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Celebrale the SEASON

with festive dessert & drink recipes from Mary Berg's new book Well Seasoned

Spiced Clementine Bourbon Sour Page 53

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OUR EPIC LIST OF GIFT SUGGESTIONS FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR LIST





PHOTO BY JANIS NICOLAY

It's that magical time of year again: the festive season. Celebrations abound and with that, trimming your home in the season's finest. Before you sprinkle everything with sparkle and gild all you see in gold, designers are leaning toward a fresher, simpler, au naturel approach to holiday trimming. Here is some fresh design inspiration for your seasonal décor this year.

THE SEASON OF LIGHTS

GILLIAN SEGAL, principal and founder of Vancouver-based Gillian Segal Design, describes her personal style as "modern, eclectic glamour" and is known for always adding an element of the unexpected into her designs. Inspired by her travels, Segal loves blending old and new on projects for her residential interior design firm.

Recently, Segal took on the décor of her own home and decided to keep the focus broad and add items she loved, regardless of their style. "I couldn't commit to modern or traditional," she says, "I wanted it to be a blend of both: a contemporary home with the warmth I feel from more traditional spaces, those traditional details."

"The room-to-move design is probably best seen at this time of year, when Hanukkah celebrations bring the family together—if more distanced this year than in times past," says Segal.

"I grew up celebrating Christmas with my family, and I converted to Judaism after I met my husband," she says. "When we started celebrating Hanukkah, I felt unsure how to make it feel festive—so I wanted to do my own interpretation of what it could look like."

Segal incorporates lots of natural greenery, along with customdesigned floral pieces to bring festive style to her home.

"A big part of the story of Hanukkah was celebrating and using foods fried in oil, so there is a big focus on olive oil," says Segal. "There was just enough oil for one night, yet it lasted eight." To bring that tradition home, she places olive branches throughout the house, including in the garland that runs up the stairs. As it turns out, that olive-tree focus just happens to fit perfectly with the design of the home itself, that mossy green nodding to the olive-green powder room, the sage-green marble on the fireplace and the area rug in the main room.

The dramatic floral arrangement over the fireplace was designed by Celsia Floral in Vancouver and spray-painted in silvers and blues for Hanukkah.







A TABLE SET TO CELEBRATE

DESIGNERS Eugenia Triandos and Korina Khamis are the co-founders of Montreal-based Hibou Design & Co. They have more than a decade of experience creating stylish and wellcurated interiors, providing bespoke residential design services across North America. To set the festive scene in this recently completed project, lead designer Triandos chose to add colour and texture with natural elements.

She suggests keeping it simple with colour

and style that will complement your home's overall décor. Classics never go out of style, and natural elements provide the rustic warmth and charm that will last through the season.

"Regardless of how formal or casual the meal is, ensure you've set the table correctly with dishes and silverware corresponding to the courses served, working your way inward," says Triandos. "Mix and match; we like to bring in some family heirlooms that have passed down combined with new finds, creating a diverse eclectic storied aesthetic."

ABOVE: Set a perfect table with mounds of fresh greenery surrounding vintage and special occasion pieces already in your cupboard.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE PAIR'S FAVOURITE TIPS TO SET THE SCENE FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON.

- Add vibrant colour and texture that can be found as close as your nearest market. Dried or fresh cranberries and seasonal fruit such as clementines, pomegranates and figs are a favourite, lending the nature to our homes that we're missing outdoors at this time of year.
- Fill in your tabletop centrepiece using pinecones and evergreen branches from your own backyard, paired with a string of sparkling lights or candles and some loose ornaments nestled in. Of course, you can find these items at markets and floral shops if you aren't fortunate enough to be able to forage for them. "To create a table-scape start at the centre of the table and work your way out, alternating between sides and decorations. This ensures your tabletop is well balanced," says Triandos.
- Serving trays are a great way to make your festive decor mobile. Rather than creating a huge centrepiece, scale it down and decorate a serving tray that you can remove if you need to reclaim the space at mealtime.
- Don't forget to add real candles, they provide a
 warm and flickering glow that artificial lights can't
 offer. Nestle groups of candles all in same colour
 throughout your home for a festive, yet tasteful,
 touch. Avoid candles with scents where food is being
 served, as their perfume can detract from the flavours
 of the food.
- Go beyond the dining table and adorn side tables, bar cart, side board, fireplace mantel and windowsills with the same treatment for a continuous look.

