

ush and lovely holiday decorations add swagger, not to mention style to any home, creating the perfect setting for a cozy and celebratory season. Adding some shine and sparkle indoors is not as difficult or complicated as it would appear, and the payoff is huge; family and friends will delight in enjoying a creative and clever holiday home.

Debbie King, owner of Bloomingvails LLC, a full-service interior and exterior holiday decorating company in Vail, Colorado, suggests panache through lighting. "LED lights are very popular as they are energy efficient and more brilliant in color," says King. The razzle-dazzle of the right lighting can make a tremendous difference in a space. Twinkling lights or multi-colored strands add the perfect punch and fiber optics or indoor icicle lights are also a fun option. Flameless candles and "Always Lit" indoor lights can ensure an enduring twinkle.

King goes on to discuss the importance of fun features like handmade

Santas, custom manufactured garlands (like those made by Bloomingvails), live floral arrangements and family heirlooms. Special touches like sentimental holiday music or indoor jingle bells (strung on a banister or around a kitchen island) will make for merry music; in addition, filling clear vases with berries, holiday beads or artificial gold coins can provide warmth, and big colorful bows on the bottom of pillar candles or on curtains create charm. The most fun and flavorful holidays play up the interests of the homeowners. King explains that no holiday theme is too crazy or too colorful. She says, "Some Jewish clients want a silver and blue tree with a ski theme. Others with young children have requested a Sponge Bob theme."

King describes the elaborate nature of some clients ideas and unique requests, "One client requested three intertwined long strands of garland hanging from the ceiling and pooling on the floor to be decorated as if it were a tree. The idea was that it would take up less space in the living

room and they would still be able to display their collection of ornaments." And the result? "It worked well," she says.

And while a Sponge Bob theme might not work for every household, themes can be a masterful way of decorating and supply inspiration and cohesion for a holiday scheme. Pam Lampe of Home Matters, an interior design and staging company based in Northern Colorado, advises clients to decide what inspires them personally. Lampe, who parlayed an eye for garden and outdoor decorating as well as an aptitude for table setting into interior design, feels one of the best themes revolves around creating an "old fashioned Christmas."

Lampe recommends homeowners focus on sentimental sources. She says, "Bring out the old family photos, photocopy them and insert them into tiny frames or laminate them for ornaments. This will give parents a fun opportunity to tell children their family history." For gift wrap, take brown craft paper and ink

Seasonal Splendor



WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN HIRING A HOLIDAY DECORATOR

From Debbie King, Bloomingvails, LLC: "First a phone consultation, then I go to their home (most of my customers have second homes here and we discuss what they would like and their arrival date). I send an estimate and if they accept, the rest is done without any further requirements of their time."

WANT TO HIRE A PROFESSIONAL?

Home Matters
Pam Lampe
970.581.6739
4homematters.com

Bloomingvails, LLC
Debbie King
970.926.4215
bloomingvails.com

Palmer Flowers and Decorating (ft. Collins)
970.226.0200
palmerflowers.com

If you love the look of holiday-inspired floral arrangements, Palmer Flowers offers stylish, creative and elaborate floral and greenery designs for the holiday season.

leaves to make your own patterns on it. Tie them up with raffia and repurpose old gift cards for the tags. Get an apple pie candle or simmer apple cider on the stove. Try to use as many tactile elements as possible to truly enjoy the experience."

And if time is limited, she says, "Choose a contemporary theme where simplicity reigns. Buy fresh or silk pine branches and put them in a contemporary vase. Whatever the theme, stick to it and incorporate it in several rooms throughout the house."

Going green (as in plants) for the holidays can also create a nice aromatic effect indoors. Lampe suggests finding a local florist who also specializes in creating beautiful holiday floral arrangements. "Floral and fresh cut greenery are always a nice touch. My favorite florist in Northern Colorado is Palmer House. They have gifted floral designers and have many options to choose from," she says. Scented peppermint or sugar cookie candles can also add delicious seasonal aroma. Wreaths, figs and flowers can add scent-sation, and cinnamon linen sprays as well as apple cider soy beads add ambiance.

Martha Stewart-types can take the holiday season to a new level with their cool creations regardless of theme. A sugar chalet, poinsettia nap-

kin rings, peppermint candles and grocery bag garland are just a few homemade holiday decoration options. Kids can also get in on the act and will especially enjoy constructing culinary pieces like a candy stick vase or lollipop tree.

Even in a weak economy there are options for creating a house filled with holiday spirit. As Lampe explains, "In today's economy, many of my clients are more cautious but willing to spend their resources." She says that her business, Home Matters, provides part-inspiration, part-instruction and part-construction for her clients, "As far as my business, I meet with clients to find an inspiration or starting point, understand their needs such as a party or out-of-town guests, take stock of their inventory if that is requested, shop for decorations, provide set up and take down and provide photos of the completed project. I am also happy to provide the ideas and inspiration if that is all that is needed."

For homeowners in search of holiday heaven in their home, Lampe says, "Take the time to understand [your] goals and desires, come up with a theme, know what you have in stock, know where to search for new items for the most dramatic results and have fun." D'



IDEAS FOR DECORATING AROUND A THEME OR TEXTURE

- Wings and Flakes: Snow, Angels and Winter Wonderland
- Cold Creatures: Penguins, Polar Bears and Reindeer
- Metallic Magic: Ribbon, Garland and Ornaments in Sparkling Silver or Gold as well as shimmering fabrics and crystal icicles
- Va Va Voom Velvet: Flowers, Garland, Ribbon
- Yummy Yuletide: Cookies, Candies and Gingerbread Goodies
- Flowers: Leaf Vines, Poinsettias, Pine Cones and Red Carnations

SEASONAL SHOPPING IN COLORADO

Crate & Barrel

Festive seasonal décor, holiday ornaments and table-top settings
crateandbarrel.com

Hobby Lobby Stores

Party supply, furniture, arts and crafts, fabrics and silk flowers
hobbylobby.com

Michaels Crafts Stores

Home décor, holiday décor, art and crafts supplies
michaels.com

Pottery Barn

Stylish home décor and seasonal décor and accessories
potterybarn.com

St. Nicks

Vast selection of holiday collectibles
303.798.8087 or 800.875.8865
New Location at Park Meadows Mall
303.649.9711; stnicks.com

Tuesday Morning Stores

Home accents, seasonal, gourmet foods
tuesdaymorning.com

FIND BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY DÉCOR AT THESE ONLINE RETAILERS:

frontgate.com

Luxury holiday décor, designer ornaments and artificial trees

terrsvillage.com

Holiday decorations, collectibles, gifts

grandinroad.com

Fun and festive holiday decor