

Joyful Holiday Ideas

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The holidays are upon us! Rejoice, and find joy, glad tidings, and seasonal inspiration for indoor and outdoor spaces alike on the pages ahead.



REAL SIMPLE

A TRADITIONAL ARIZONA ADOBE
GETS A 21ST-CENTURY UPDATE AND
JUST A HINT OF HOLIDAY FUN

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This page: Homeowner Scott Burdick keeps his holiday styling low-key. In the living and dining areas, antique glass battery acid containers from France hold red tulips and a garland of greenery tops the mantel. The vintage painting over the fireplace is Mexican. **Opposite:** An intricately carved pine door from Guadalajara, Mexico, creates a distinctive front entry. Nearby, a life-size 17th-century santo is dressed with red ribbon and a patterned sash. The wok planter bowl holds a specimen-size yucca.



Simple, simple and more simple,” says Scott Burdick of his holiday decorating style. “I don’t even do a tree. Most holiday events are at my parents’ home just down the street, and my mom really does it up. So I bring out a few of my favorite things that remind me of past Christmases, and use flowers, greens and Mexican silver to spice things up.”

Burdick, who is the son of interior designer Patty Burdick of Wiseman & Gale Interiors, LLC, is a managing partner at the firm. Although a numbers guy, he has inherited his mother’s flair for design. “I’ve grown up around it, and I’m lucky to be in a job where I am presented with interesting product and design daily,” he remarks.

Six years ago, when he purchased a 1932 adobe-brick condo in Paradise Valley, Arizona, the two-story unit was ready for an update. Located in what once was the honeymoon suite of the old Casa Blanca Inn, it offered “charm, history and strong Southwest architecture,” notes Burdick.

Just under 2,000 square feet, the bachelor pad features an upstairs master suite with mountain views, and a small guest suite that can only be accessed from outdoors. “There are so few homes in Phoenix with such a strong sense of Old Arizona,” he says.

For the renovation, Burdick relied heavily on his mother and their business partners, Sue Calvin and Jana Parker Lee, to help with the floor-planning and furniture placement. Over a period of two years, the team worked its magic one step at a time.

“We modernized the traditional adobe look with cement floors, new shutters and fresh window treatments,” Burdick recalls. “We also removed the dated pony walls in the living room, opening up the space to become one big great room.” Then the homeowner went to town,

filling his place with an eclectic mix of antiques, vintage pieces and Contemporary finds.

“The trick for me is to have some self-control and stick with a cohesive vision. I wanted my place to feel collected, comfortable, interesting, and to be a reflection of my personality,” Burdick explains. “I buy what I love, I live with it, and if I get sick of something, I sell it.”

Furnished with pieces picked up in New York City, London and Munich—all places he has lived—the home has a Contemporary organic feel with French, Moroccan and tribal influences. “I like a jumbled mix of things,” he states. “And I prefer an edited style with some Modern thrown in for balance and reference. I don’t care for rooms that feel over-decorated. To me, good interior design is about creating a comfortable sense of place.”

Like many creative people, the homeowner says he will never be finished. He has plans for a complete remodel of the kitchen and master bathroom and is working on a second upstairs patio.

But for now, with a few simple strands of twinkle lights brightening up his backyard and a red ribbon or two providing a festive touch, Burdick is happy with the casual, easy-living house he has created and shares with family and friends, holidays or not. □

Above: Off the second-floor master suite is a patio clad in Saltillo tile and accented with potted agaves and bentwood chairs. In the distance is the iconic “onion dome,” added to the development when it was a resort. **Opposite:** The homeowner prefers his TV on the floor, where it takes up little space and is easy to view from the vintage Dunbar sofa. An abaca rug sits on cement flooring. The curtains are burlap.





Clockwise from left: In the guest bedroom, a striped duvet and red-and-white pinstripe sheets pair well with a black iron bed and an old Turkish Bessarabian rug. *Lucky Charm*, an oil on canvas by Hunt Slonem, and a red “Chris Moose” wall piece by local artist Patsy Lowry add touches of whimsy. ■ At the bottom of the stairs, the homeowner had the “not very attractive oak and maple floors” covered with thick off-white latex floor paint to lighten up the space. The painted motif on the landing is by Karen Bennett, and is based on a Navajo Indian rug design. Hanging on the wall are two framed English decoupage pieces. The umbrella pot is an antique Chinese wine jar. ■ A terra-cotta llama by San Francisco artist Dane Burr dates back to the 1930s. The homeowner added a red bow for the holidays. **Opposite:** Scott Burdick says he “definitely likes more rustic than perfect, but always refined and uncommon.” This seems especially true in the dining room, where a vintage French pear wood table is matched with a custom bench covered in a nubby black-and-white fabric. Burdick designed the recessed wall units based on cabinets he saw in a home in Provence, France. Made from old barn wood, the distressed and painted nooks hold treasured pieces from his travels.





Left: At the top of the stairs, where a second Navajo floor motif is painted, shutters with cross cutouts provide an unusual window treatment. Designed by Scott Burdick and made from recycled wood, "They cast a wonderful light and allow privacy without completely blocking out the views," he notes. **Above and opposite:** Bright and cozy, the upstairs master bedroom includes a custom upholstered nailhead-trimmed bed that "floats" in the center of the room. The decorative pillow was fashioned from an old Flemish needlepoint that the homeowner purchased in London. At the foot of the bed is an old canvas travel trunk found at a Paris flea market. Next to the kiva-style fireplace are a wing chair and a long ottoman covered in suede. Beside the bed (opposite) is an antique American Indian smoking stand purchased in New York City. The pine beams are original to the 1930s dwelling.

See Sources.

