

NOVEMBER 2013

# HOUSE & HOME

THE MAGAZINE OF HOME & STYLE

Prime Rib, Perfected:  
A Holiday Feast that Wows!

## HOLIDAY DECORATING

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FOR A FABULOUS  
*festive season!*

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TAKING A CITY  
HOME FROM  
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**A STUNNING  
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**BRIAN GLUCKSTEIN**

## HOUSE & HOME

Sometimes it's the simplest things that bring the most joy. This season, celebrate the beauty of nature, the subtle sparkle of a frosty palette and the soft glow of candlelight.



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# Snow Bound

A DATED VACATION HOME BECOMES  
A WINTRY HOLIDAY HAVEN.

Text by WENDY JACOB | Photography by DONNA GRIFFITH



A generous coat of charcoal paint helped the modernist facade of Grace Castaneda and David Seville's weekend home shed its 1970s vibe. For Christmas, two tall urns from RH Restoration Hardware are stuffed with lush evergreen boughs from Sheridan Nurseries, while huge pine cones accent the warmth of the paneled wood door. Wreath, Penney & Co.; ribbon (throughout), Mokuba; mat, West; sleigh bells, Finkoo Design Gallery.

OPPOSITE: The paneled ceiling and wool rug create a cozy envelope for a living room with stunning hilly views. A 15'-long boxwood and pine-garland adds volume and texture to the zero-clearance fireplace. Rustic burlap stockings are a low-key holiday accent that suit the palette. Family and friends often use the reclaimed wood coffee table as a bench, and the low stools are favorites with the children. Sofa, Stylegarage; rug, throw, West Elm; block urn, basket, stools, Vintage Fine Objects; design of coffee table, console, Grace Castaneda Interiors; construction of table, console, HD Threshing.



**HOLIDAY  
DECORATING**  
Simple Nature  
in the Country

- Burlap stockings
- Fairy lights
- Magnolia leaves
- A variety of wreaths

Using humble newsprint for wrapping accented by a natural element such as bark or an evergreen spray is a subtle festive note. Gifts are stacked on a sculptural milking stool, while hits of chartreuse, seen here in the wide, satin ribbon, reappear through the house. "The manufactured look feels completely wrong here at the holidays," says Grace. "It's all about simplicity and nature." Stool, Vintage Fine Objects.



In the dining room, coach lanterns and equestrian prints are a chic take on country decorating. Taupe linen cushions on the chairs from RH Restoration Hardware and a wreath hung by a swath of burlap create a quiet Belgian vibe. Table, Crate & Barrel; horse prints, Vintage Fine Objects; chandelier, Absolutely Inc.; wreath, Sheridan Nurseries; wall and ceiling colour (throughout), All White (2005), Farrow & Ball.

OPPOSITE, RIGHT: Grace and her family in the family room, located on the ground floor along with the bedrooms, which is why she refers to it as an "upside-down" house. An earthy pine cone garland from HomeArt accents the simple stair rail. Ottoman, Boo Boo & Lefty; sofa and throw pillow design, Grace Castaneda Interiors; sofa and throw pillow fabrication, Silvo; tray, Vintage Fine Objects.



**H**OW DO YOU eradicate tired swinging-'70s ski chalet decor? Start with 80 gallons of white paint. That's how interior decorator Grace Castaneda approached her family's weekend home on the Niagara Escarpment in Creemore, Ont., 1½ hours north of Toronto. She appreciated the house's modernist design, but the knotty-pine-panelled interior seemed to smother any sense of openness, which was a shame considering the views. "The house itself was beautifully sited, but nothing inside captured the environment," says Grace.

The 2,100-square-foot Viceroy home was built in 1978, and the interior had remained untouched — preserved like a bug in amber amidst honey-stained walls and threadbare orange carpeting. "The palette needed to be completely changed. It wasn't restful," says Grace, who, along with her husband, David Seville, a lawyer, daughter, Sabrina, 6, and son, Erik, 2, wanted a place to use all year long, for skiing in winter, and swimming and golf in summer (there's a pool inset into the new deck off the house).

As the designer of this project, and a mother, Grace gravitated toward no-fuss solutions that made the most of the home's clean, modernist lines. "Nothing is too precious; kids can jump on everything here," she says. "People couldn't believe I went for white walls and furnishings, but there's nothing easier if you have the right materials. I can just bleach the slipcovers." As for the

paint, it took a week to completely spray the dated wood walls and ceiling, giving the space a clean, fresh envelope.

The new engineered-wood floors are oil-rubbed oak that feels soft underfoot, almost like cork, and is warmed by radiant heat. "A shiny floor would have felt too urban," says Grace. "This one mimics the effect of oak that's been exposed over time. I do love what time does to materials." She gravitates toward battered surfaces, such as coffee tables made from rough-hewn reclaimed threshing boards, left bare of varnish. "Wood has so much personality; it's raw and always slowly changing," says Grace, who happily mixes in dark, polished pieces with vintage finds. "I'd never limit myself to one or two species."

After unsuccessful attempts at scraping off the popcorn ceiling finish, Grace came up with a simpler solution. Sheets of plywood were roughly sanded so they retained their texture and applied to the ceiling over the popcorn — as well as in several other spots for continuity. Thin strips of moulding were applied to frame the sheets. "The grid system creates a nice rhythm and gives some interest to the ceiling," she says. "At night, all the trim gives a relief effect and adds architectural detail in an inexpensive way."

The potbellied stove in the sunken living room was a safety concern with two-year-old Erik and was replaced by a zero-clearance wood-burning option. The new concrete chimney breast spans five feet by five feet and is a fitting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 126

**HOLIDAY DECORATING**  
A teal burlap tablecloth trimmed in gold bullion fringe and paired with matte gold flatware feels both luxe and subtly festive.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

A crisp white felt wreath hung in front of a mirror and a loosely tied bunch of paperwhites offer an unfussy welcome in the mudroom.



TOP LEFT: The old kitchen was blocked in by a wall of uppers supported by turned spindles. Grace removed these in favour of a wall-mounted maple cabinet, which gets dressed up for the holidays with simple boughs. "Open shelving is really handy for weekend places: guests know where everything is, and it's easy to unload the dishwasher." New butcher-block counters replaced brown laminate, while cutting boards from Vintage Fine Objects add warmth and charm hung on the wall. The two-sided rail station-style dock from Pottery Barn can be seen from almost any room on the second floor. **Cabinet design,** Grace Castaneda Interiors; **cabinet construction,** John Poole Cabinetry; **marble compote,** Crate & Barrel; **cheese board,** Urban Tree Salvage; **table lamp,** Residential Lighting; **wood floor (throughout)** by Admonter, Mancor.

TOP RIGHT: A dense pine cone garland defines the railing, while an evergreen tucked in a corner and simply adorned with white lights suits the spare decor of the

home. **Sofa,** Stylegarage; **velvet pillows,** Grace Castaneda Interiors; **white vase, black iron compote,** Vintage Fine Objects; **stockings,** My Adobe Cottage.

BOTTOM LEFT: The holiday table is naturally adorned — with cheerful sprigs of cedar and berries, fresh pears and a bowl of pine cones — to complement the gold flatware from Gretel Home and simple dishware by Vera Wang (from William Ashley China). Lauren Home **glasses,** Hudson's Bay; **brass bowl, candlesticks,** Found; **napkins,** West Elm.

OPPOSITE: Hanging a wreath in front of a mirror is a trademark for Grace. This one in the mudroom features felt-wrapped spheres that mimic snowballs. The deer-head hooks were ordered from Scotland and are displayed in rows to make them feel more modern. **Wreath,** West Elm; **mirror,** Dedora; **photograph** by Charlene Serran, Canvas Gallery; **console, bread bowl, bench, baskets, ceramic pine cone,** Vintage Fine Objects.



**HOLIDAY DECORATING**  
**White fairy lights** suit the contemporary house and enhance the sculptural beauty of bare tree branches — both inside and out.



**OPPOSITE, TOP:** Architectural designer Jim Campbell, of Rockside Campbell Design, wanted to respect the home's modernist tradition, so he removed a decrepit deck that ran across the front of the house. To keep the lines of the house unobscured, a new structure was built off to the side; it contains a pool, and dining and lounge areas. Pear trees lining the drive are dressed in white lights. **Contractor,** Kevin Kreson Quality Construction; **exterior stain colour,** Ebony, Olympic Paints & Stains.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Alongside the fireplace, kindling is tucked neatly away in a basket under a reclaimed-wood console designed by Grace. A moose antler serves as an impromptu bowl for coloured glass ornaments. **Console construction,** HD Threshing; **antler,** Flamboro Antiques Show; **ornaments,** Absolutely Inc.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** A vintage console Grace found at the Flamboro Antiques Show is a way station for keys and offers display in the hallway between the mudroom and family room. Because there are no windows here, an ornate mirror from Vintage Fine Objects is used to create the feeling of depth. A length of burlap holds a sage wreath from Sheridan Nurseries, while a manzanita branch functions as the ersatz "downstairs" Christmas tree. **Cloche, brass vase,** Vintage Fine Objects; **lamp,** Union Lighting; **basket,** Hardware Interiors.



Sabrina loves the resin trees that are light from within. In her room, an apt choice in a country home. They add a fantastical backdrop to her canvas teepee and serve as a great focal point when viewed from the hallway. The low table is the perfect height for playing dress-up. **Teepee, Advice from a Caterpillar; trees, RH Restoration Hardware; mirror, Chateau.**

An adjacent broom closet was demolished to add an extra couple of feet to the main bathroom, allowing for an elongated vanity, designed by Grace, that she topped with a trough sink from Taps. "Installing a larger vanity seemed to expand the room," says Grace. **Mirror,** Angus & Company; **wall-hung shelf,** Pottery Barn.

OPPOSITE: In the principal bedroom, a chartreuse throw adds a fresh, natural note. Grace wanted black furnishings to make a bold statement in the small room: the oversized turned bedposts are a modern update on a classic design. A simple boxwood wreath is hung on a pair of antlers above the bed. **Bed,** Ethon Allen; **lamp,** RH Restoration Hardware; **drapes,** The Sewing Shop.



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— GRACE CASTANEDA, HOMEOWNER

