

design HOLIDAY SHOW HOUSE

BY VALERIE KELLOGG

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If holiday decorating is almost second nature, it might be time to think outside the box — as in that box in the attic with all the ornaments, wreaths and candles you take out about this time every year. For inspiration, check out the rooms at the Home for the Holidays at Orchard Hill show house, now open at Old Westbury Gardens.

“Look at what you have and figure out how to bring them into your tree or Christmas display,” says Tony Manning, show house producer. “Maybe you have a collection of owls. Maybe there’s a way to tie them on the tree and unify them all with little red bows.”

There are no owls at this show house, but there are plenty of other offbeat ways designers have chosen to add a festive look to the rooms at the 1856 farmhouse. Here are some of the trends that have emerged from the event:

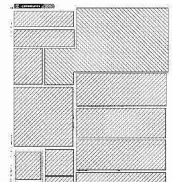
ALSO SEE

Long Island designers will be on the roster for the **2010 Holiday House**, open from Dec. 1 to 15 at 2 E. 63rd St., Manhattan. The show house, featuring tabletop vignettes and decorated rooms, is a benefit for Greater New York City Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. For more information, call 917-855-5944 or go to holidayhousenyc.com.

WHAT Home for the Holidays at Orchard Hill
WHEN | WHERE 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays (except Thanksgiving), through Dec. 12, at Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Rd.
INFO \$25; \$20 in advance; no kids younger than 12, except “babies in arms”; 516-333-0048, oldwestburygardens.org



Watch video of the Home for the Holidays at Orchard Hill show





A LITTLE OFF

The trend Even when designers use traditional holiday colors, sometimes the shades are unusual. "The greens are much more chartreuse-inspired," says Manning. Manhattan-based Scully & Scully used lime and pink in this bedroom, titled "Preppy Christmas."

DIY tip Feel free to experiment with the entire color wheel. Just try to have a vision first.



ALL THAT GLITTERS

The trend "Just like in home design, we're seeing more and more shimmer all the time — lots of silver and lots of gold," says Manning, pointing to the "Holiday Feast" dining room by Manhattan's Bradley Stephens with its crystal beads and mercury glass.

DIY tip "Get out the silver, polish it up and fill it with evergreens or berries," Manning suggests. Another idea: Display your antique crystal on a sideboard and put votive candles among the pieces to make them sparkle even more.

PHOTOS BY VINCE KISH



« CANDY CANE LAND

The trend Mixing red and white has always been a holiday favorite. "But it's strong this year," says Manning. Witness the wallpaper in "The Nutcracker" butler's pantry by Manhattan designer Arden Stephenson.

DIY tip If you own a lot of red dishes, team them with white dishes and accent them with peppermint candies to create a nostalgic but contemporary holiday setting.



« AU NATUREL

The trend Mother nature has never been so joyful, especially in the screened porch — a space named "Swedish Christmas" by Manhattan designer Patrik Lönn. "You have ornaments made of straw, also berries," Manning says. "It's a whole different kind of approach to holiday decorating."

DIY tip Go to your backyard to scavenge for materials you can use in your homemade holiday scene.



« UNEXPECTED COLOR

The trend At the same time, several designers used colors other than red and green. Make sure to see the mostly orange "Hawaiian Holiday" bedroom by Danielle Roberts Interiors in Manhattan or the mostly teal blue "Sugar Plum Dreams" master bedroom by Swift-Morris Interiors of Hoboken, N.J., and Newport, R.I.

DIY tip Have a faux white Christmas tree in the basement? Use it this year and decorate it with ornaments of any color except green and red.