

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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Holiday Lights: Festive, Merry and Bright

By Cathy Dausman



Holiday lights on display at Orchard Nursery in Lafayette

Photo Andy Scheck

Festive, sparkling, colorful. The very words connote holiday celebrations, but they can also be used to describe lighting itself. Whether indoor or outdoor, low voltage or incandescent, temporary or permanent, lighting sets the mood in our homes and affects the very mood of our guests.

Light ambiance comes from both its source – a floor lamp, an overhead fixture, candles, luminarias, a wall sconce or footlight – and color spectrum, from the cool blue of fluorescent tubes to the soft orange flicker of a candle.

Suzanne Warrick of Interiors in Lafayette says Christmas lighting goes “above and beyond what you live with daily.”

“It’s a more joyous occasion and holiday lighting gives you a focus – a tree, wreath or garlands,” she explains. Warrick suggests adding votive and decorative candles as accent pieces to introduce romance to a room and a multi-sensory feel from the candle’s smell and flicker. Candles placed in carved pomegranates or pumpkins, or candles set in hurricane lamps filled with bird seed or cranberries can highlight your home’s color scheme, she says. Take a cue from jewelry stores that use skylights or low-voltage lights to make everything sparkle.

Peggy Hoffman brings the weather inside her Moraga home by hanging “snow” lights from Orchard Nursery in her living room windows. “They are tubes of lights hung vertically and then individual lights in the tubes light up sequentially so that it looks like a snow flake falling to the ground,” she says, adding they’re “lots of fun and different.”

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