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marcelleguilbeau  
interiordesigner

*Holiday  
Decorating  
Ideas*

## Create a Holiday Dining Table Centerpiece



- First get out your old stuff: Your favorite Santa Clauses, Polar Bears and other Winter Wonderland stuff. Place in a trio (or other odd number) in the center of the dining table, the tallest in the middle.
- If you don't have it, add a piece of fake greenery to your cache. Snake it around your cast of characters.
- Now splice in some fresh, aromatic

new twigs (consider willow, red stained boxwood eucalyptus, and of course, fir greenery), spraying out in the direction of the fake greenery. Fill in any awkward gaps as needed.

- When company comes, work in some white candles around your cast of characters. Use taller tapered ones around the taller middle part, and gradually descend to tea lights around the edges.

And voilà, you're done!

## Decorate Your Mantel For The Holidays

I think a simple splay of greenery atop the mantel, with white tea lights worked in, is a classic starting point.

- You can start with a base of fake greenery, as with the dining table centerpiece.
- Add to that your fresh, aromatic new twigs, spraying out in the direction of the fake greenery. Fill in the gaps with pine cones or other woody finds.
- To take your mantel to another level, swag a simple string or two of garland across the front of the mantel: A string of cranberries, a string of beads, or even a string of colorful felted balls. (See <http://smallbirdblog.wordpress.com/2009/12/16/felted-garland> for instructions on how to make one. If you're not a diy girl, check out etsy.com for some wonderful handmade picks).
- Hang your stockings from the mantel on one side. White is very du jour. But if that's not your thing, consider pulling out your vintage ones from childhood.



## Make A "Charlie Brown" Christmas Tree

"The Charlie Brown Christmas Tree has a certain sentimentality for those of us who grew up watching the movie every year. It is the poor little tree that nobody wanted, but Charlie Brown chose it for exactly that reason. It needed to be loved and cared for...Perhaps people haven't always been so stuck on the fullest, most perfectly shaped trees. I remember watching the movie "The Bishop's Wife" and noticing that the tree the wife was decorating on Christmas Eve was leggy and sparse... Because of the time period the tree had candles on it's limbs, not electric lights. Perhaps this sparse tree with it's long, spread out limbs, was quite typical for the days when candles were lit on the tree.

Perhaps the Charlie Brown tree is both a trend coming full circle and also a representation of how we should look after those in need, especially during the Holidays."

Michelle Beauvais

- Find a tree that's open and leggy and natural looking. Preferably not perfect
- Add about 1/3 of the ornaments you would typically. Give preferential treatment to the ones collected since childhood, and traditional Christmas colors (red, green, white, gold).
- Add white lights sparingly. Or not at all.
- Add garlands sparingly. Clear beads or cranberry garlands are nice.
- Place a star or angel of punched tin or wire atop your woody, natural creation. Complete with a tree skirt made from a simple blue blanket — like Linus did!





“I help my clients find their cool.”

So says Marcelle Guilbeau, one of Nashville’s most versatile interior designers,

who provides relaxed and natural home interiors for marketing executives, health care specialists, artists and songwriters, professors, attorneys and other elite clients.

Marcelle has fifteen years experience providing complete interior design services for new and established homes in Williamson County, Nashville, and other communities.

She offers a full range of interior design services, ranging from kitchen and master bath planning and design, to selection and design of furniture, fabrics, built-in furniture, custom window treatments and bedding.

Marcelle received an interior design degree from Watkins College of Art, Design and Film. She has accreditation through NCIDQ (National Council for Interior Designers Qualification) and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).



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