

# CHRISTMAS IDEAS

## Deck the Halls

MAKE YOUR  
HOLIDAY HOME  
PINTEREST-  
WORTHY

TREES, MANTELS,  
WREATHS,  
ORNAMENTS  
& MORE

145  
FESTIVE  
& EASY  
DECORATING  
TIPS



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# Tree Tricks

BLOGGER MICHAEL WURM (SEE HIS HOME STARTING ON PAGE 66) DECORATES MULTIPLE CHRISTMAS TREES EACH SEASON, INCLUDING THE ONE FEATURED ON OUR COVER. HERE, HE SHARES HIS TIPS FOR MAKING YOUR TREES SPARKLE WITH CHRISTMAS MAGIC.

## Q&A with

MICHAEL WURM  
*inspiredbycharm.com*



- Q. WHAT'S YOUR TREE—REAL OR FAUX?**  
**A.** Nothing beats the look and smell of a real tree. But this particular tree is faux, prelit, and flocked. I tend to decorate early so a faux tree extends the life of my decor.
- Q. WHERE DO YOU FIND INSPIRATION?**  
**A.** Color is the first place I start and inspiration can come from anywhere—ornaments, ribbon, or just a new color scheme I want to try. This particular tree was inspired by a plaid ribbon I found at HomeGoods.
- Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY FAMILY SECRETS FOR CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING?**  
**A.** My mom always used ribbon on her tree. It's an inexpensive and quick way to fill it out, especially if you don't have a lot of ornaments. I always start there. Don't just wrap the ribbon around the tree in a straight line. Tuck it in and out so it billows out as you move around the tree.
- Q. IN WHAT ORDER DO YOU DECORATE?**  
**A.** I have a huge collection of glass ball ornaments in various colors; those go on after the ribbon. Then I'll add in unique ornaments and finish with the topper and any sort of pick or clip-on items. I put most of the ornaments on the front and wrap a few to the back for a full and complete look.
- Q. DO YOU DECORATE TREES FOR OTHER PEOPLE?**  
**A.** Last year I set up a six-foot tree at my grandma's house. She hadn't set up a tree in years, so it was quite the surprise for her.



Candy cane-striped ribbon and ornaments in white, pink, and red make this flocked tree a sight to behold.

Photography by  
ADAM ALBRIGHT

"ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS USE WHAT YOU LOVE AND WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY. DON'T STRESS ABOUT THE DECORATING.

*Christmas is such a special time—enjoy it."*

—MICHAEL WURM, HOMEOWNER



## OH CHRISTMAS TREE

In the living area, a narrow flocked tree is adorned with Michael Wurm's assortment of new and vintage Shiny Brite ornaments. Mini forests of bottle-brush, DIY painted, and mercury glass trees are scattered around the house. "I love decorating with tabletop trees," Michael says.







# Layering on THE CHARM

Innkeeper-turned-blogger Michael Wurm creates inspiring holiday projects to keep his virtual guests returning again and again.

Photography by **ADAM ALBRIGHT**  
Written by **CATHY STILL MCGOWIN**



WHEN MICHAEL WURM RAN HIS St. Marys, Pennsylvania, home as a bed-and-breakfast, Christmas was an especially busy time of year. There were trees to trim, guests to host, and cookies to bake. "The gift shop was where the living room is now," Michael says. "I used to squeeze 10 trees in there! I love decorating Christmas trees. The more I can have, the better."

Even though Michael has shuttered the B&B and reclaimed the house as his personal home, he's still busy decking the halls. Instead of catering to guests, he plays Santa's helper to his loyal followers and fellow do-it-yourselfers through Inspired by Charm, a blog that evolved out of running his business.

"When I bought the B&B, it was filled with lots of floral fabrics and cat figurines," Michael says. So he set to work freshening the interiors while holding on to the charm of the 100-year-old house. Now, his adventures in decorating and entertaining include setting a stylish holiday table, baking cookies, and creating playlists.

"Christmas is a great time of year to be creative," Michael says. For him, inspiration can come from a single ornament, an antique, or, in the case of this year's color scheme, a dress worn by Adele, one of his favorite singers. "It's fun to change the color scheme and design every year, but nothing beats the energy of having family and friends in the house at Christmastime," Michael says. "I love creating and designing, and it is a joy to share that with others."

#### HOW-TO

Learn Michael's technique for creating Christmas ornaments and gift wrap accessories from moldable concrete. [BHG.com/DIYOrnament](http://BHG.com/DIYOrnament)







#### ALL WRAPPED UP

Michael says concrete may be an unconventional material for Christmas decor, but it makes great ornaments and is easy to work with. He dressed this pretty package, *opposite top*, with a DIY concrete star. "I love adding ornaments to packages for a one-of-a-kind, modern touch," he says.

#### CUT & PAINT

Michael says you only need to be handy with a saw to make these little pointed Christmas trees, *opposite bottom*. He created a whole forest by cutting the shapes from a 2x6 board and coating the triangles with acrylic paint in holiday hues. Once the paint dried, he applied the snowy dots with the handle end of a paintbrush.

#### BY THE FOOT

A wooden antique sock mold was Michael's muse for wooden stockings, *left*. "I cut them out with a jigsaw," he says. The garland, made from wooden crafts beads, was easier to make. "I chose a variety of shapes and sizes then painted a few of the beads," Michael says. He strung them on jute rope and secured the ends.

#### MERRY & BRIGHT

A Charlie Brown Christmas tree sparkling with twinkle lights and colorful ornaments, *above*, welcomes friends and family arriving for holiday gatherings.



## MORE IS MORE

"I have a huge collection of glass ornaments," Michael says. "I separate and store them by color so I can fill entire trees with a single hue." For the dining room, he loaded a tree with blue glass balls and wrapped it in wired sheer gold ribbon for extra shine. On the table, golden and mercury glass trees sprout from a white faux-fur runner cut from yardage at the fabrics store. More glass ornaments drip from the chandelier, making the room sparkle for the many large and small Christmas gatherings Michael hosts.











### PLEASE BE SEATED

For simple place settings with a lot of punch, Michael wraps napkins in golden rings and tucks in bits of evergreen, *above left*. A glass ornament carries the tree's color scheme to the table.

### A PLACE TO HANG

A coat rack, *above*, fashioned from store-bought hooks and two lengths of painted board, displays favorite holiday ephemera, including garlands made from red wool felt balls.

### GO FOR GOLD

DIY shelves, *left*, hang over a painted green chest that serves as a sideboard in the dining area. Michael sets a bar using white accessories and gold and white holiday decor. Although most of these golden accents were store-bought, he says it's easy to get the look with a can of spray paint.





### HE DID IT!

A cookie cutter found online inspired Michael to create these "Sweater Weather Sugar Cookies."



### SWEET SENSATIONS

Each Christmas Michael and his mom get together to make cookies. "We create a different design every year. Since we can't eat them all ourselves, we give most of them to friends," he says.





## HE DID IT!

Get the whole family involved in making beaded garlands. Stringing the beads is an easy project for children.







"WHEN MY HOME WAS AN INN,  
I HAD NO PERSONAL SPACE. NOW,  
I HAVE THE SOFA ALL TO MYSELF

*and I can watch Elf  
without interruption."*

—MICHAEL WURM, HOMEOWNER



#### WARM THOUGHTS

Michael designed this gallery wall, *opposite*, to display his beach art. "When it's cold outside, this wall is my virtual escape," he says. To create the shelves, Michael cut two lengths of wood, painted them the wall color, and secured them to the wall. "I like to mix in Christmas accessories during the holidays," he adds.

#### BEDSIDE ADDITIONS

A midcentury modern table and lamp, *left*, temper the formality of the blue velvet headboard. Michael added a bough of evergreen to the metal wall sculpture that hangs all year.

#### GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

Michael creates holiday decor from year-round finds. Golden metal peace signs, *above*, are draped with fir boughs and suspended with emerald ribbon from a sliding barn door.

\* For Sources, see page 120.