

Vista

Sparkle! New
Party-Perfect
Trends

¡Brilla! Regalos
de belleza

+

Make Your
Home Merry
and Bright

Fun Ways to
Share your
Baby Joy

Los
sabores
de la
Navidad

Regalos
especiales
para tus seres
queridos

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On Life, Love and
the Best Gift of All

'Tis the Season of Lights



The holidays are the most wonderful time of the year – as the popular Christmas song by Andy Williams says. Our homes are decorated with the beautiful colors of the season and lit in a spectacular display of lights, both inside and out. After all, what would the holidays be without strings of twinkle lights adorning our tree and enhancing our curb appeal.

Lights make everything more magical, so why stop there? Here are some decorating tips to add sparkle in different areas of your home.

Architectural Details

I love framing interior windows and doorframes with lit garlands. In the evening, they fill the room with holiday spirit. For a cohesive theme, keep the texture of the tree – whether real or artificial – consistent with the garland and use the same color lights on both. Multi-color lights are considered more festive, while white lights will always be classic and are especially beautiful wrapped around staircase banisters or in the dining room on a mirror above the sideboard. Frame the mirror with two lit topiaries to create a stronger focal point. Hang a wreath from a satin ribbon in the center of the mirror and window to complete the look.

Table Centerpieces

Traditionally, the challenge with twinkle lights has always been hiding the unsightly cords. The good news is you can find miniature LED lights that

are battery-operated, which give us creative freedom to decorate in different ways. As a modern centerpiece for a dining table or coffee table, I like to place these battery-operated lights inside tall clear vases filled with pine cones and branches or tree ornaments. You can also use apothecary jars for a similar effect. They are also available in different styles such as branches and decorative wires, which look dramatic inside vases or wrapped around a chandelier.

Faux Fabulous

Candles make everything and everyone look more radiant with their warm glow. I'm a big fan of flameless candles for their safety and functionality as many have timers that automatically turn on and off. Look for flameless candles that are scented and wrapped in wax for a realistic look. Place a collection of these candles in different heights and widths inside a fireplace for ambience year-round – especially if a fire isn't necessary to warm the house. If you don't



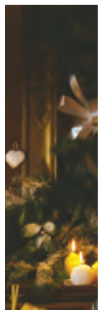


have a real fireplace, you can still create the look of one by buying a fireplace mantle façade from an antique store or architectural salvage store. This becomes a focal point in the living room or dining room and allows you the opportunity to decorate the mantle with traditional stockings and lit garlands. As a hearth, you can buy oversized slate tiles or stepping stones from any home improvement store and place the flameless

candles on top. As a backdrop, lean a decorative mirror behind them to fill the wall space between mantle and hearth. It's a great DIY project!

Constellation of Lights

For a display on a much bigger scale, LED laser light projectors are the way to go. Before, you had to connect numerous strings of light to maximize the effect, but now with these innovative light projectors one fixture can fill an entire area with a blanket of lights. These projectors are great for decorating indoor and outdoor spaces – especially during holiday parties in your home. They are available in different price points and colors – and though more expensive than traditional twinkle lights, the time and energy it saves you make it worth the investment. Imagine never having to look for a burned-out bulb on a string of lights again! We've all been there and it can be very frustrating. The light projectors give you the same look without the hassle.



Regalos para el *ama de casa moderna*

Aquí tienes algunas ideas de regalos para esos amigos y familiares amantes de la decoración y el diseño, para que logren un hogar fabuloso.



1 Elegancia económica

Regálales una bella mesa. Juego de vajilla Threshold de Target, Platos de vidrio de mercurio, **\$3.99 - \$15.99**, Vasos de vidrio, 4 por **\$19.99**, Platos con copos de nieve, **\$1.99 - \$4.99**.

2 Fiestas radiantes

Llévale alegría y vida al hogar de tus seres queridos. Vela sin llama con cuentas doradas, Pottery Barn, **\$29.50 - \$39.50**.

3 Espíritu festivo

Dale color a todo – desde el ponche hasta los cocteles. Vasos de vidrio tallado Bottoms-Up – Juego de 4, Pier 1 Imports, **\$29.95**.

4 Hora de cocteles

Una moderna coctelera es una estupenda adición a los accesorios de cualquier bar. Coctelera Marquis by Waterford Barware, Macy's, **\$39**.

5 Vida con estilo

Estos accesorios le dan un toque de glamour a cualquier sala. Cojín decorativo cuadrado de 16 pulgadas Liz Claiborne Gardenia, **\$60**, Cobija de terciopelo JCPenney Home, **\$20**, JCPenney.

6 Un toque especial

Un jarrón es algo que a todos les gusta. Este le aportará color y alegría a cualquier mesa. Jarrón rectangular de vidrio reciclado soplado a mano, UncommonGoods.com, **\$55**.

7 El chef de la casa

Al chef de la casa le encantaría un libro con mas de 100 recetas tradicionales. Encuentralos en *Muy Bueno: Tres Generaciones de Auténtico Sabor Mexicano*, por Yvette Sharpnack, Veronica Gonzalez-Smith y Evangelina Soza. Amazon.com, **\$22.50**.