

MAKE IT MERRY! 218 SEASONAL DECORATING IDEAS

HOLIDAY *décor*

**DECK
THE HALLS**
Amazing wreaths,
mantels & trees

**CHRISTMAS
BLISS** Easy & elegant style

Winter 2017 | Display until 11/21/2017
Engaged Entertainment Plus • \$12.99 US



Engaged Media, Inc.

EVERGREEN

THIS COTTAGE HAS A PEACEFUL CHARM THAT ONLY DEEP FAMILY ROOTS CAN CREATE.

WRITTEN BY Sarah Yoon
PHOTOGRAPHY BY Trevor Kobrin
INTERIOR DESIGN BY Barbara Owens

Love

100 HOLIDAY décor | 2017

During the holidays, your home can feel like as much of a gift to your guests as the presents under the tree—especially when the design and décor are warm, inviting and make its inhabitants feel the spirit of Christmas.

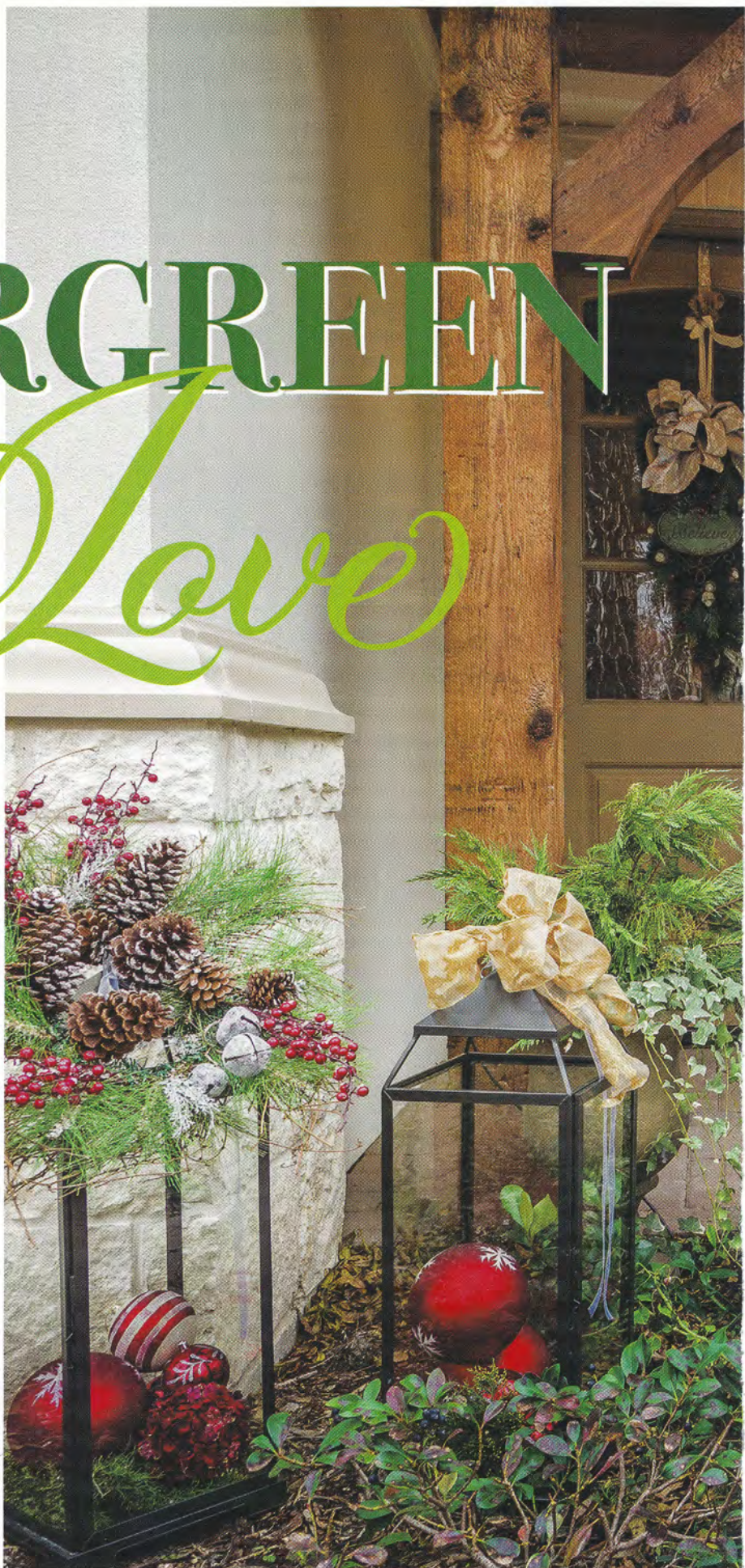
The Good Shepherd's Cottage was built as a gift, and interior designer Barbara Owens, of Owens Interiors, was in on the ground floor. As she established architecture and drew designs, the project became personal, she says. "I wanted [the owners] to love it and feel at home."

THOUGHTFUL AESTHETIC

Barbara's client gave the cottage to her in-laws, so it was carefully tailored to the older couple's needs.

Holiday Greetings.

A welcoming porch offers seating and a little extra greenery to care for. It faces an expansive camellia garden, which makes it the perfect spot to relax and drink tea in the evening.





“I like to find things around the house and *incorporate them* as part of the *Christmas decorations*. It’s a personal object that *becomes part of the holiday* rather than something that’s just brand new and brought in.”



Home for the Holidays.

On Christmas, the family drew names from a hat, and the home became the Good Shepherd’s Cottage. It’s apt, because the cottage is settled on Shepherd’s Way, and the retired pastor especially appreciates the reference to divine love and care.

“The father-in-law was retiring as a preacher and the mother-in-law’s Parkinson’s had progressed,” she explains. She arranged every detail, eliminating tripping hazards, arranging layout and establishing aesthetic. Her ultimate goal was to invite them in and help them feel cared for.

A gentle atmosphere with natural textures and soft neutrals helps establish that welcoming intentionality.

“We wanted it to be beautiful, but we didn’t want it to be over the top and lavish, where they were uncomfortable living there,” Barbara explains. She designed it to be “a very soothing, calm place to live.” Her hard work paid off when her clients unveiled the finished product and the in-laws were delighted.



CONSISTENTLY CALM

When Barbara returned to spruce up the cottage for the holidays, she aimed to stay true to the original vision, keeping the décor personal by elevating the aesthetic rather than smothering it.

“Christmas isn’t about going out and buying the prettiest, newest, latest color,” she says. “I decided to keep the tree rather neutral so that although it was elegant it just blended in with the setting.”

The cottage has white and gray tones throughout, with hints of Shabby Cottage style for an upscale rustic look. The Christmas tree matches those neutral tones while weaving in a bit of sparkle and frost. Ribbon twists around the tree, punctuated by striped bows. Frosted twig nests hold pinecones, bird eggs and bits of holly. The tree is full of natural elements, which create a theme that Barbara spread throughout the house.

“The cottage is nestled in a wooded lot, and I thought it would be pretty to keep it soft but bring the outdoors and the gardens into the house,” she says. “I like to bring in a lot of greenery from outside, especially if it’s from the property.”

Winter Whites.

When Barbara started decorating the tree, the residents asked only to be surprised. “I don’t think they’ve ever had a tree like that. They’ve always had a simple tree,” Barbara says.

“They’re such a delight to be around because they’re so tickled.”



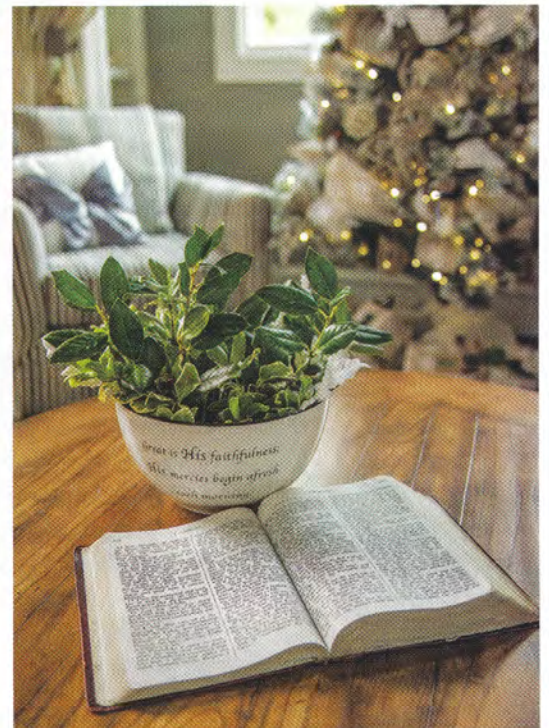


Hearth and Home.

A twig soldier stands guard under a magnolia garland, helping further Barbara's theme. "I was looking for things that had the feeling of Christmas but were more naturally-oriented," she says. The soldier complements the leafy greens about him while adding a traditional nutcracker motif.

Meaningful Moments.

A reminder of the Christmas story lays open on the coffee table. "He has a collection of Bibles," Barbara says of the owner. "The word 'decorate' seems trivial when you're talking about the Bible, but they're important to them, so they are spaced around the house."





Seasonal Updates.

The simplest addition can give a room an extra sense of celebration. You can accumulate pillows, but there's no need to fill your storage with fluff. Pillowcases store flat, so you can collect across the seasons.

CUSTOM CLIPPINGS

Barbara made the most of her client's gardens; she gathered evergreens, magnolia leaves and holly to brighten the house. Knowing which plants will stay green after being cut may take a little research and experimentation, but that's part of the fun. Try juniper sprays, olive twigs or jacaranda seedpods. Collect snippets from your yard and see if they will stay fresh with or without water, and whether they will shed leaves or stay intact.

"Just little touches of things—a little glass bowl of greenery and a few ornaments—can be very pretty," Barbara says. "That's the way we used to decorate a long time ago. People would go out and cut greenery from their home and that's what they made their wreaths out of." It's worth a little treasure hunting to get a fresh look.





Sleeping Beauty.

A Christmas topiary gives the master bedroom an extra touch of cheer. "I do like to put a little bit of Christmas in all of the rooms," Barbara says. "It doesn't have to be a lot, it can just be a pretty little bowl with holly in it."



Simple and Chic.

A frost-tipped pinecone gives the kitchen island a wintry sheen. "You don't need to spend a lot of money at Christmas time to decorate," Barbara says. "You'd be surprised by how many things you could make look pretty by putting a bit of ribbon on it."

“The cottage is nestled in a wooded lot, and I thought it would be pretty to keep it soft, but *bring the outdoors and the gardens into the house.*”



Rustic and Romantic.

Barbara chose every bit of furniture in the house, but the mirror above the sideboard is a family piece that her clients specifically requested be included. The simple wood frame is a connection to the past, with clean lines and a rich stain.



REDISCOVERING HOME

Barbara doesn't just hunt the yard for fresh ideas; she dusts off untouched vignettes and gives them new purpose.

"We walk past things we have in our home, and we're so used to looking at them that we don't see them anymore," she says. As a designer, she loves to rediscover the potential in her clients' homes. "Sometimes it takes somebody from the outside to see the value in things aesthetically."

When you're musing over your next Christmas theme, you might want to sit back and reacquaint yourself with your surroundings, the statuettes, baskets, wall hangings and china. If you look at them with a fresh eye, you're sure to find inspiration.

"I like to find things around the house and incorporate them as part of the Christmas decorations," Barbara says. "It's a personal object that becomes part of the holiday rather than something that's just brand new and brought in."

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 128



Serene Season.

Barbara designed the cottage to be clean and calming, so she approached the holiday décor with the same goal. "I kept the decorations neutral, and I kept the white," she says. The pillows and greenery are simple but thoughtfully incorporated.

Rock Foundation.

Striated black-and-white granite and dark subway tile underscore the elegant kitchen with hearty elements. The island's arrangement is snug in its tray, with stars, pinecones and evergreen, each adding a different color and texture to the composition. The overall effect is subtle and soothing.

