

CANADIAN

NOVEMBER 2019

HOUSE & HOME

Winter Magic

80+

PAGES OF
HOLIDAY IDEAS

BEST
DECORATING
FOR THE
SEASON

**LYNDA
REEVES**
INVITES
US IN!

**DESIGNER
FRONT DOORS**

SARAH RICHARDSON
NAM DANG-MITCHELL
JAMES DAVIE
COLETTE
VAN DEN THILLART
ANNE HEPPER

Plus

The Must-have Cookies
From Six Top Bakers

Our Ultimate
Gift Guide



LYNDA'S
NEW TAKE
ON HOLIDAY
DECORATING.

A THOROUGHLY MODERN *mix*

Swim Stroke I, Oil on
linen, by Kristine Moran,
Daniel Faria Gallery.



Photography by DONNA GRIFFITH

Craft styling by Rayna Marlee Schwartz



"I HAD FUN GETTING INTO A HOLIDAY MOOD IN MID-AUGUST!"



AT *House & Home*, Christmas comes in August. And then for months after that, there are TV segments to tape, studio vignettes to set up and holiday events to prep for.

By December 24th, I'm done — I don't want to see another pine bough, bit of ribbon, holly or ball of any kind!

But then there's still Christmas at home, which I love and can't ignore. For years, I've relied on the same no-fuss formula of table decorations and red candles. No one complained and it was nice but, after a decade, I *must* change it up.

Using the modern art at home as the inspiration for a fresh take and calling in help from florist Todd Caldwell (*far right*) at Emblem made it easy. I promise you, these are straightforward ideas that you can use to customize your own style. It took me a day to buy supplies and fuss and be crafty. (OK, full disclosure, our craft stylist helped me by making samples of crackers that were amazing!) Now setting the table on December 24th will be simple.

My best tip is to consider your rooms, your china and the things you already have before you pick a new theme. You may like the look of a "Kinfolk Christmas" on the pages of magazines, but kraft paper and pinecones may not bring much style to a classic city house. Here's what worked for me.



EASY FABRIC GIFT WRAP

This is a super simple yet beautifully elegant wrap. You create bundles by wrapping any gift in either tissue or a remnant of solid-coloured fabric. Chose a shade that will complement the silk gauze that's going on top. For the gauze layer, cut a generous square of fabric and tie it up in a bundle. Thick kraft paper tags tied on with leather laces are the perfect combination with the silk gauze. Turn to page 132 for the full instructions.



LONG-LASTING ARRANGEMENTS

Todd Caldwell taught me this. Fill a vase or pot with greens to create a base. I like to mix pine, salal, spruce and holly, or any red berries. Then pop in a few roses with large heads. My colour mix is red, orange and hot pink. Sometimes I add a celery shade like green hydrangea for contrast. Change the water every day and, eventually, when the roses die, replace them. The greens will go on much longer. In the front hall, Todd used a favourite old Chinese export pot. He placed a plastic container inside and filled it with a classic combo of roses and evergreens. *Organic soy candle* (on console, centre) by Lucia Les Saisons Collection, Shop House & Home.



SEE SHOPPING LIST



Excerpt #1 – A Circle in Four Parts, 2017, Acrylic on linen, by Joy Walker.



PUT YOUR ENERGY INTO HOMEMADE CRACKERS

They're the best because they make great table decorations and you can personalize them by filling them with wonderful treats. You can either use store-bought ones and just swap out the contents, or you can make your own. It's so easy that you won't regret trying this. It's what's inside that counts. Write custom fortunes. Fold up lottery tickets or gift certificates to anything. I like to give movie vouchers from Cineplex that are always a hit. Key rings, iPhone earbuds, lip gloss, a beautiful pen, and there's always jewelry! This is a wonderful project for kids. Turn to page 132 for the full instructions.

SETTING THE TABLE

On the table I've used colourful elements that play off the mobile and other art. The placemats are by Chilewich in rose gold, the plates are stone-coloured and very simple, and the combination of Waterford crystal champagne flutes, stemless rose-coloured tumblers and fabulous blue-and-white painted water glasses is playful and fun. The napkins in chartreuse linen are an old set that I treasure for the amazing colour that's so hard to find. The handmade crackers are the finishing touch. **Plates, rose-coloured tumblers, blue-and-white water glasses**, Hopson Grace.



WEB For Lynda's best entertaining tips, visit houseandhome.com and click on the current issue



Brass-coloured metal ornaments hang from the doorknobs around the house. They're filled with sachets. **Scented pomander ball and scented wax tablets** by Lucia Les Saisons Collection, Shop House & Home.



ON THE OUTSIDE, GO FOR DRAMA

I keep it simple and all-green with very little other colour except for the chartreuse velvet ribbon; the ribbon colour varies from year to year. I don't like too much going on with exterior lights or decorations. I prefer a swag of pine to a wreath because it hangs better. For the urns, it's always winter greenery and natural bits like pinecones and berries. This is a traditional house and the elements are great, so why mess with it? Archie, our bearded collie, seems to agree!

OTHER TIPS

- I like to scatter a few favourite tree ornaments on the dinner table. See the sparkling glass grape ornament (left).
- This is the one time of year when my candles change from cream or black to red or gold metallic.
- Instead of placecards, you can write the name of each guest right on their cracker, or tie on a name tag.

"IN OUR HOUSE, CUSTOM CRACKERS HAVE REPLACED STOCKINGS AS THE FAVOURITE GIFT FOR GROWN-UPS"

SEE SHOPPING LIST

