

## 'Tis the Season

Two West Coast designers offer an array of tips on how you can make your house come alive at the holidays



1

Use inexpensive Indian throws as tablecloths or as a skirt around the bottom of the tree. They can also be quickly stitched up into great pillows to add some exotic holiday flavor.

2

Handmade Christmas stockings add an unexpected and personal touch to the mantel. Our favorites are needlepointed, knitted, or assembled from antique textile fragments and ribbons.



Schuyler Samperton (left) and Anna Hackathorn are partners in their own Los Angeles-based interior design firm. Ethiopian crosses (above, right) are from Massa Musa Gallery in Los Angeles.

3

Make a wreath from pheasant feathers—it's a sophisticated take on a traditional motif.

4

When setting the table, instead of reaching for the red and green, create a wintry still life in silver and white with an icy combination of mercury glass vases and rock crystal votives. Candlelight is magically enhanced in this highly reflective environment.

5

An Advent tree makes a great interactive tabletop conversation piece. Decorate a small tree with numbered fabric pouches filled with treats. Open one a day from December 1 through the 24th.

6

Lanterns in trees provide a welcome and unique alternative to strings of little white lights.

7

Incorporate pieces from other cultures in your tablescapes—we especially love the lacy geometric patterns of Ethiopian crosses (pictured above).

8

In a time-honored tradition, add a garland of greens to your dining room or entrance hall chandelier.

9

Inexpensive slipcovers can give sofas or chairs an instant holiday makeover. Pottery Barn carries some in a cheery cranberry color.

10

Layer your home with welcoming scents. One suggestion is Debaube & Gallais's cinnamon hot chocolate, which blends beautifully with Diptyque's Pomander candle.

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