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# Festive EMBELLISHMENTS

Holiday decorating can be equal parts fun and overwhelming as you search to find the right places or the right element to complete your festive arrangements. As with any decor, the more personalized it is, the cozier your cabin will appear because it reflects you. But there's a fine line between collection and cluttered, so you may want to rethink how you display some of your treasured tchotchkes. Traditional greenery swag always creates a classic look, with the added benefit of tying your cabin to the elements around you, but even it can stand some colorful updates to create a cheerier appearance.

To help you create an inspiring holiday look, we asked interior decorators Kelley Proxmire (kelleyinteriordesign.com) and Marika Meyer (meyerinteriors.com) to identify best practices and suggestions for eye-catching festive designs.

**Bigger Can Be Better.** It's easy with cabin decor in general to assume that the best course of action is to scale down the

size of your furnishings and accessories to mimic the downscaled size of your home. In reality, however, smaller items tend to accentuate the smallness of a room, rather than complement it.

The same can be said for holiday decor. Tiny trinkets can easily get lost in your displays or, even worse, make it look cluttered. Instead, opt for something that stands out.

"I think the scale can be a little bigger and bolder these days," Proxmire observes. "It could be bigger by way of container, or bigger leaves, or big pinecones. So don't be too timid when putting tablescapes together."

You can dress up containers for a more prominent piece as well. Proxmire suggests creating a bow from burlap wrapped with a velvet ribbon.

**Food for Thought.** Fruit can add an organic and colorful touch to your holiday arrangements. In addition to more traditional items such as cranberries or juniper berries, consider citrus elements, such as oranges or lem-

ons, for your wreaths or containers. Pineapples — typically associated with the tropics — are appropriate as well as a symbol of welcoming and hospitality, Proxmire notes.

Other food combinations include kumquats and pomegranates for a nice blend of orange and nontraditional reds, Meyer suggests. She often finds inspiration in her grocery store, including dried and fresh artichokes for an interesting mixture of greens, shapes and textures.

**Let It Glow.** Candles can add instant warmth to any space with their soft, flickering flames. Afraid of a potential fire hazard? Proxmire swears by light-emitting diode (LED) candles, which come in myriad colors to match your theme. Colorful containers, such as red lanterns or lacquered squares, assist in creating an eye-catching display, she adds.

**Fill It Out.** Garland is a holiday decorating staple, but if it's going to look skimpy adorning your railing or man-

Photos courtesy of Kelley Interiors Design

Marika Meyer



## Creative Card Display

Trees are great for displaying ornaments, but did you also know that you can refashion tree elements to display other holiday elements as well? Interior decorator Marika Meyer employs birch strips that she strings across her bookshelves. "As Christmas cards come in, I clip them onto the birch rolls and just roll them out as more cards come in," she states.



For more tips on decorating with pomegranates, visit [countrysbestcabins.com](http://countrysbestcabins.com).

tel, skip it. Other ideas for greenery swags include draping existing pieces, such as mirrors or picture frames. Proxmire recommends using 3M command strips with hooks versus nails because they peel off easily and won't leave holes in your walls.

Making sure to fill out your arrangement also holds true for your holiday decor on the whole in that it doesn't have to be centralized in one space. "Not everything has to be in the living room," Meyer states, adding that she doesn't always place her tree in the living room and instead opts for a small selection of items there to balance her decor. "Spread some greenery around and tuck that into vases around the house, so you get that great evergreen smell all around the place."

**Floral Finds.** Poinsettias, of course, are the tried-and-true blooms of the holiday season, but other varieties may strike a similar note while infusing some color of their own.

"I love magnolia leaves," says Meyer.



## The Perfect Tree

Do you constantly find yourself buying trees that are too big for your living room? Take the stand with you with you pick out your tree, interior decorator Kelley Proxmire suggests. That way, you can get everything cut to size on site rather than trying to make it work at home. "It takes the guessing out of it — it's just done," she states.

"I think that they bring in a Southern flair. It just feels a little bit more unusual."

Dried hydrangeas can also be a nice touch, she adds, while Proxmire favors amaryllis and white lilies. Think about what's local to your setting, too, to see what other colorful inspirations you may find to help bring the outdoors in.

**Mix It Up.** Don't be afraid to rearrange your decorations year after year, including the placement of your Christmas tree. Just because something was on your coffee table last year doesn't mean it can't find a new home on your kitchen island this year.

Meyer selects themes each year to keep her holiday decor fresh. "Each year, I think about what my theme is going to be and how I want to tie those elements around the house," she states. "Then I edit it."

Proxmire also suggests getting a friend to help provide new perspective.

What fun themes will you incorporate with some of your existing holiday decorations? **CHC**

