

## wall coverage

by Jennifer Erxleben

# winter glamour for the holidays

When decorating your home for the holidays, you may find there's a disconnect between the decor in your home and your holiday or Christmas decorations.

Any item you add shouldn't clash in terms of style and colour – colour being your walls, upholstery, furniture, etc. It should also fit with the style of your home, whether it's traditional, modern or classic. One of the easiest ways to achieve harmony is through what is called "Winter Glamour," using neutral colours such as silver, gold, white or clear accents when decorating for the holidays.

You can use this approach for your tree or the decor throughout your home. I spoke with Margarida Oliveira of *Chic Decor* for some holiday decorating ideas that look amazing but are easy to achieve.

"Winter Glamour will create enough interest and drama without clashing

with your other colours and decor. These neutral colours will make your home sparkle for the holidays and can become the staple ornaments to which you can add more colour (if you wish) in years to come. Decorating your home for Christmas can include touches in the following areas of the home.

"If you have a large mirror in your hallway, hang a wreath in front of it. For a light, airy look, choose a white feather wreath with a large enough opening so that guests can still see themselves in the mirror. And, because it's made of feathers, it won't scratch the mirror and will lend an airy quality to the space.

"You can attach the wreath using ribbon that weaves in from the top to the back so it's sitting in front of the mirror. This look adds dimension since it reflects in the mirror and yet it doesn't take up any extra space," explained Margarida.

Another amazing look is adding greenery of cedar or white pine to the top of a picture by tucking the branches into the space at the top and letting them drape over the picture. You can also drape them across the top of a buffet or on any shelving you may have throughout your home. "Cedar and pine are soft and can easily drape across furniture. Stay away from spruce as it's too stiff to bend," Margarida advised.

"Hanging boxwood wreaths inside the windows is a very elegant way to dress up your home on the outside," Margarida continues. "You can also tuck in several ornaments into a portion of the wreath. It's best not to decorate the whole wreath as it will look too busy. About a third of the wreath can be decorated so it's subtle and not over-bearing. White or silver balls or pine cones will look elegant and sophisticated, or simply add a satin bow."

Keep all the wreaths the same, so it

creates a unified, symmetrical look. You can even place lights in the middle of the wreaths, giving a very tranquil effect.

It's not very popular anymore, but some people still do it. Changing over your paintings or prints to reflect wintry scenes can add to the overall festive ambiance of your home. If you have shelving, change some of your ornaments to Christmas decorations.

"Have the majority of your holiday decorations in white, silver or gold. If you wish to add colour, look around your room and determine the dominant accent colour. Then you can add this colour into your holiday decor in small doses. Keeping the majority of

the decorations in neutral tones will create flow from room to room and create an elegant look. This simplified theme complements all types of motifs, it's unlimited," Margarida explained.

"For your dining room table, fill three hurricane lanterns one third full with

faux snow. This creates a tablescape, instead of one centerpiece. Like a vignette, it tells a story and offers a series of interesting pieces to look at. With the three spread out, place vanilla pillar candles in the middle of the snow.

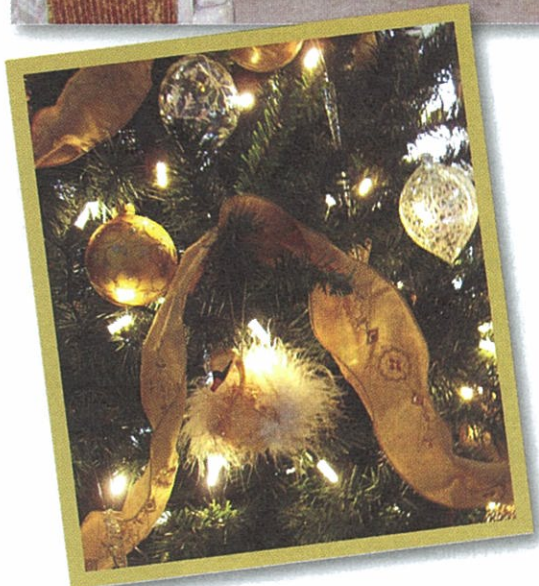
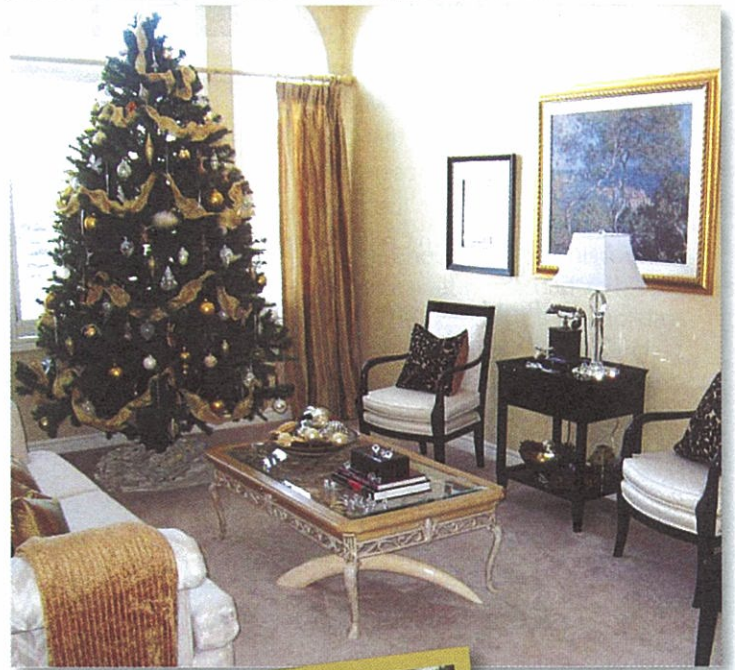
"Now, spray greenery branches with faux snow and weave throughout the lantern bases. Drop diamond-shaped ornaments throughout the greenery. And for a touch of glamorized rustic charm, place a silver sparkle deer from Bowrings in between the lantern spaces.

"Another beautiful idea this year, is to group together silver birch bark candles, which you can find at the Pottery Barn. Place these on varied heights of crystal/glass candleholders on coffee or end tables or shelves. Always use odd numbers when doing groupings for the most impact.

"On your mantel, place several containers of mercury glass (again in odd numbers) and stagger the heights and shapes for optimal effect – high, low, high, low and so on. Fill every other one with greenery, such as B.C. cedar, white pine and pepper berries. Then weave greenery along the base of the mantle to cover the base of the containers, creating a landscape they can rest on. Lastly, wire glass icicles to the branches so that they hang over the mantel edge," Margarida told me.

"These ideas are looks that stand the test of time and give you a great foundation. Having the majority of your holiday decor in neutral tones creates cohesion throughout your home. Your home will have sparkle and sophistication without looking chaotic and overdone." For more holiday or home decorating ideas. ||

Margarida can be reached at 905-337-8463 or visit her website at: [www.chicdecordesign.com](http://www.chicdecordesign.com).



**Top:** To spruce up the buffet, evergreens with gold and white ornaments complement the picture frame and wall image. Also consider altering the feel of the room with a winter themed painting, photo or wall hanging.

**Middle:** A gold and white themed Christmas tree complements the curtains, frame and chesterfield.

**Bottom:** Varied textures of glass, ribbon, feathers and glitter reinforce the white and gold theme.