shows that along with our own beautiful homes, we feel it is increasingly important that Estonia also be beautiful," said the Head of State.

The home decoration tradition was initiated and supported by President Konstantin Päts starting in 1936. President Lennart Meri proclaimed the first Home Decoration Year in a speech held on Mother's Day in 1997.

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