

A man with short, light brown hair is kissing a woman with long, wavy blonde hair on the cheek. They are both smiling and looking towards the right. The man is wearing a light blue button-down shirt, and the woman is wearing a dark top. They are standing outdoors in front of a wooden fence and green foliage.

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Meet the McKinney's



Holiday DECORATING

by LeeAnn Baker Steding
photographs by Satya Crucio

**Don't Let Pinterest Get you Down:
Keep Calm and Sparkle On**

The holiday season is upon us once again, and it is time to organize all of those great ideas that you have collected throughout the year and vowed to put to use. Here are some tricks of the trade to help you strategize when pulling together the perfect interiors for your holiday season.





Start with a theme. Whether it is religious, rustic, seaside, vintage, or inspired by a personal collection, picking a theme helps your décor look more cohesive and refined. If you pick a theme based on something you like to collect, you and your family can make it a tradition to add to that collection for years to come.

Select a color palate. Nothing says you have to stick with traditional color schemes. Pick two or three of your favorite colors and go from there. Some classic options are white on white, natural tones or to simply stick with silver and/or gold. Whatever you choose, make sure it is personal and reflects your own style.

Add greenery. Whether real or faux, bringing the outside in can make the holiday season come alive. Add garlands to a mantle or banister, or place them on a console interspersed with other decorative items such as candlesticks or picture frames. A wreath displayed in the window lets you decorate the inside and outside at the same time. Everyday plants become more festive by adding to them, such as putting berry branches in a potted orchid, or you can create a custom floral arrangement based on your color palate. Additionally, a well-placed bowl of oranges, limes, lemons, or pomegranates on a bed of seasonal greens is a fun easy way to add color.

Play with light. Nothing beats a real flame, but candles can be dangerous, especially for families with young children. Flameless candles are readily available these days and a great way to create a holiday glow. Likewise, adding lights to wreaths and garlands is much easier with battery powered LED lights that are available installed in flexible faux branches. Another way to create a soft glow is to dim the lights, either with plug-in dimmer switches for lamps, or by replacing the bulbs in your

favorite fixtures with a bit less wattage than you would use during the rest of the year.

Rethink how you display. If you have a collection of favorite ornaments, consider placing them on candlesticks of various heights, or tie your favorite ornaments to a wreath or garland hanging over a mirror or mantle. An everyday glass bowl filled with a selection of mercury or clear glass balls adds holiday sparkle and looks fantastic on an entry console or coffee table. Hanging ornaments and greenery from chandeliers completes a room.

Fringe benefits. Consider wrapping everyday items like pillows, coffee table books, entry doors or picture frames with wide wire-edged ribbon that helps create a perfect bow. Ribbon is a great way to incorporate more of your color scheme into your existing décor.

Less is more. Though there is nothing wrong with a home that is filled to the brim with holiday cheer, don't feel pressure to overdo it. By adding a few well thought out items you can transform your interiors into an elegant holiday setting.

And—most importantly—have fun! There are no set rules to decking the halls for the holidays, so really anything goes. Don't forget to involve the whole family and let the kids participate in the process, even if it is only in one room!

LeeAnn Baker Steding is the principal designer of LeeAnn Baker Interiors, www.leeannbaker.com. (All photographs were taken at the Jennifer West Showroom at the Seattle Design Center www.jwshowroom.com.)