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# *holiday* STAPLES

STORY **M. CAROLYN BLACK**  
PHOTOGRAPHY **CANDICE MANASTERSKY**



**Catherine Staples Interiors** provides high-quality design advice year-round, but what potential clients may not know is that the company also offers a holiday decorating service for your home, cottage or chalet that can be tailored to your budget.

*Continued on page 30*



“We shop for (our clients), bring it all in and set it up for them,” Catherine Staples says. The interior design-build firm can source everything from ornaments to table settings but during the initial consultation they will also see what the homeowner already has so they can incorporate those items as well. Catherine adds that the finished product “depends on the décor of the home. We like simplicity so we bring in more natural elements but it also depends on the interest of the homeowner.”

For homeowners who want to tackle holiday decorating themselves, Catherine says, “I’m a firm advocate of Pinterest.” She has a huge variety of home décor collections on Pinterest with everything from paint colours to entertaining – you can find her under Catherine Staples Interiors – but of particular interest during the winter season is her Holiday Décor board. It includes all things

festive but also has seasonal ideas, like front door wreaths and porch planter items, which you can continue to display long after the Christmas stockings have been tucked away.

Catherine says freshening up your own holiday décor might be as simple as buying new placemats or even utilizing free natural items like pine cones or tiny evergreen boughs tied to nametags. Her holiday board includes do-it-yourself potpourri with items you may already have, like oranges, rosemary and cranberries, or using raffia ribbon to wrap cinnamon sticks around older pillar candles to give them a new look.

’Tis also the season when she directs attention to her own home, nestled in scenic Horseshoe Valley. The 6,500 sq. ft., five-bedroom home was custom designed and built by Catherine and her husband 10 years ago. The family of five enjoys many outside winter activities, particularly downhill skiing – four-

legged family members Rossi, a shih tzu, and Picabo, a golden doodle, are named after skis and a skier, respectively – but transforming the home into a cosy holiday abode also puts the focus on the inside.

Many homeowners choose a holiday theme; some go all-white, some stay with traditional reds and greens and some have recurring elements featured throughout. In the Staples home, the theme is nutcrackers. “I’m a big collector of nutcrackers,” admits Catherine. “The ceiling in the great room is 22-feet high and we have a large custom bookcase so the nutcrackers are displayed on those shelves.”

A signature factor in Catherine’s holiday décor is subtlety; in fact, her slogan is “simple elegance.” This extends to the dining room, with hurricane candle holders filled with assorted nuts and simple candles plus hits of green from oversize ornaments placed on the table. *Continued on page 33*



Add nuts and a pillar candle to a hurricane lantern.

**ABOVE:** A festive, elegant dining table has at its centre tall silver trees in three different heights. **OPPOSITE:** Outside, urns filled with greens, large silver orbs and birch branches provide a holiday welcome to the Staples home.



Holiday hints are sprinkled throughout the living room, where luxe neutral furnishings get a boost from colourful accessories.

Catherine loves to decorate her home during the holiday season with her collection of nutcrackers.



Glass snowmen fill a silver tray on a side table.



While most of the holiday décor is focused on the foyer, great room and dining room, Catherine says, "I like to have little touches of holiday in each of the bedrooms." The nutcracker theme extends into her daughter Maddie's bedroom, where a feminine version dwells each holiday season. Her teen sons Matt and Graydon have family heirloom pieces, like advent or musical Christmas bears and snow globes, in their rooms as a connection to Christmases past. Catherine says, "It brings their history back because they've grown up with them." In the master suite, Catherine places seasonal rather than festive items, like fur toss pillows and a faux throw.

Catherine says, because children often rely on traditions each holiday season, "Don't throw away the old ornaments. Maybe keep a few that mean something, like the clear glass ornaments where you can put a photo inside of your child, perhaps on Santa's knee, and you collect these over the years and they see their history in the tree."

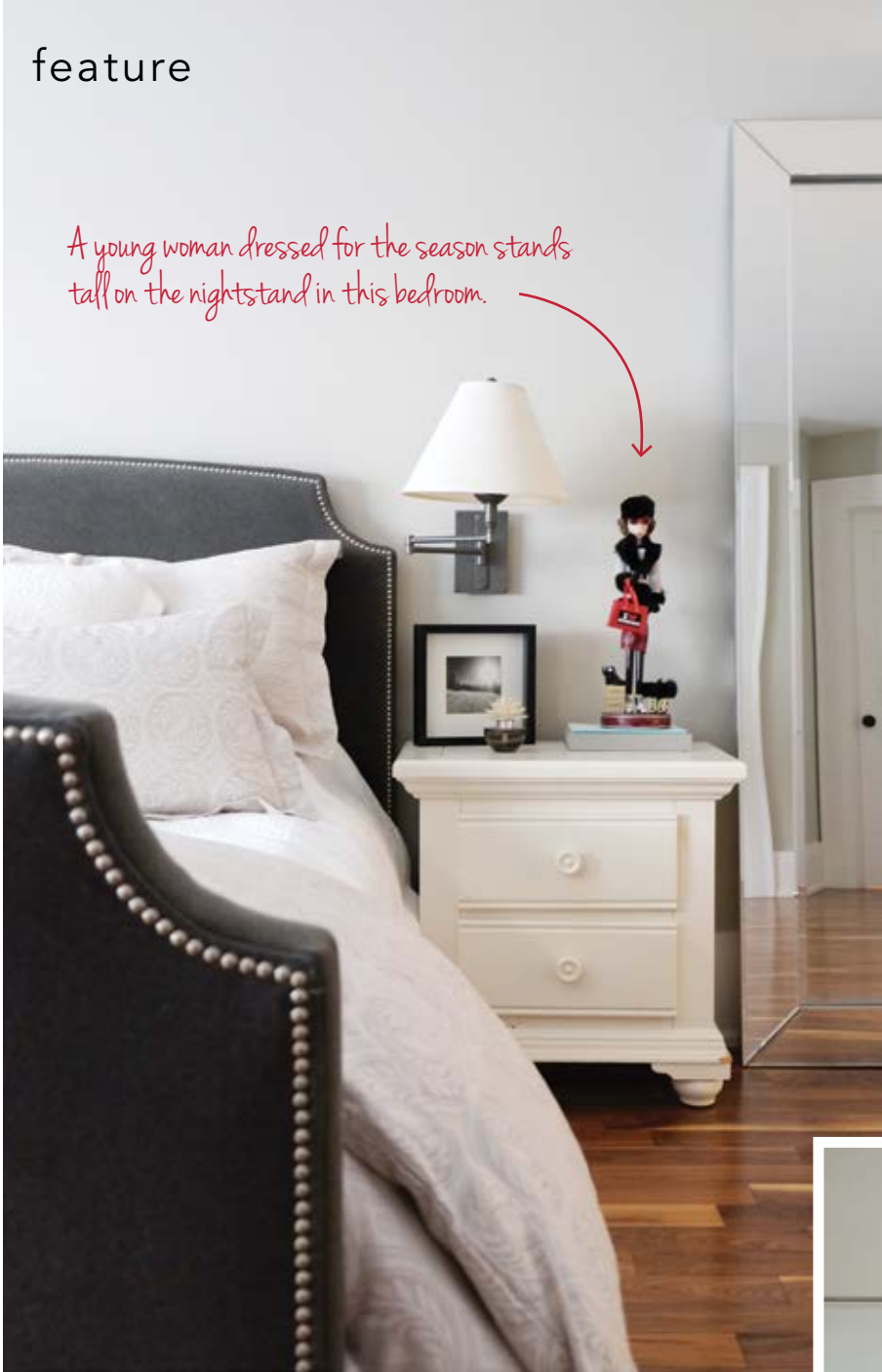
The large fireplace mantel is strewn with natural elements like feathers, feathered

ornaments and evergreen boughs with splashes of silver pine cones throughout. She likes a neutral colour scheme so the holiday décor doesn't compete with the pale interior walls or the view of the treed exterior landscape. Catherine also displays a lot of original artwork so the low-key approach to festive accoutrements means the focus stays on the art.

The Christmas tree itself might sit near a sprawling stairwell one year, other years it nestles in the great room but every year Catherine places the tree into a pot, which gives it nearly three extra feet in height, perfect for the high ceiling.

On the exterior, she loves doing something different with the two large plaster planters that flank her front walkway steps each year and she often works with Orillia florist Robert Street to find a fresh new look. This year they'll use sticks from the surrounding forest sprayed white and wound with strings of lights. A hint of red comes from large ornamental balls nestled among a variety of evergreens and pine cones. *Continued on page 34*

A young woman dressed for the season stands tall on the nightstand in this bedroom.

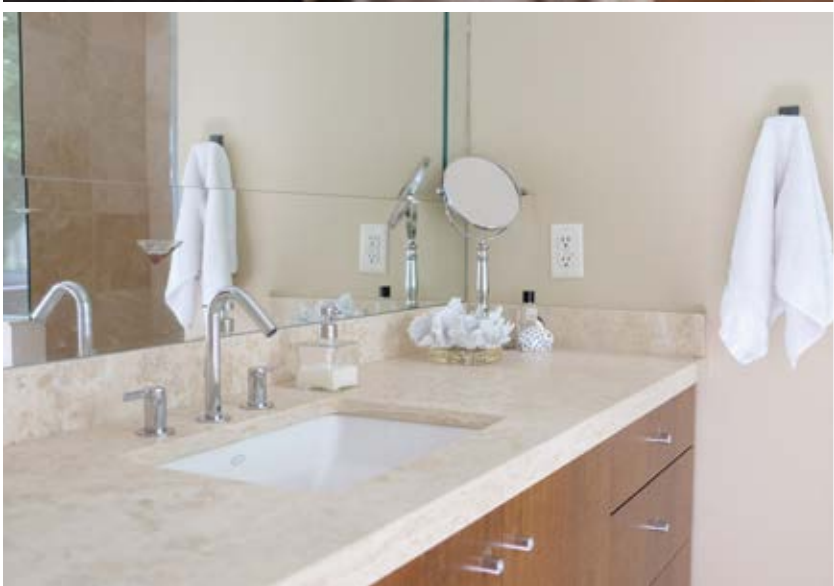


**LEFT:** Studded, grey upholstered head and foot boards hold a beautifully dressed bed. **BOTTOM LEFT:** The master en suite has a granite-topped vanity with undermount sinks. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A touch of fur is an easy way to enhance the look for the winter season in the master bedroom.

“Again, we’re keeping it simple because of the surrounding area,” Catherine says. “I love a wreath that is simple, maybe raffia with a few bells hanging down on the front door.” She places large spotlights at the base of larger trees to shine upward, “because the trees themselves are the ornaments.”

Her ideal holiday evening is Christmas Eve lingering over a great dinner with family, talking about Christmases past and looking forward to what’s happening in the upcoming year. She says, “Even though it’s not New Year’s Eve – everyone might have their own plans on New Year’s Eve – I love it, everything just slows down. I’m always hoping for a big snowstorm so everyone has to stay in the house, we’ve got a fire going and we watch *The Polar Express* every year.”

Let it snow, indeed. **OH**



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