



OVER-THE-TOP DECOR

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Andrea Sinkin

Interior Designer and Owner
andreasinkindesign.com

“Each year I try to top the prior year’s holiday décor, and the more bling, the better. I had seen the work of Lance Jackson of parkerkenedyliving.com all over social media and had pinned, saved and stalked it. I even looked for people who

tagged him after they bought one of his **conversation-starting, glittery, opulent, indulgent and ridiculously awesome wreaths, so I could get joy from seeing them installed in people’s homes.**

This year I realized I had the perfect spot for one in my dining room. Lance asked me about things important to me: obviously Barbies (I mean, is there anything else?) along with my mom’s vintage angel collection, my husband’s and my initials, our wedding on New Year’s Eve, our disco-ball decor, our daughter’s love of unicorns, our nautical vibe, my obsession with accessories and jewelry ... and magically tied in our family’s observance of Hanukkah and Christmas.”

OH, CHRISTMAS TREE!

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Nancy Dearing

“A friend of mine started The Chop twenty years ago. We all go to Jones Family Farms in Shelton to chop down our Christmas trees the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Every year the group got bigger, and we started pulling in our friends and the grandparents. We used to do a big tailgate in this part of the property called The Valley with vats of hot cider, mac ‘n’ cheese and chili. Now they’re a little stricter and things have changed, but we still love going and the kids, who are now teenagers, still love running into the fields and choosing the perfect tree. They are always incredibly fresh. Jones supplies the saws, but I’ve learned to bring a tarp for dragging the tree to the baler, a blanket to put on top of the car for traveling, a rope to secure the tree on the car, and a thermos full of hot cider.”

FRY IT UP

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Sebastian Boulan

“I joined the Fried Turkey Fraternity five years ago after serving a traditional oven-baked bird alongside

a fried one, and no one touched the traditional one.

We’ve fried a turkey every Thanksgiving and Christmas since. It’s not glamorous. You’re working outside with the equivalent of a large high school Bunsen burner tripod, a cauldron and a propane tank; but it cooks three minutes per pound, and the Bayou kit on Amazon is really good. Just buy your oil in bulk from Costco, don’t fill the cauldron too high, and don’t drop the bird in wet or frozen, or it will shoot out like a cannonball through your neighbor’s window.”

FREEZING TIME

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James Ritman

Executive Vice President and Managing Director,
 Newmark

“The past few years, my family, my sisters’ families and our parents have been doing the Mannequin Challenge on New Year’s Eve in Florida. Before the kids go to bed, we all pick a spot in the room we’re celebrating in, freeze in a pose and capture it on video with the Black Beatles song in the background. It’s a fun time stamp to have, especially for the kids and their cousins. If we can’t all be together this year, we might each do the challenge at home and splice together a video so it looks like we’re all together.”

LANCE JACKSON OF PARKER KENNEDY