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Lose the Stress, Find the Sparkle

Home holiday decorating
with a twist



jane lockhart INTERIOR DESIGN

By Jane Lockhart

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When decorating for the holiday season rolls around, most of us immediately think of typical elements that express our joy for this time of year. Typically it's about wreaths, the Christmas tree, candles, etc. Preparing your house can be stressful and overwhelming even if you do love the crisp air and beautiful clear and cold days! To really put some holiday punch into your home, the key is to add a touch of sparkle in every room you wish to showcase for this festive time of year!

Not every space has to be elaborate or overly done; small touches can make an impact and change how an ordinary room feels. To bring life to any space, add greenery like pine boughs, wrapped with white twinkle lights. Wreaths do not have to be used only on the front door. Tie several of them together with ribbon and hang them vertically on a wall to make a unique decoration that adds texture and interest.

The Christmas tree is often a major focal point at this time of year. A large tree really adds a statement to any room, whether real or artificial. If one large tree doesn't work within your home's layout, then consider several smaller trees throughout the house; they each could have different themes for variety. When decorating the principle tree, think 'big!' Add large-sized ornaments, big bows and lots of decorations all over the tree. This gives the tree presence and ongoing interest as family and friends come by to visit over this busy season.



Title Page: This season create a sophisticated palette for your festive table with a mix of gold, bronze, copper and chocolate brown.

Left: Unique shapes in clear, textured glass hold candles and bobbles that catch the light and twinkle in candlelight.

Colour is a major part of this season's decorating, but this doesn't mean sticking to typical holiday colours. Play with unusual hues and add in more sophisticated palettes to make a real style statement. For instance, coppers, mixed with gold, bronze and chocolate brown is a stunning palette that is both unique and rich with out being typical. Even unexpected textures and materials make holiday décor more interesting and can enhance the 'wow' factor. Materials such as coloured feathers, glass beads, ribbons, stones, and grasses like raffia can all add unique qualities to your colour palette for this season of holiday décor.

The holiday dining table is another important area for celebrating with family and the décor here can add to the festivities! Use large ribbons to make streamers to randomly add to the table top, mix white dishes with ones with shimmer and shine! Be sure to use festive napkin rings even if the napkins are paper as it dresses up the table so well! Even Christmas balls or ornaments can be great items to add to each place setting for fun or as a take-home gift!

Holiday decorating doesn't need to be expensive or complicated. By simply taking your collection of clear vases (which most of us own) and filling them with different sizes of shiny Christmas balls can be a very pretty festive element. The vases can either be grouped together or they can be spread around the house so each room has a touch of the holiday spirit.

Small touches can **make an impact** and change how an ordinary room feels



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Of course, candles and lights are a major feature of this season. Given that we live in a time of short days and long nights, adding light to your home over the holidays will add sparkle and joy to your home. Adding candles or wrapping white twinkie lights around railings and seasonal greens can add that soft glow that makes this time of year so special.

As stressful as the lead up to the holidays can be, using what you already have for decorations, mixed with some personal colour choices and unique textures, can make your home ready for the holidays and the perfect place to gather and enjoy family and friends in the comfort of home. 

Left: Jane's tall white flocked tree in the entrance hall is elegantly trimmed with oversized decorations including large bows, wide bronze ribbon garland, chocolate coloured poinsettia, dried magnolia leaf flowers and shiny copper balls.

Above Top: Glass hurricanes with light brown pillar candles are set in the centre of white berry wreaths on a side table in the foyer.

Above Bottom: A napkin decorated with ornaments and wrapped in shimmering ribbon makes each place setting special.

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