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There are many choices, but only one SOURCE!

From the cover



Hang around for a while

The holiday season can make for a blissful assault on the senses – and these days, it's especially just as enjoyable to give as it is to receive! Turn a few pages in and you can find some simple ideas to decorate the inside and outside of your home. Right in the middle of the magazine are dozens of recipes for desserts sent in from readers – a treasure trove for the eyes, nose and tongue!

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Seger Glass, Granite & Marble began as a one-man operation in 1977.
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you'd like to share?

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Eastern European Furniture Circa 1800's



European Country Furniture, a unique furniture store that carries hand made, solid wood antiques from Europe made in the 1800's. The store offers quality, one of a kind antique furniture, that is affordable and competitively priced.

Stocked is a wide variety of original armoires, chests, bookcases, tables, hutches, and antique pottery. The furniture represents the country life back in Europe during the Austria - Hungarian Empire, before the turn of the century.

The store also carries a wide variety of Polish Pottery, soaps and gifts from France, linens from Portugal, among other unique gifts. Great gifts if you are looking for something of quality to give to someone you love.

The furniture is shipped from Eastern Europe, Hungary, Romania, Carpathian, Transylvania, and Austria. All of the furniture is made from old European pine forests. These trees were huge and old, this is why the furniture has that unique Old World worm wood character. These are not reproductions. The furniture gives you a product that is visually delightful in the home as well as a comfortable fit.

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Wide-eyed wonders

What a time for joy, love and happiness.

I have been in a phase of my life where nothing seems to surprise me now.

I am numb to the daily dirty laundry of the media, but they have a job to do and do it well.

Isn't it nice to have a traditional holiday spell when we can for only briefly put aside the chaos of daily routine and enjoy the love and comradery of family and friends?

It's time to realize that innocence still exists in the minds of the very young.

We do not have children of our own, but we have been blessed with the privilege to share the lives of children of family and our friends two generations now.

Tid Bits

By Bev Leitch



Keep them coming!

It's a great time for unity and creativity — a chance to gather together and use the imagination.

Coming from a large farm family with siblings in stair-step stages, I recall the all-too-brief time of being the youngest.

Too quickly the younger ladder rungs came along, and I became the middle child.

That was when I learned to balance to survive — in other words,

sometimes “get my way.”

“Too young for this ... too old for that.” I must say that learned behavioral patterns of balancing still serves me well.

The only difference is I use it now in the adult state of mind.

We were always anxious to finish chores, homework and supper so we could gather around the large kitchen table to create handmade decorations for the much-anticipated tree.

There was everything from paper garlands decorated with our personal touch to popcorn strings — even pine cones dabbled with glue and sprinkled with glitter.

Cookie baking time was a lesson in sharing. Who got to lick the spoon and beaters (PAGE 42)

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Ribbon, bows, berries, pine cones and lighting are ideal accessories for a staircase garland.

Home *(decorating)* for the holidays

Seasonal decorating can transform stale surroundings into rooms full of energy and spirit

Story by Marianne Wilcoxon DeTar

Seasonal decorating will not only bring holiday cheer to your home, but will give you more enthusiasm for the season.

This is something of great value as the tasks thrust upon us during the holidays can be quite stressful.

Holiday decorating can transform stale sur-

roundings into rooms full of energy and holiday spirit.

By changing our environment for the holidays, we will feel happier and more festive.

The key is to keep it fun and refrain from taking on too much. After all, the meaning of the season is more important than your décor. To help you enjoy the holidays and eliminate some of the stress of decorating for this season, here are some hassle free decorating tips and ideas.

Before you begin dragging out those endless boxes and containers filled with holiday decorations, it is a good idea to first have a plan and set a theme

for your decorating.

Organizing your ideas and having some sort of plan for your decorating will make it look more thoughtful.

Too many different ideas or themes is not only overwhelming, but can very well end up appearing disorganized and cluttered.

When planning and setting a theme for your holiday decorating, you want to make sure that your decorations compliment your home's décor.

It is also a good idea to select a specific color scheme and carry it through the rooms you are decorating for a look of consistency and harmony.

The decorations do not have to be the same, but repeating the main decorating colors throughout your rooms gives flow and continuity.

After you select a theme, you then need to decide how much decorating you really want to do.

Once you decide on how much or how little decorating you want to do you should then determine which rooms will be your focus. You should at least have some holiday representation on the exterior of your home. A foyer or entry way, dining room or eating area including your kitchen, a living or gathering room, and a guest bath are primary choices for the interior of your home.

When you begin decorating, you should start with the outside.

The exterior of your home makes the first holiday impression and is the first thing visitors see when they arrive.

Independent of how much time you decide to contribute to your decorating, there should at least be some form of outdoor holiday lighting. This could be as simple as electric window candles, which are

easily installed on the interior of your home.

Wreaths are another easy and attractive decorative touch to the outside of your home.

A wreath can be as simple as pine greenery with a single bow, or more elaborate consisting of a variety of greenery, berries and/or other natural elements such as nuts or pine cones.

A single wreath on your front door is a sufficient display for holiday spirit, or you can really get festive by displaying a wreath on every exterior door and window.

After you are done decorating outside, it is time to tackle the interior of your home.

If you are planning on a holiday tree, its location should be your first

decision. For many people, this is the most significant and important decorating accessory, so you want to be sure to locate it in a prominent place.

Since decorating the tree can be tedious, it is wise to try and have it up and decorated early so you can enjoy it for as long as possible.

After you have completed locating and decorating your tree, it is time to address the remainder of your home's interior.

An important thing to remember here is that decorating for the holidays is like any other decorating.

This means that rather than spreading holiday décor throughout your home, it makes much more of a statement if you select three or four



Keep your holiday decorating from looking cluttered and disorganized.

(Photo by Marianne DeTar)

rooms or areas and create decorative focal points within those rooms or areas.

After these main areas have been decided and decorated, you can determine whether or not you want to continue with more decorating throughout your home.

Again, this is a personal choice depending on how much time you want to contribute and how much holiday decorating you desire.

Creating at least one focal point within each room that you decide to decorate is important.

You can always add more decorating after, but it is best to start with one main focal point or area.

In a foyer or entry way, a focal point could be a staircase or an entry table.

Garland is the best and simplest decorating for a staircase.

This can be anything as simple as pine garland hung on your outside stair rails to garland that includes several varieties of greens.

Ribbon, bows, berries, pine cones and lighting are other great accessories for your staircase garland.

Be sure to save the leftover clippings of greenery to use for accent decorating elsewhere.

A centerpiece for your dining room or eating-area table is the best focal point for these rooms.

Again, this can be as simple as a bowl or basket filled with holiday balls or ornaments, or elements from Mother Nature in some combination of assorted greens, pine cones, fruits, berries or even tree branches. An arrangement of fresh greens and flowers is perfect for a more formal setting.

For a more personalized appearance, try incorporating an accessory into your arrangement that has sentimental value to you.



A centerpiece for your dining room or eating-area table is an ideal focal point.

(Photo by Marianne DeTar)

Antique bowls, platters and even decoys will add a touch of nostalgia to your centerpiece.

Once you have decided and created your centerpiece, top off your table with candles for ambiance.

Holiday dishes and plates are a festive and fun change for the season.

Even just a few pieces, such as mugs and salad plates, will make you feel more in the holiday spirit.

These can be used in years to come and make for great conversation as memories are rekindled from holidays past.

For a living or gathering room without a fireplace, consider this the location for your tree. If you do have a fireplace, your mantle — with or without a tree in this room — is the ideal spot to centralize this room's holiday decorating.

For an exceptionally easy transition into the holidays, try replacing the throw pillows in these rooms with holiday pillows.

After you have completed your interior decorating, take some of the leftover clippings from your greenery

and add them to your existing holiday decorating.

Finish it off by accessorizing with ribbon, bows and candles to add color, tone and festivity consistent with your theme.

Remember to keep your holiday decorating from looking cluttered and disorganized by first planning and organizing.

Maintain continuity by having your home transition from room to room.

Create focal points within each room or area. When in doubt as to how much or how little decoration to use, keep in mind that “less is more.”

Lastly, take some time for yourself to enjoy your freshly decorated holiday surroundings and the true meaning of this special season. ➤

(Editor's Note: Marianne Wilcoxon DeTar, a certified Interior Redesign Industry Specialist, is the owner of Space Lifts, a business dedicated to interior redesign, decorating and real estate staging. She is also a monthly columnist for Shore Home & Garden Magazine.)