

| design **trends**

Photo by Bethany Starin / House of Nomad

Decking the halls without wrecking your budget

Make your home look like a million bucks this holiday season with these helpful tips from local home designers

by Emily Gunn

It's the most expensive time of the year. And while you can easily blow your budget on twinkly lights and expensive wreaths, you can also make your home look like a picturesque holiday retreat without overspending. Use these tips from local designers to design your own budget- and environmentally-conscious winter wonderland.

REUSE, RETHINK, REPURPOSE

Finding ways to repurpose decorations isn't just budget conscious, but it's also an environmentally-friendly choice. Marisa Wilson of local interior



design firm Artful Interiors recommends buying a few different types of glass containers or vases that you can use throughout the year to fill with seasonally-appropriate décor.

For instance, the same pretty glass bowl can be filled with ornaments during the holiday season, pine cones in late winter and flowers or citrus during the spring and summer months. The best part? These containers don't have to be expensive—you can get simple, multi-purpose glass vases at a store like Hobby Lobby or Pottery Barn.

If you're living in a small apartment or condo (or just don't feel like shell-





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ing out the money for a big Christmas tree), Wilson recommends checking out a local tree lot near you and asking to take home any of the extra branches or greenery they have on hand. Often, these vendors are looking to get rid of these spare branches, so you can take them home for free and spruce up your home with decorations you won't have to store all year—instead, you can simply throw the branches out at the end of the season, when they would have been tossed anyway.

Wilson loves tying bows around greenery and using them to decorate the mantel, not to mention they make your home smell great. She also loves using magnolia leaves, blossoms and berry stems to add a touch of Southern charm to any holiday scheme.



As far as seasonal colors goes, Wilson has seen a lot of deep reds this year, as well as the same mustard-gold color so prominent in fashion lately. She's seen a lot of hunter green and gold, as well.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

"For holiday décor, first and foremost, keep it simple," says Berkeley Minkhorst, co-owner of House of Nomad, a full-service interior design studio in Myers Park. "Our biggest suggestion is to pick a color palette and stick to it."

This can be challenging with so many decorations coming in varying color palettes, from blue and silver to red and green to multi-color-bright-and-shiny-everything. But in order to



Photo courtesy of Marisa Wilson / Artful Interiors



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create a cohesive, calming look for your home, sticking to just a few colors can make a world of difference.

Plus, keeping your decorations simple will prevent you from overspending on too many items, or having to replace overly trendy items year after year. Minkhorst loves using white, green and one natural element for a simple but classic look. She also recommends keeping your tree trimmings for both your table and your mantel so you can create a cohesive look throughout your home.

SETTING THE TABLE

As Kelley Lentini, co-owner of House of Nomad, explains, creating a beautiful tablescape doesn't have to be complicated. "For tablescapes, we like to pick a natural element, such as leftover trimmings from your tree or cut magnolia leaves, and then add in a string of fairy lights and some candlesticks of varying heights—and you're done!" She recommends keeping centerpieces low profile so you can still enjoy easy conversation at the table.



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If you want to add a bit of holiday shimmer to your table, Lentini recommends steering clear of glitter, and instead using gold, silver or brass—and just sticking to one metal to keep things simple and clean. “We really love brass, so adding in a few brass elements is really beautiful—candlesticks, small bowls or even trays filled with greenery,” she says.

One of the best ways to not overspend on holiday decorations is to focus on items that will look great in your home all season long, not just from Thanksgiving to Christmas. “As much as we love festive décor, we also love to think winter instead of holiday. This way, your efforts will last until spring,” Lentini says. “Winter is the perfect time to grab a new throw pillow or two—and think texture.”

Adding textures and natural elements to your home will help keep your holiday decorations from looking too cheesy or one-dimensional. And you’ll have created a picture-perfect, cozy home that will outlast the holidays and keep you feeling warm until the weather follows suit.



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