

MERRY LITTLE *Christmas*

When it comes to decorating a small space for the holidays, little things make a big difference

BY JANE LOCKHART

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRANDON BARRE

With more people turning to condo living, I'm often asked how to decorate condos, especially at Christmas. Because the average new condo in Toronto measures about 739-square feet, it has become more difficult to use decor items not created for condos. Luckily, companies are starting to recognize this trend and designing pieces specifically for condo living.



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Seating Arrangements

Christmas often means entertaining, and the need to invent additional space and seating. The Junior chair, from the Jane by Jane Lockhart collection, is scaled down in size and on a swivel, allowing guests to feel involved in all areas of conversation without actually moving furniture.

Condo owners should always use an eclectic mix of chairs around their dining room table. This way, during the holidays, these chairs can be brought into the living room to accommodate guests and still look like they belong. A fitting example would be the Capri chair, as it looks great in the dining room and the living room.

To conserve space, especially when adding additional pieces of holiday decor, make sure to start with multi-functional furniture. Benches, either at the front door or at the end of a bed, can be pulled out to create extra seating and are great for additional storage. The Granger bench is a classic example.



THE JUNIOR CHAIR

THE CAPRI CHAIR

THE GRANGER BENCH



Seasonal Decor

Arguably, the most iconic Christmas piece is the tree. Condo-sized Christmas trees are starting to appear on the shelves of most major retailers, including Canadian Tire, and are giving condo owners a beautiful product that suits their space.

When picking ornaments for the tree, make sure you match the scale of the tree. Don't buy into the large statement pieces that will overpower your pint-sized tree and diminish its stylish look. Also, make sure to choose simple and elegant ornaments.

To complement your existing decor, you will only have to remove a few pieces to make room for more seasonally inspired decor, and the rest will flow together beautifully.



WHEN CHOOSING YOUR COLOUR SCHEME, CHOOSE ONE THAT IS LIMITED TO TWO OR THREE COLOURS, PREFERABLY ON THE MORE SUBTLE SIDE. IF YOU WANT A BOLD COLOUR, ONLY CHOOSE ONE AND MAKE SURE THE OTHERS ARE MUTED.

Basic Design Rules

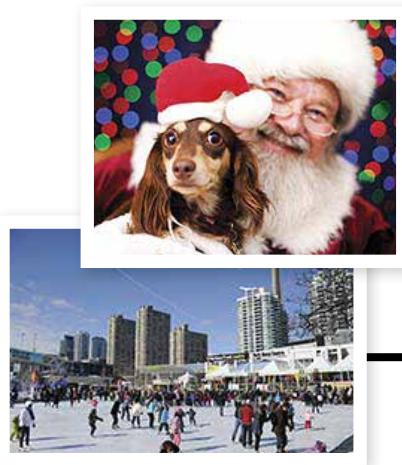
Make sure to group 'likes' together to reduce the look of clutter. If you are creating a display on your mantel, for example, make sure you group objects that are the same colour together, and only choose one bold piece so the mantel does not look too full.

Another inexpensive touch that goes a long way is white LED Christmas lights. They can be strung along the mantel or along any other area you wish to highlight. Bright and luminous, they make most spaces appear airy and larger. They also look great in well-placed mason jars.

However you decorate your condo this year, make sure it speaks to you and your family for a memorable Christmas season.♦

Designer, spokesperson, author, and television personality, Jane Lockhart is an acknowledged expert in design and colour. In 1997, Lockhart established the design firm, Jane Lockhart Interior Design, and more recently launched the Jane by Jane Lockhart furniture collection. janelockhart.com





SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Santa will be making two stops at The Waterfront BIA's annual Winterfest on Toronto's Waterfront this holiday season. Families can join Santa and his elves for the 9th Annual Santa Cruise aboard Mariposa Cruises' Northern Spirit or enjoy their first-ever Santa Cruise Brunch. Pets can even get in on the action at PawsWay and have their Pet Photos taken with Santa. Sharpen your skates, or rent a pair, and take a whirl around the Natrel Rink at Harbourfront Centre. You can also get creative with hands-on winter crafts in Miss Lou's Room and discover Harbourfront Centre's new imagination playground in the Lakeside Terrace. Celebrate the magic of the holiday at Winterfest on Toronto's Waterfront on Saturday, December 13, Sunday, December 14, Saturday, December 20 and Sunday, December 21. For more information, waterfrontbia.com

CHAIR AFFAIR

Celebrity designer Jane Lockhart joins the lineup of more than 36 designers who are repurposing chairs for the 4th Annual Chair Affair in support of Canadian Charity Furniture Bank. The Chair Affair was held on November 12 at the Palais Royale and raised money by hosting the designer chair auction and silent auction. "I am so pleased to be a part of the Chair Affair this year," says Lockhart. "I think Furniture Bank is doing a terrific job in the community and events such as the Chair Affair are a great way to engage the community and really bring Furniture Bank to the forefront in people's minds."

Furniture Bank is not open to the public; potential recipients of this service are referred by over 70 agencies in the GTA who deal with those in need on a daily basis. Once someone receives a referral to Furniture Bank, they are given an appointment and invited to 'shop' the warehouse with a Furniture Bank volunteer. For more information, visit furniturebank.org/chair-affair/

Before: Lockhart chose a high-back armchair to refurbish



Inspired by the Canadian theme and the fall season, Lockhart used fabric that was generously donated by Avant Garde



METROPOLIS LIVING HITS CASTLEFIELD

After four successful years in the trendy Junction area, Metropolis Living opens a new showroom in the upscale

Castlefield and Caledonia design district. Known for their custom-made furniture, lighting, art installations, and a unique assortment of vintage finds, the home decor store has evolved into an art studio, befitting of its new location. Owners Phil Freire and his sister Maggie Gattesco are known for the vintage pieces that are brought in and salvaged from all over North America as well as Europe, reconditioned for sale and, in some cases, transformed into unique, one-of-a-kind furniture pieces.

"We build custom furnishings for clients including lighting, dining and seating as well as custom art and interior design installations for some of the top design firms in the city," says Freire. "We have built a solid clientele of designers, boutique hotels, restaurants and bars and other businesses around the city and we are doing more installations in the U.S."

Check out the Metropolis Living showroom this November at 81 Ronald Avenue, unit B. For more information or to shop online, visit metropolis-living.com

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SUBJECT LINE:
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