

candy CHRISTMAS



A favourite holiday treat is the inspiration for a quality last Christmas in a family home

BY JACKIE GLASS • PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL CHMIELOWIEC



This Christmas I painted a holiday scene in my home with a brush dripping in vibrant colour! It's bittersweet as we share the last Christmas in our home of 15 years with family and friends. We leave with so many happy memories and look forward to creating new ones when we relocate to the tranquil countryside of the Niagara Escarpment region.

As former editor of *RENO & DECOR* magazine, many of you will be familiar with my home and its many transformations over the years as I strived to adapt its small, heritage-cottage layout and style into a comfortable and spacious home for my growing family. One design element has remained constant, my neutral colour scheme that offers me unlimited design flexibility as no other palette can. Any colour I favour at the moment is guaranteed to play well in a neutral environment. And I love that.

A QUALITY STREET CHRISTMAS

There's no better time of the year than the holiday season to pull out all the stops and get bold with colour, glitz and glam. This Christmas is no exception. The inspiration for my final holiday decor in our family home might surprise you. I owe it to my husband Barry's annual tradition.

When he popped the lid off the tin of his favourite Christmas candy, Quality Street Chocolates, I was instantly committed to the happy, shiny colours of these iconic little morsels wrapped in shimmery foil

and smelling divinely like every Christmas we've ever spent at home with our family and friends.

Taking my cue from every one of the brilliant candy wrappers in the tin, I set out to find Christmas balls, foil wrapping paper, ribbon, vases, glasses and tabletop accents to create one of the most colourful and joyful holiday decors I've ever done in my home. It was fun and easy to find everything I needed to give my cream-and-white decor a dramatic festive look that will shimmer all season long.



COSY COMFORT

The former living room was transformed into a more spacious yet intimate dining room where family and guests could gather, dine and linger in comfort. It all started with the focal point in the room, the grand open-flame log fireplace.

Nothing is more opulent or magical than dining by a roaring fire on a chilly Christmas or New Year's Eve. To maximize the ambiance and enjoyment of the fireplace, I created an intimate seating area with two small-scale upholstered chairs and a tufted ottoman centred in front of the fire.

On the mantel and the shelves flanking the fireplace, my new brilliant holiday colours start to emerge. Gold pots with fresh greenery, sparkling cobalt blue tea lights. A mirrored gold tray on the ottoman begins to tell the bold colour story with a bowl filled with the foil-wrapped candy, chartreuse, fuchsia, bright-blue, silver and gold balls and shimmery beribboned gifts.

Central to the room, the eight-foot dining table with comfortable high-back upholstered chairs is illuminated by a candlelight chandelier dripping with crystals. The centrepiece, a low-mirrored vase arranged with clouds of white hydrangea and green hypericum berries, is the perfect complement to the brightly coloured decorations that dot the room.

A TOAST TO CHRISTMAS PAST AND PRESENT

A pretty mini-bar is set up for my holiday guests on the long sideboard next to the dining table. Brilliant Christmas balls in a glass accent piece, a silver vase with pink carnations, and more foil-wrapped chocolates in a crystal bowl all sparkle with soft decorative light.

Mimicking the sweet treats that inspired the holiday palette, the gifts wrapped in bold, glitzy foil papers add dramatic contrast and festive colour to the all-white flocked Christmas tree. Every surface gets a festive touch. A small mirror-topped chest shimmers with colour, glass, candlelight and bright-pink carnations in a petite silver vase.

As we say goodbye to one home and embrace another, we're happy to celebrate Christmas with family and friends in this well-lived-in and loved room full of happy memories and joyous holiday colours. ♦

SOURCES:

UPHOLSTERED CHAIRS, OTTOMAN, CHRISTMAS TREE, CREAM VASES ON SHELVES, 3 SHELL TREES, winterberrylane.com UPHOLSTERED DINING CHAIRS AND RUG, Elite.com DRAPERY FABRIC, JF Fabrics, jffabrics.com CUSTOM DRAPERIES, Lifestyle Window Fashions, lifestylewindowfashions.com MIRRORED VASE, GOLD VASES, WHITE BERRY WREATH, hofland.com CENTREPIECE ARRANGEMENT, flowerdeco.ca END TABLE, cocoonfurnishings.ca DECORATIVE PAINT FINISH, Christina Pepe, 416.573-2331 WALL COLOUR, Benjamin Moore Smokey Taupe CC-490

WALL COLOUR

Benjamin Moore
Smokey Taupe
CC-490



Designer Jackie Glass is principal/owner of Jackie Glass Inc., a full-service interior design firm specializing in residential design, decor and renovation, servicing the GTA and surrounding areas. Glass, who's work is nationally recognized, is a regular design expert on Cityline. For more information, visit jackieglass.ca

