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Warm
Holiday
Greetings
at Home

Christmas



All Is Calm

By bringing the outdoors in, this Georgia designer celebrates the season with a stylish nod to nature.



❧ “When it comes to decorating for the holidays, nobody does it better than God,” promises homeowner Nikie Barfield, who delights in her family’s annual tradition of foraging for fresh greenery in their beautiful backyard. “Natural elements infuse winter wonder in the most elegant of ways.” This simple sentiment carries over into the living room, where a dramatic Noble fir was chosen for its fullness.

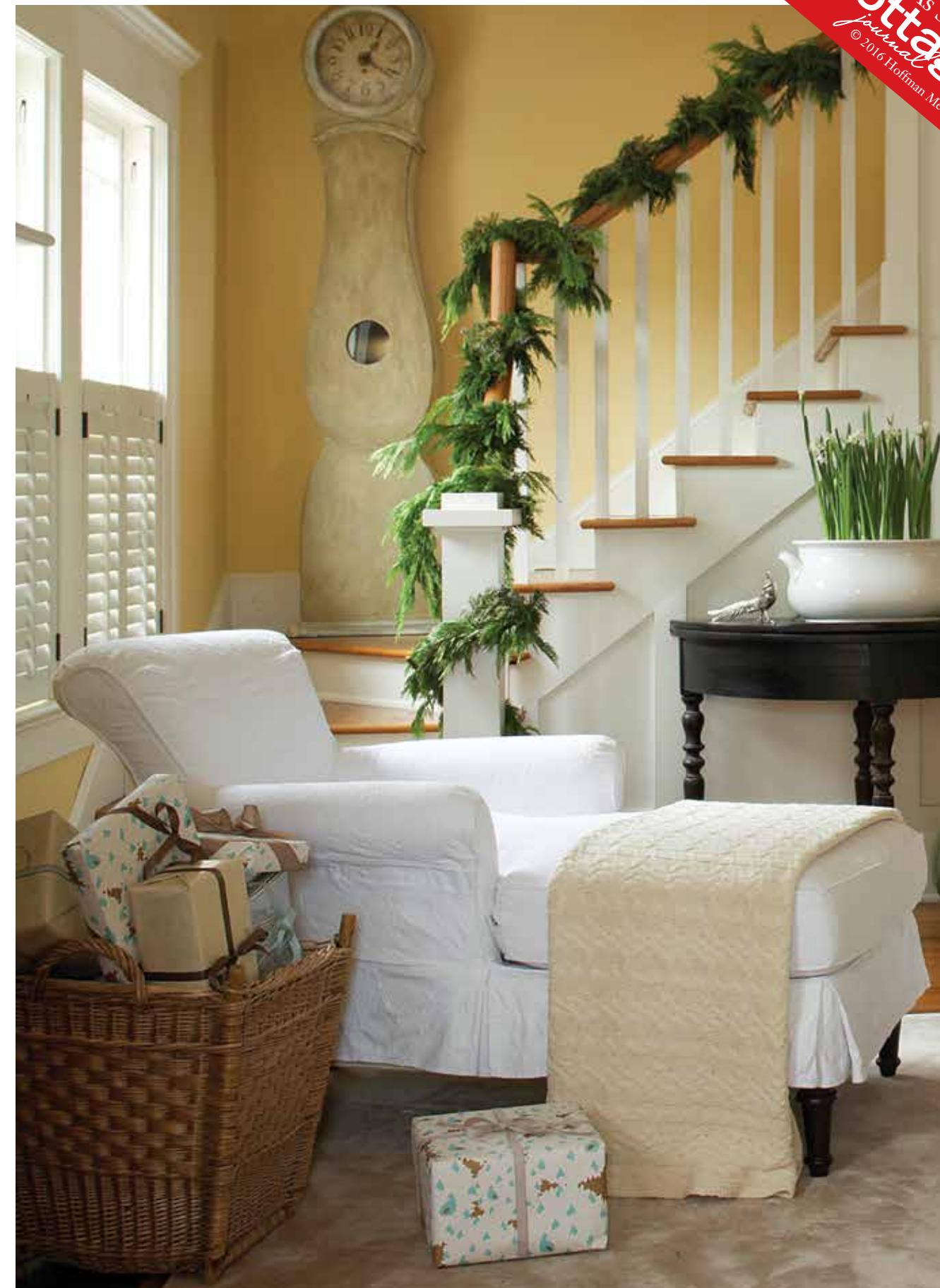




Elsewhere in the home, spots of crimson from apples, berries, and peppermint candies speckle holiday merriment into a year-round neutral palette, paying playful homage to winter's calming colors. In the dining room, a dashing set of crystal toasts the celebratory season. Specially selected for texture, the etched Glen plaid glasses complement the curves of the table's stunning centerpiece—a large weathered clamshell cradling a bright bouquet.

Style Idea

A handsome Leyland cypress inspired this homeowner, who potted a branch in a cream planter. Add a few ornaments, if desired, or take pleasure in nature's stunning simplicity.



“I begin each holiday season by ‘shopping the house’ for year-round accessories,” explains the acclaimed designer. The simple addition of a cozy throw on the end of a chaise lounge, for example, adds comfort and warmth to a high-traffic room.

This creamy white palette extends to each of the living spaces, where whiteware pottery serving pieces are used. The bowls, vases, platters, and dishes take on new purpose as they’re filled with paperwhites, fruits, and even a snowy village.

(Right) Brown paper packages—or blue, cream, and white—needn’t be found only under the tree. Place pretty piles of these favorite things in corners, on mantels, and even use as centerpieces. Mix and match ribbon and paper to coordinate with any color scheme.



“Selecting botanicals like amaryllis, fern, berries, moss, and cedar employs winter’s bounty without a lot of fuss,” explains Nikie, who takes great joy in snipping what’s fresh in her yard. Then, she suggests, supplement your gatherings with a few florist-shop blooms. Opt for a monochromatic scheme—Nikie prefers white—to achieve an organically styled floral showpiece that can carry Christmas cheer into the New Year.

touch of red

(Below left) “I always have a bowl of red apples somewhere in my home,” the designer says. “This instant, easy, edible art offers perfect color for the holidays and can be carried out through the year.”

Style Idea

There is no substitute for the smell of fresh greenery. Secure swags of cheerful garland from the banister, with wire if necessary, and mist regularly with water to maintain freshness.

