

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

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## From Inexpensive to Extravagant Holiday Décor

By Ann McDonald



*Photos Couture Chateau*

It's that time of year again. Holiday decorations are everywhere and the pressure is on. From glittered pinecones at OSH Hardware in Moraga to finery at Nieman Marcus in Walnut Creek, how is a savvy Lamorinda resident supposed to make sense of it all? Decorate your own home? Hire it out? Spend lavishly or scour the discount stores for last year's bargains?

Moraga resident Margaret Bang starts with inexpensive, but elegant décor. "Each year I start with a base of fresh greenery, faux garland and add layers of white," she says. "I particularly like to use a mix of textured white candles because they burn non-toxic, go with every color and they always look elegant."

Stores like Costco offer 25 feet of fresh garland for approximately \$15, which can be supplemented with low cut branches from evergreen trees, boxwood or scavenged items from the backyard. Well-made pre-lit, pre-decorated garland can be found for as little as \$60 and can adorn banisters, entries, and even be added to Christmas trees for a fuller dimension.

Local homeowners create vignettes in foyers or on porches using ribbons, holiday collections, or other unique items to add an emotional element to their holiday décor. Orinda homeowner Catherine Soso's turquoise dining room opens to her living room where she flanks her fireplace with not one, but two Christmas trees.



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