

GO BEYOND

THE *Tree*

COMMON AREAS TO CONSIDER DECORATING

The Fireplace mantel

An undedicated shelf, the mantel is often well decorated by setting it up with garlands and lights. Ribbons and candles are common as well. Set it parallel to the edge of the shelf, and space any standing items. For a crowning touch, a large wreath that precisely fits the open wall space above the mantel makes a fine statement. In years past, I have also included a manger scene, a portrait of the family and nutcrackers to add interest and connect with my theme for the year.

Open Side Tables and Center Coffee Table

Tables are a good place to set any small figurines and table accents. Be sure to select ones that complement each other. If you have any miniature village settings, this is a good place to set those. Candles with greenery or fresh flowers are also a good choice.

Dining Table

A good centerpiece can really make the difference in your Dining room. From small table swags to well spaced candles, figurines, fresh or artificial flowers, consider whether you want a shorter one that can be left in place when the table is in use, or a large removable setting for maximum visual impact. I have also found it impactful to place individual votive candles in the center of each place setting. Once the meal begins, your guests simply place the candle at the top of their place setting for a beautiful ambient look all the way around your table.

Windows & Doorways

Garlands, lights, snowflakes, icicles and greenery... you name it. A well-decorated window or doorway can add whimsy and be a nice touch to your Christmas décor. For fun, adding artificial candy, a paper chain, small elf's, fairies or angels can be very fun and festive.

Bookcases and Built-in's

Perhaps my most favorite thing to decorate each year is my 28' wide built-in entertainment center. I love changing the theme each year and creating a beautiful backdrop for my Christmas tree, adding visual interest to the focal point of our Living room... the TV. As much as I hate to admit it, the TV is and will always be a focal point for my husband and children. So instead of trying to avoid it, I go for it! Adding garlands that drip over the top, theme oriented characters within the shelves themselves and something really special smack dab on top of the TV, I'm able to keep my family reminded... hey guys, Its Christmas! In order to keep things from feeling TOO DECORATED... (LOL) I have learned, a symmetrical placement works best!

Staircases

Running swags of garlands, decorated the Robeson Design way, can add so much to the warm and inviting decor of your home. I have many videos on how to create one-of-a-kind swags of garland to your staircase. Be sure to check them out! Remember to add elements consistent with your theme to this area. Ribbons, critters, Christmas balls and ornaments along with sprays and picks of icy snow or beaded fruit can make your staircase absolutely breathtaking!

Entryway

Remember friends, your entryway is just that... the entrance to your mini winter wonderland. It's the first and last impression for your family and guests and sets the stage to all other Christmas decorations you have worked so hard to create. I typically create a ceiling treatment as my first impression with hanging snowflakes, icicles and dripping lights. Go bold and make it fabulous!

Kitchen

I like to bring my festive décor into my Kitchen. I typically decorate my Kitchen window area with airy garland wrapped in lights with small Christmas balls infused to add color and sparkle. Icicles dropping into the window attract the natural light from the window as well. I place apothecary vessels on my island with candy and friendship tea and often hang a trio of wreaths down the wall next to my double ovens.

Bathrooms and Powder Room

In my home, the Powder room is next to the Dining room so I often include it in my decorating plans for Christmas. I have hung snowflakes from the ceiling surrounding the vanity mirror, added flickering Christmas trees to the countertop and added yummy scented candles as well. Christmas themed hand towels are also a nice touch!

Bed Rooms

The older I get, the less I address bedrooms. However, if you have the decorations and the energy ;-)... bringing a little Christmas magic into your bedroom is a lovely way to include Christmas throughout your home. A softly lit tree can be romantic and keep you in the Christmas mood from the moment you wake up until you fall asleep each night during the holidays.

My favorite is mercury glass. Its dreamy and glammy, but that's just me.

Kids Rooms

During the years my kids were home, we often decorated small Christmas trees in the theme of their choice. This is where I deviate from my philosophy of keeping a consistent color scheme. It's their room and should reflect their personal interest at the time. This is a perfect way to teach your children to love Christmas decorating at an early age.

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