



Reinventing the Holidays: *Christmas Outside the Box*

By Amy Fischer | Images provided by Spectrum Interior Design



With the change of season comes the scents of pumpkin spice, hot apple cider, and the warmth of gathering around the fire. For some, the holiday season is a time of joyful anticipation and entertaining with family and friends. For others, the period from Halloween through New Year's is a whirlwind of activity filled with overwhelm. Many of us feel a combination of emotions, but one thing that can help get us into the holiday spirit is decorating our homes.

How are you getting ready to celebrate the holidays this year?

First Christmas in Your New Home?

If you just completed your remodel or custom home build project, your new interior may deserve a complimentary holiday scheme! What better time to open your newly completed home in celebration than with bespoke holiday decor wrapped in the magic of sparkle and lights?

Action: Consider the style, mood, and color scheme of your new home to inspire the design direction for the holidays. Design themes can carry across trees, garlands, tabletop and mantle décor.

Color Schemes: Think beyond the traditional red and green, and consider something different:

- Personality Match: Let your holiday style and color scheme derive from your artwork, area rugs and/or upholstery fabrics
- Transitional Metallics: Mix colors of metals such as platinum, silver, pewter, gold, bronze and/or copper
- Frosted Pine: Layer white on white, from fabrics to sprigs, ornaments to snow and icicles
- Sophisticated Neutrals: Soft gold, warm silver and champagne mix beautifully for a timeless look
- Classic Elegance: Burgundy, cream and gold bring an understated festive appeal
- Jewel Tones: Emerald, sapphire, and ruby red bring rich drama
- Boldly Colorful: Deep teal, eggplant, cobalt blue, ochre and rust leave an artistic impression

Ready for a Makeover?

Perhaps your holiday decorations have been randomly collected or passed down to you over the years. There is no theme or cohesive look and you want something fresh. Consider archiving the keepsakes, donating your collection to those in need and begin anew!

Action: Look around your home to be inspired. What mood fits your personality? Do you want the holiday scheme to feel classic, formal, casual, masculine, feminine or whimsical? A formal mood may fit best in the high-profile areas such as the Foyer, Living and Dining rooms while casual may be better suited in the family Great Room and lower level entertaining spaces. The feelings you create can vary by how you and others use and enjoy the spaces.

Want to Mix it Up?

You like to change your holiday themes and leave last year's décor in the past.

Action: Create a new look for your holiday with a focused theme. Let the theme influence the colors and textures for a harmonious concept.

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No Time for Any of This?

The idea of designing, purchasing and decorating for the holidays overwhelms you and doesn't bring the least bit of joy to you or your family. Want someone else to think through the details and wish you could delegate the workload?

Action: Seek the help of design professionals to relieve you of the hassle and come home to enjoy your festive décor without having to lift a finger!

For additional ideas or to be further inspired, visit: www.SpectrumInteriorDesign.com

Amy Fischer is the founder and principal interior designer of Spectrum Interior Design, the leading Silicon Valley firm specializing in full-service luxury design for newly constructed homes and speculative estates. The firm offers unique turn-key holiday design services for homes, businesses and yachts including procurement, decoration, disassembly and organization.

Holiday Theme Ideas could include:

- Rustic Organic: Mix in textures and natural elements such as pinecones, birds, and feathers
- Whimsical Fun: Bright and bold colors, wild and imaginative
- Family Memories: Photo collages of holiday memories encased in custom ornaments
- Candy Sweet: Adorn with the theme of cupcakes, candy and sugar frosted treats
- Around the World: Landmark ornament collections from favorite worldly destinations
- Nautical: Coral ornaments, seashells, starfish and fishing nets can remind you of your love for sand and sea

Just Looking to Refresh Your Look?

Your family has their favorite ornaments that they have collected through travels and various milestone memories. You couldn't possibly change your holiday scheme but want to enhance and synchronize the overall look.

Action: Layer the trunk of your tree with fabrics, textural sprigs, and large scale ornaments tucked into the barest portions between the bows. Hang the family nostalgia on the outer perimeter and be amazed by the difference textural layering makes!