



Seasonal SPARKLE

What are the elements of dazzling holiday decor? We asked three designers who styled three different homes for last season's New Canaan Holiday House Tour

BY JUDY OSTROW
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JANE BEILES

Treetops

This Colonial Revival home designed in 1915 needed a light touch from designer **Elena Phillips** to enhance its architectural details.



What inspired you about this home? The home is elegant and formal, but it's comfortable at the same time. We took our cues from the existing décor and chose Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" as our musical inspiration. We used ballet colors—soft pinks, pale green, cream and gold—in addition to bronze and evergreen.

The evergreens look so lush. Our Holiday House volunteers helped create the vision. We gathered cedar, eucalyptus, noble fir and magnolia to create texture and depth for the garlands, wreaths and other arrangements. We also used metallic tones for some of the containers, like a coppery gold bowl in the living room that we filled with balls made from boxwood. It's a lovely contrast.

How did you create such a spectacular tree? We used feathers and large-scale sparkly and sculptural ornaments. The color palette derives from the same pastel, cream, gold and green scheme that we used throughout the house. Presents create another layer of decoration. We wrapped the gifts beneath the tree in pale green, silver and gold, so everything blends seamlessly. The gifts beneath the tree create its foundation; they finish and ground it, since it's quite tall.

How can I get the look in my home? The design strategy we used here can be used anywhere. Mix your greenery and choose an assortment that appeals to you. Add your family's own treasures; they give special meaning to your displays. Surround your tree with wrapped packages—in the same palette—to give it a solid base. And start early! You'll find great ideas in stores in fall; grab them!

TOP LEFT: The foyer's elegant architectural details require only the texture and simplicity of a garland of mixed greens. LEFT: A dash of glitter and decorative balls made from boxwood. OPPOSITE: Greenery and soft pastels blend seamlessly with the home's decor.



Elena Phillips began her design career working with David Kleinberg Design and Cullman & Kravis. She opened her own firm in 2012 with an office in Rowayton.

