

HOLIDAY ISSUE | 47 EASY RECIPES | PARTY DRESSES FROM \$60

# Chateleine

DECEMBER 2010

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bring on the  
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*Delicious Christmas Cookies,  
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*& much  
more!*

**New  
Year's  
Dinner  
Party** P. 212

**Deck  
the  
Halls!**

**Simple, Stylish  
Decorating Ideas**

**PLUS | Glee's Jessalyn Gilsig + NEW FICTION by Steve Martin**



# a very coastal *christmas*

Forget plaid and mistletoe – this Vancouver home is bursting with juicy berry tones. And that's before the holiday decorations even come out



**W**

**HEN ASKED WHAT SHE LOVES** best about her 1920s Tudor home in Vancouver's Shaughnessy neighbourhood, designer Nancy Riesco laughs and answers, "Space. I grew up with six people in a 700-square-foot home." Her house is anything but cold and cavernous, though. The vibrant personality of this family of four is visible everywhere. "There's nothing I dislike more than a show home. Our place is full of interesting objects and eye-catching colours. It's a higgledy-piggledy approach to decorating that comes from the heart." Indeed, ancestral portraits are easily mixed with hand-painted silk chandeliers and minimalist Japanese chairs, while antique rugs anchor Italian glass coffee tables. The approach to festive decorating is just as eclectic: Come Christmas, the family unpacks long-collected and hand-made ornaments and hangs them on white branches, a towering green tree and the Charlie Brown-tinsel tree. It's anything but traditional, but the end result couldn't be more welcoming.



### Mix eras and styles.

If your approach to decorating is to throw together everything you love, stick to a simple colour scheme to make it feel cohesive. In the dining room, different tones of white, buff and pale grey all work in unison to create a sense of calm.

### Hang decorations in surprising places.

When the overall decor of a room is sparse and simple, little touches add a festive air (left). Hang vintage holiday cards and sparkly branches on the doors of the hutch.

## Add sofa seating to the dining room.

Instead of the usual buffet server, Nancy decided to place a comfortable sofa in the bone-coloured dining room. It makes guests feel instantly more relaxed. "After dinner it's a wonderful place for people to sit and chat without having to leave the party," she says. Since the dining room has cold, northern light, a hand-painted silk lamp adds warmth and a well-travelled feel to the room.

**GET THIS LOOK** | Fortuny chandelier, [bernsteinandgold.com](http://bernsteinandgold.com). Chairs, [informinteriors.com](http://informinteriors.com). Lillith Rockett pottery, [vanspecial.com](http://vanspecial.com). Linen tablecloth, [potterybarn.ca](http://potterybarn.ca). Rug, [colin-campbell.ca](http://colin-campbell.ca). Custom handcrafted beeswax candle, [Atkinson's](http://Atkinson's), 604-736-3378. Deer horns, [stepback.ca](http://stepback.ca). Similar porcelain owls, see page 197. Vitra Algues sculpture, [gabrielross.com](http://gabrielross.com). Mercury candle holders, [heatherrossinhouse.com](http://heatherrossinhouse.com).



## Turn a bench into a console.

A long, low bench effortlessly anchors large paintings on a wall. It also makes a handy place to display objects. Update old lamps by making new shades with graphic fabric and ribbon trim.

**GET THIS LOOK** | Nelson bench, [informinteriors.com](http://informinteriors.com). Painting, [leahmacfarlane.blogspot.com](http://leahmacfarlane.blogspot.com). Orange vase, antler candlestick, silver bowl, [heatherrossinhouse.com](http://heatherrossinhouse.com). Glass bowl and ornaments, A Bakers Dozen Antiques, 604-879-3348.



## Create a drink station.

It's the perfect place to set the tone for having plenty of holiday fun. Choose some brightly coloured ornaments and reflect their jewel tones in flowers, glasses and books. Bonus: You're always ready for unexpected company.

**GET THIS LOOK** | Table, folkartinteriors.com. Tray, thecrossdesign.com. Floral arrangement, quincefineflorals.com. Silver bowl, bell and lantern ornaments, heatherrossinhouse. Branches, parliamentinteriors.com. Vintage ball ornaments, A Bakers Dozen Antiques, 604-879-3348. Jonathan Adler squirrel, moulestores.com. Books, vanspecial.com.







## Forgo the island.

There's no more intimate space than the kitchen, especially when it's furnished with an easy-to-care-for table that seats the entire family. The turquoise chairs are a cinch to wipe clean, and create a crisp contrast to the white-on-white decor. Wood flooring that runs throughout the house and into the kitchen also warms up the room, despite the cool colour scheme.

**GET THIS LOOK** | Kitchen table, [formfunction.ca](http://formfunction.ca). Kartell Maui chairs, [gabrielross.com](http://gabrielross.com). Tea towels, [todryfor.com](http://todryfor.com). Overhead light, [ikea.ca](http://ikea.ca).



[chatelaine.com/treedecorations](http://chatelaine.com/treedecorations)

Freshen up your Christmas decor with our top tree decorations. We found the 15 most stylish ornaments, from traditional to modern.

## Embrace natural wood.

Sometimes, the character of a house is too special to change. That's how Nancy felt about the 1950s mahogany panelling in the den and the hall. Instead of painting, she decorated around it, using stark white as a contrast. Nancy placed a striking lacquered table in the hall to complement the wood's mellow tones. The table's unusual legs reference classical form with a twist.

**GET THIS LOOK** | Rocker, sofa, [informinteriors.com](http://informinteriors.com). Giraffe lamp, [jonathanadler.com](http://jonathanadler.com). Coffee table, [cb2.com](http://cb2.com). Area rug, [mavyan.com](http://mavyan.com). Large white bowl, Rina Menardi Ceramics at [providehome.com](http://providehome.com). Ceramic vase, [fullhouseconsign.com](http://fullhouseconsign.com). Viburnum berries, [quince.ca](http://quince.ca). Similar white lacquer table (right), [torretagus.com](http://torretagus.com).



## Choose a chandelier for a kid's room.

Nancy jazzed up her 13-year-old daughter Gemma's room with a fanciful crystal chandelier and a vintage bronze bed. Asian-inspired touches like modern pop-graphic characters on the linens and a Chinese lantern make the room playful.

**GET THIS LOOK** | Glitter birds and stars, Salmagundi West, 604-681-4648. Floral cup, quincefinefloral.com. Vintage lantern, heatherrossinhouse.com. Chair, informinteriors.com. Desk, bookcase, ikea.ca. Duvet cover and sham, furnituresalad.ca. Riesco & Lapres chest of drawers, riescodesign.com.





## Paint half the wall.

Here's a clever designer trick: Bring the ceiling colour down onto the walls to make low ceilings seem higher. In her son's room, Nancy was lucky enough to find a nifty desk that wraps around the corner of the room. She updated the look with a simple chair that gives the whole room a cool, eclectic vibe perfect for 11-year-old Charlie.

**GET THIS LOOK** | Jiede lamp, bombastfurniture.com. Teddy-bear painting, A Bakers Dozen Antiques, 604-879-3348. Green cube, vanspecial.com. Red globe, moulestores.com. Tree decorations, heatherrossinhouse.com.