

LIVING Sims

The Sims Magazine for more style

Challenge Features:
Pets on Furniture
This is Halloween
Celebrate Christmas With Us

and much more!

Finds:
Something Amazing
Hot and New

Themed:
Bella's Crafty Christmas
Sea, Surf... and Christmas?
Modern Christmas with Maron
and much more!



Editorial

Happy Christmas Everyone

Whether you get snow or hot weather for Christmas, it is a magical time. You celebrate with your loved ones, the house is decorated for the season, there is a special Christmas scent everywhere and we find gifts for each other that we think are just perfect. At LivingSims magazine, things are no different. We have been decorating, baking and singing carols for the last month to get everything ready for this year's Christmas edition. If I didn't know better, I would think that Santa's helpers had been at work, but no, the staff has worked very hard on this issue so I hope you enjoy it. We have wonderful articles with inspiration for decorations for the season's holidays from Halloween to New Year's Eve. We take you to a number of people's homes for the holidays and show you how they celebrate it. And in our finds section, we help you not only find the perfect decorations, but also the perfect gift for your sims.

This issue, we focus on our challenges to showcase the talent in our community. We are featuring a number of different challenges, as well as the winner and runner-ups from our Halloween contest.

The editorial staff would like to give a special thank you to our moderators, who keep our forum running and who have been a huge help in the making of this issue. A special thanks to Kementari - we would be a chaotic mess without you.

As you can see it is a jam packed issue and we hope that you enjoy it!

Macthekat



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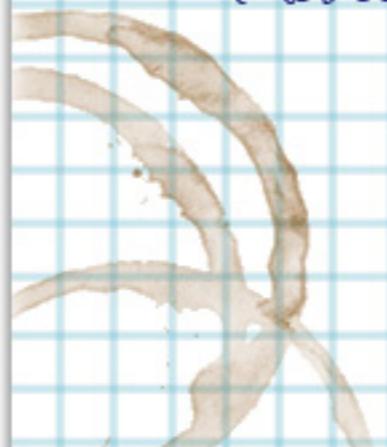


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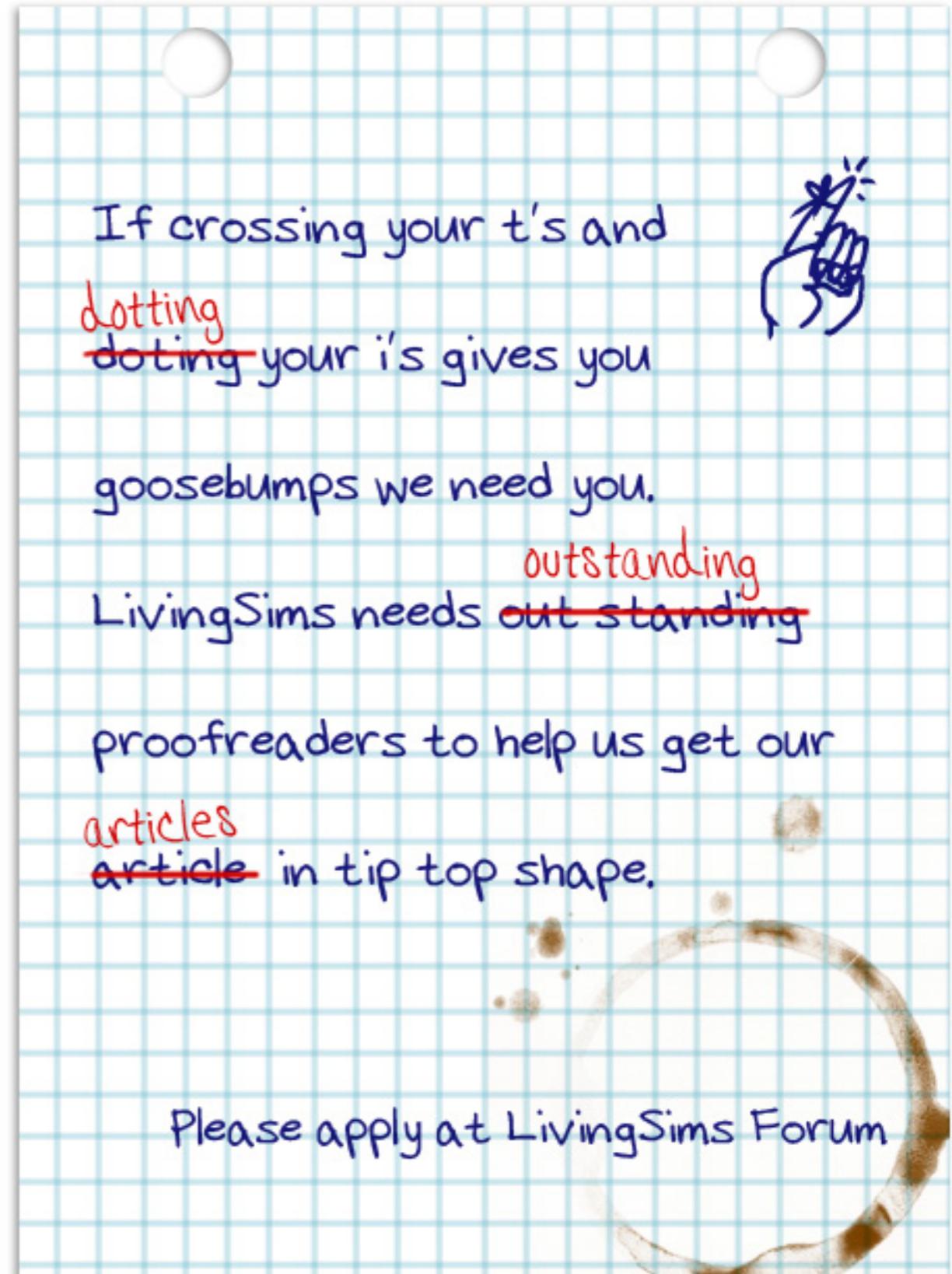
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all finds have a direct link to the website where you can download the object

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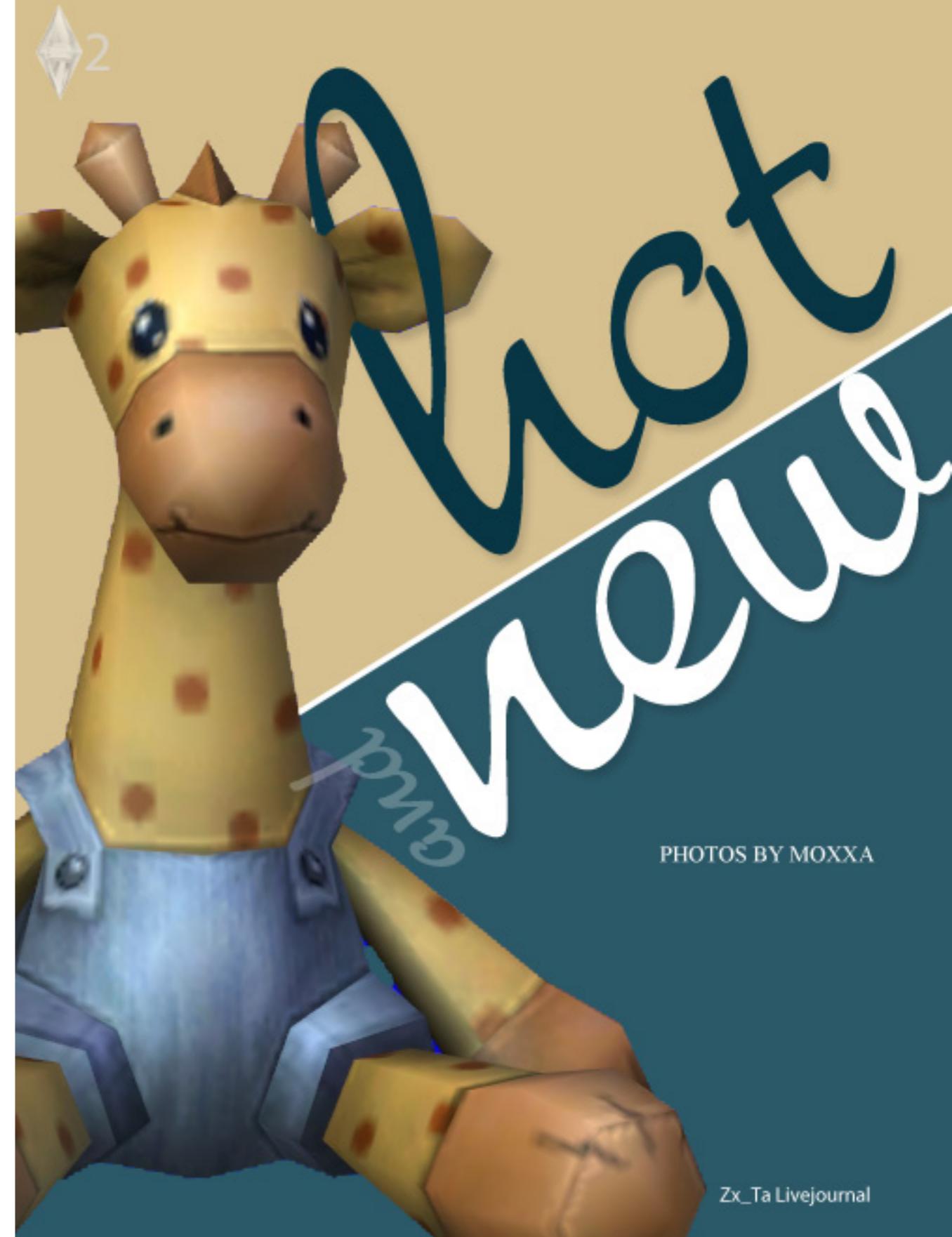




TOMMY NELSON
FOR MAVRET COLLECTIONS



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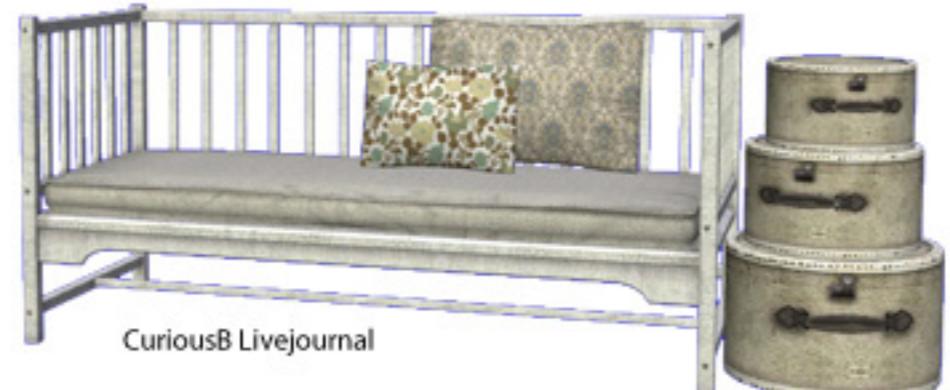
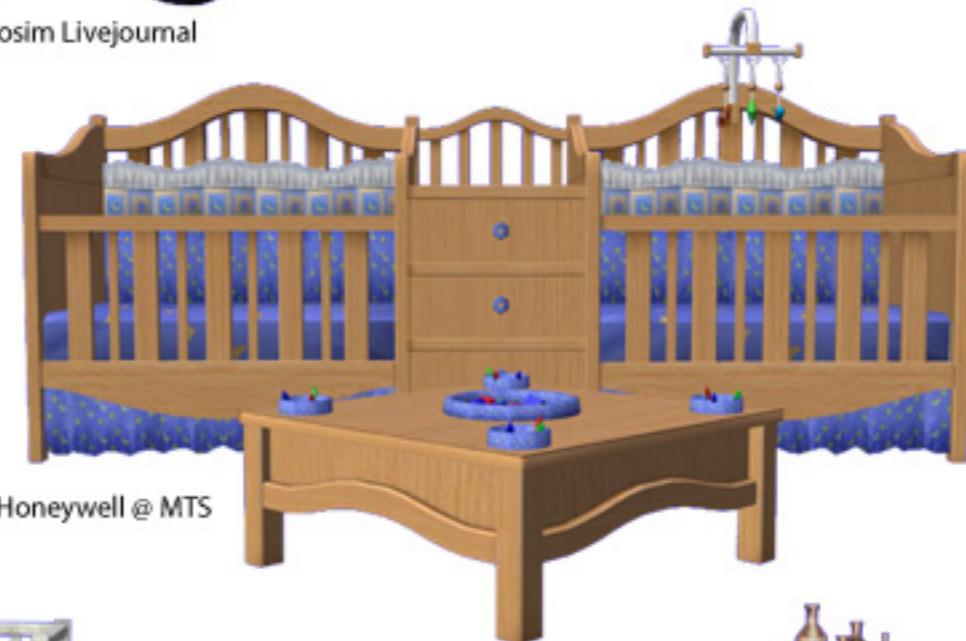
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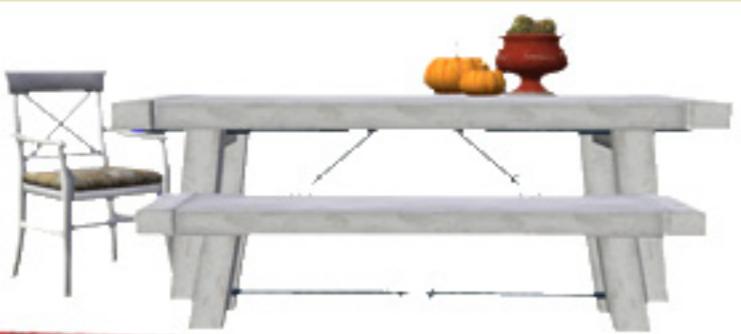
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3 Colors: Rich Tones ...



For Those Cozy Winter Months

Article by: LemonJelly
Photographs by: Deelightful

The warm oranges and yellows of autumn have lead us into winter and we may find we need a new depth to our colour scheme. As we begin to reach for the hot water bottles and extra blankets, let the rich tones of festive red, turquoise and dusted purple be as comforting to your home as a mug of steaming hot chocolate. Our LivingSims designers will show you how.



TURQUOISE, #2C5968

RED WINE, #63152A

DUSTED PURPLE, #2C5968

The focus this issue is on red, turquoise and dusky purple. Each of the tones on their own are very rich and powerful; put them together and they create a symphony of warmth for your home. Choose light and natural coloured woods to lift the colours and provide the perfect base.

Let's start in the living room. Here the red has been used on the walls to create a seasonal atmosphere; it also makes the room appear warm without the need for a fire. This works because the fabric on the chairs and the selection of wood furniture is a natural shade allowing the dusky purple and turquoise accents to shine through. Using a natural base also allows you to be creative with your patterns. Patterns can break up large blocks of colour and also add interest to a space. Remember to try and keep your colours similar if you are mixing and matching patterns for a cohesive effect.





Moving into the study, the same red has been used, this time on the curtains; this allows the rooms to flow well into one another while still being interesting. Using the turquoise on the walls gives a feeling of formality to a study that is primarily for reading your latest copy of LivingSims with your favourite glass of wine. The addition of plants and a rug in a similar shade of red add another dimension to the colour palette and room.





Using the dusted purple as a paint, but also in the wallpaper, adds a touch of playfulness to this nursery. Gone is the seasonal and formal atmosphere created by the other colours and in its place is the perfect shade for this nursery. Using dusted purple on the walls also frees the turquoise and red to be used as the accent colours. As such, these colours have been picked out in some of the art work and toys. The red on the changing table adds warmth in the exact place it is needed.



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3 SOME THING *Amazing*

PHOTOS BY ANNYWAY



Dog Coat Holders
AroundtheSims 3



Autumn Dining
Table
P cocci @ BPS



Hanging Stars
Sims by Severinka

Air Lanterns
Land of Woe

Salt & Pepper
Shakers
B5 Studio

Mailboxes
LilyoftheValley
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Piano
Armiel @ MTS



Love Shelf + Frames
AroundtheSims 3



Stairs
Gosik @ TSR



Dog House
Cmmoney @ MTS



Bird-Legged Table
Garden Breeze



Fridge
BS Studio



Holiday Conversions
Louma @ BPS



New Year Decorations
Sims by Severinka



Winter Pattern
Oh My Sims



Christmas Gnomes
Sixtyten @ LS



Sweet Cupcakes
One Billion Pixels



LIFESTYLE

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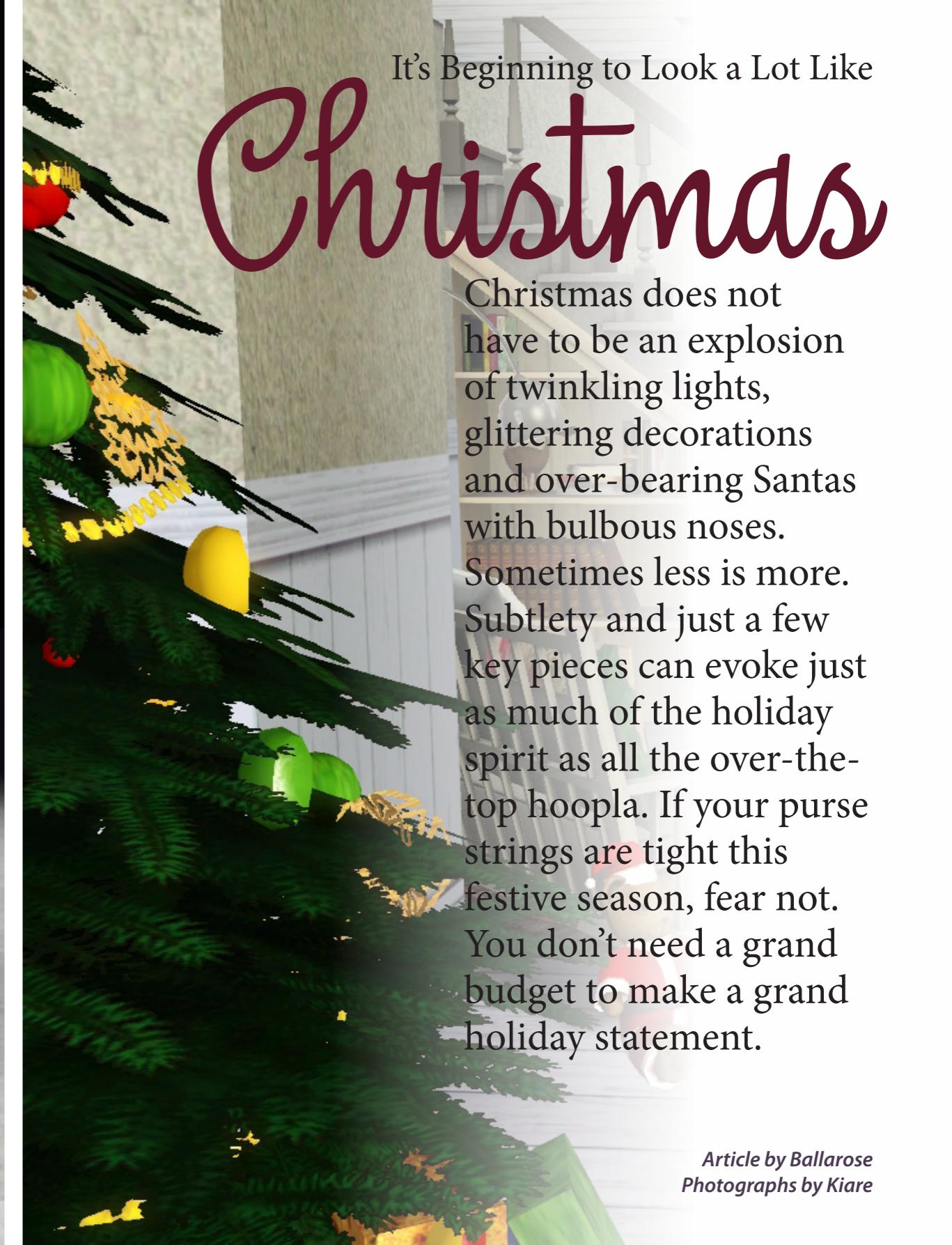
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It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like

Christmas

Christmas does not have to be an explosion of twinkling lights, glittering decorations and over-bearing Santas with bulbous noses.

Sometimes less is more. Subtlety and just a few key pieces can evoke just as much of the holiday spirit as all the over-the-top hoopla. If your purse strings are tight this festive season, fear not. You don't need a grand budget to make a grand holiday statement.

Article by Ballarose
Photographs by Kiare

Before



Agnetha is a recent university graduate. She has finally landed her first job after months of searching. Her parents, who have always been critical of her life choices, are coming for dinner on Christmas Eve and Agnetha wants to make a good impression. Not only does she have the stress of making an impression on her parents, they are bringing her niece and nephew and she wants to make sure Christmas Eve is extra special for them. She wants to prove to them that she has the reins of her life under total control. Unfortunately, not only does Agnetha not have control over her life, she also has no money. She has just gotten her very first apartment and after furnishing it and paying off some debts, she was pretty much left with nothing. Agnetha did not know what she was going to do and thought about using the old "I drank some bad eggnog and am too sick to do Christmas" excuse. Luckily for Agnetha, there were some very special elves zoning in on her dilemma.



The frugal elves decided that Agnetha needed some very special elf magic to make this an unforgettable holiday for her family, so they took her by the hand and showed her how, with a very teeny budget, she could still create the perfect Christmas.

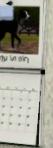
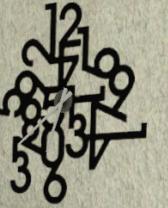
First stop was the consignment shop. Agnetha picked up some decorative pillows for just a few simoleans. Though the pillows were not specifically Christmas pillows, the colors of red, green and white created the illusion of Christmas.

Next stop was the florist section at the local supermarket. Agnetha got busy and hand-picked some red and yellow flowers with lots of green foliage. She created a simple flower arrangement. Tucked away on a 50% off shelf, Agnetha found a Christmas candle that had a slight flaw on one side and this became the centre piece on the dining room table. With the lights turned down low and the candle lit, no one would notice the insignificant imperfection.



Next on the list were toys for her young niece and nephew. There was a thrift shop around the corner from the supermarket and for just a pittance and a bit of spit and polish, Agnetha managed to put together some fun Christmas gifts for the kidlets.

Agnetha was very happy with her purchases but the elves could not help noticing the little tear that trickled down her cheek. She told them that as much as she loved the fact that everything was coming together so well, she really had one big wish for this Christmas; she wanted her first very own Christmas tree. Her niece and nephew would be so disappointed if she didn't have a tree. She knew this was not possible, as not only was the tree not in her budget, but to decorate it would be virtually impossible. The frugal little elves hated to see Agnetha so sad, so being industrious little elves they came up with an awesome idea. Seeing as this was Christmas Eve, the elves encouraged Agnetha to approach one of the store owners on the main avenue.





In the store window stood a lovely little tree, complete with decorations and little twinkling lights. Agnetha convinced the proprietor to sell her the tree for practically nothing and just like that she had her very first holiday tree.

With only an hour to spare before her family were to arrive, Agnetha quickly rushed around and put the finishing touches on decorating her apartment. She quickly placed the gingerbread cookies in the oven and the small apartment was soon filled with the delectable scents of ginger and cinnamon. She placed the gifts for the children under the tree and just as she let out a sigh of relief that she had managed to get everything done, the doorbell rang. Opening the door to her family, Agnetha's heart was all a-flutter but she needn't have worried. One look at her mum's face as the children scurried with glee towards the tree, told her that all the crazy running around was worth it. She whispered a soft thank you to her special elf friends and wished them a joyous holiday.





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AskBella

ARTICLE BY VELVET & SIMLOVER123 | PHOTOS BY VELVET

Help.

I am a recently married artist living with my husband, who is a medical student, and we live in a modern starter beside Sunset Valley's beach. The kitchen in our proud new home is small, which we don't really mind too much since neither of us are chefs. But, it is totally lifeless and has next to no light in it due to the cluttered cabinets and counters, despite the huge windows. We do love to entertain but it's almost embarrassing.

Please help,

Cramped in the Kitchen

Before



Before



Before



After

Dear Cramped In,

Kitchens can be tricky beasts to tame but don't give up hope, I have a few tips that could do the trick rather well. Let's take a look at the obvious first: the color palette. It's much too dark for the area you're dealing with. You have dark tile on your floors and walls, even your cabinets, which are quite attractive, are trimmed in dark wood. You can enlarge the area, at least by appearance, if you use a lighter selection of colors. Darker colors work well in grounding a space, while lighter tones work to open a space up.

The rule of thumb for small spaces is to start from the ground up but in this instance, let's take a closer look at your cabinets first. I like the style and the rich wood color is very nice but you're right, there are too many cabinets and not enough light. My advice would be to remove the wall cabinets, maybe even a couple of counters and install a tall pantry for storage. This will help rein in the clutter and give you more breathing room.

If you chose to keep the remaining cabinets you'll need to be careful in selecting the right color for your floor. I advise against going darker, rather, I would try a mid-tone shade, something not too dark and not too light. Goldilocks would say a, "just right" color. If you find it to be too dark for your taste you can always add a rug. In fact I recommend doing just that. Rugs are one way to bring a little life to a boring space. Best of all, you can change the look just by changing out the rug; they're like pillow cushions, except you walk on them!

As for your wall colors, it's important to keep in mind that brighter colors reflect light. This fact is going to come in handy when it comes to your lighting. Your kitchen appears to have a mix of paint, tile and paneling; at one time it would have been quite an undertaking to re-decorate such a space. Fortunately today's market provides many selections for home makeover



projects. Your local home depot stores will have everything you need to begin. You can paint over your paneling or even your tile. Whatever the method you chose, remember to keep it bright.

Next, let's take a look at those 'large' windows. They are wide but they lack height. Taller windows will do wonders for your lighting. Natural light beats artificial light by miles when it comes to economics. Since you're making a change, now is the best time to invest in efficiency windows. They come in many styles and will save you a bundle in the long run.



I have a few last words of advice for you. Keep your workspace separate from the kitchen. Kitchens, unless designed otherwise, should be used for cooking and/or eating, especially when you're running low on space.

Also, your kitchen is small and crowded now but it also has a very homey feel to it. Don't think that modern has to mean boring, it doesn't. After you've achieved the look you want introduce a few pieces of décor into the space to personalize your kitchen and I promise there will be no more embarrassment for you and your husband.

Best Wishes,

Bella



tomato
(lat. Solanum Lycopersicum)



eggplant
(lat. Solanum Melongena)

DISCOVER LIMITLESS
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pumpkin
(lat. Genus Cucurbita)



mushroom
(lat. Boletus Edulis)

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(lat. Daucus Carota)

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DECK THE HALLS

*Article by: LemonJelly
Photographs by: Deelightful*

If the idea of decorating for the festive season leaves you cold, then let the LivingSims designers inspire you with three different rooms to match your style and colour scheme.

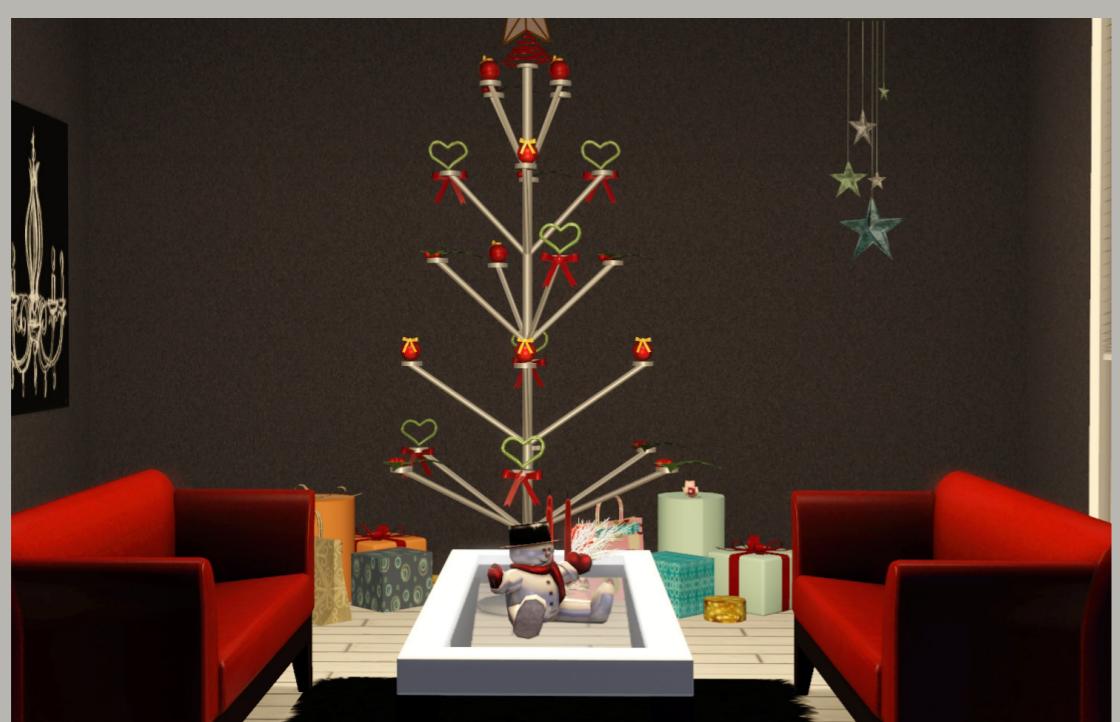
Decorating for Christmas is a very personal affair. There are people who love the elaborate approach of as much red and green as they can fit into a space. Add to that mix some fairy lights, tinsel and a large tree and they are in Christmas heaven. For others, a touch of festivity is enough. This could be a sculpture, a poinsettia or some cinnamon scented candles. No matter your taste or room, we have three different styles to show you in this edition of LivingSims. Please feel free to take whatever ideas you find inspiring and recreate them in your own home this Christmas.



Traditional

If you have a lot of dark wood furniture and a large space to decorate, you might want to consider a more traditional approach to decorating this year. A large room is perfectly accessorised by an ample Christmas tree with all the trimmings. Dark furniture is ideal with a green and red colour scheme. Keep the green a shade of sage and you will give a fresh twist on the Traditional Christmas. If you have a fireplace, then complete the warm and cosy effect by making this is a focal point and add any sculptures, snow globes and wreaths to this area. At the dinner table, create seasonal centrepieces using poinsettia's in plant pots that complement your table settings. If you have a lot of floor space, try experimenting with larger seasonal themed sculptures like snowmen instead of the more traditional floor plant. This will add interest to your room and create a talking point for your guests.





Modern

If you favour a modern look to your home, then a more contemporary approach might be fitting. Ideal for a small space, a modern tree is an unusual choice that will make an excellent talking point at your Christmas party. Decorate this by choosing colours from your existing furniture. This creates a unity and flow to your space. Modern spaces favour a less cluttered approach but it is still possible to include some of your favourite festive ornaments. Use your coffee-table and create your own works of art using scented candles and perhaps a left over bauble or two. Bold wall art, modern Christmas sculptures and hanging ornaments suit this room well because they do not require any floor space but still evoke a sense of festivity.





Eclectic

For a more eclectic approach, you can mix elements of the traditional and contemporary styles together. If you would still like an ample tree but are looking for something with a twist, then consider an artificial white tree. This would give you a more modern and sophisticated look without any of the pine needles. Take your lead from the tree and accessorise your room in white and blue for the perfect winter wonderland. Create an inviting space by hanging the family stockings on your fireplace. If your dining room chairs don't match your colour scheme, then my tip is to use some seat covers as these allow for maximum versatility. Thoughtful and colour coordinated clutter allow you to have more of your favourites on display without overpowering the room. Using blue and white as your colour scheme could seem cold but counteract this with lots of burning candles and you have a warm and comfortable room, which is an inspiring alternative to the traditional green and red. This approach really allows you to experiment with colours and styles to suit your needs.



Ask

Handy Andy

Writing by LemonJelly
Photographs by Deelightful

Dear Andy,

My husband is coming home from a long deployment and I wanted to do something special for him. I wanted to give him a man cave after I heard some other wives talk about their husbands' man caves. I thought this was a neat idea but what does a man cave consist of and where would I put such a room? We have a decent house but I am just lost.

Thanks,
Lost in Thoughts



Dear Lost in Thoughts,

There are many places well suited to a man cave and in my experience basements are the more obvious choice. I would, however, like to encourage you to convert your attic space. The advantage of this is that it is still possible to get some light into the room. I recommend adding in some entertainment like a foosball table, a large TV and perhaps a bar. Remember to use durable fabrics and choose comfortable furniture for those days spent with the guys drinking a beer and watching their favourite sport. Add a few appropriate pieces of artwork and your man cave is complete.

Good luck,

Andy

Dear Andy,

My wife recently had twins and as you can imagine they are a handful but a wonderful addition to our family. As a response to this, my mother-in-law will be coming to stay with us whilst we adjust. She will be staying for an indefinite amount of time and I would love to make use of my garage and turn it into a secondary suite for her to have some privacy.

Thanks,
Overwhelmed Dad



Before





Dear Overwhelmed Dad,

Congratulations! The addition of the twins is wonderful news and I have tried to come up with a stress free solution for your garage. Unfortunately, it is still going to involve you clearing out some of the junk you have accumulated since you moved in.

Once the space is cleared, I recommend keeping the brick walls but perhaps painting them a slightly lighter colour to open the space and make it appear larger. Covering the garage door with curtains creates a cosy and inviting room without all the hard work of removing the door and losing the functionality of the garage should you choose to convert it back later. You will need to put up a partition wall for the bathroom but other than that I would leave the rest of the area open to allow for maximum floor space. Add a fitted kitchen and some homey pieces of furniture and your transformation is complete. I do hope your mother-in-law appreciates all the hard work.

Congratulations again,

Andy

Tip:

My wife Tessa has decided that she wants to create more space in our home by converting our attic into a guest bedroom. Our home doesn't have much room in the hallway for a full set of stairs but I managed to arrange a set of split stairs. This leaves us with enough room downstairs but also allows us to use that valuable attic space.



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From Nature with



Article by: Deelightful
Photographs by: Saprophyte

Many of us often forget the sheer beauty of Mother Nature and how inspiring she can be. Yet all the colours and textures you could possibly need are right on your doorstep. Decorating a room inspired by a nature picture can be a lot of fun. Given the choice, you would probably choose a beautiful picture with stunning colours but imagine you are supposed to decorate a room inspired by a picture of a rather ugly toad. Would you just shake your head and throw in the towel or would you roll up your sleeves and face the challenge head-on like Saprophyte did? Let's take a tour of her toad-inspired city apartment.





City apartments are usually quite expensive and you don't get that much space for your money so it's all about maximizing what you have and making sure to reach the apartment's full potential.

Every nook and cranny serves its purpose without being too overly cluttered. Even the utility gets its own little corner, hidden away nicely by a curtain. The influence of the inspiration picture is clearly visible all around the apartment, from the well-chosen colours to the textures. The brickwork, for instance, mimics the texture of the toadstool and the green tiles in the kitchen match the grass the toad is sitting on. The open plan apartment lends itself perfectly to this kind of design. Using so many dark colours could easily make such a small space feel uncomfortable but the perfect use of light and those big city windows provide a lovely balance.

In the wrong hands, all these different textures might make a space look horribly messy but in Saprophyte's hands, it turns into a beautiful example of high quality eclecticism. That, in turn, provides the opportunity to mix and match furniture. The classic Asian sideboard doesn't at all look out of place, nor does the big contemporary painting. Quirky little details like the bell in the kitchen just add the cutest finishing touches.

There's a touch of nostalgia in the apartment, like it was somehow forgotten in time. The wallpaper in the hallway almost screams seventies and the archway looks like it has seen better days and yet they work in perfect unison with the hardwood floor, the funky stools and even the newspaper look of the coffee table.

The bedroom, while quite small and underneath a sloping ceiling, could have felt horribly cramped and dark but it doesn't. With the help of cream and green touches, a lovely big window and the well thought out use of lights,





this room has everything you need for a comfortable good night's sleep.

When you step onto the little balcony of this apartment, you find yourself in the middle of a little oasis while looking over the bustling city. The design is carried on outside using wooden floors and dashes of green that provide a beautiful contrast against the dark brickwork. It also creates a lovely flow between the outside space and the inside living area. The ivy provides a simple, yet effective finishing touch to a space that lends itself perfectly to entertaining friends or having a cocktail or two while looking out at the view or gazing up at the stars. Outside space comes at a premium in the city so if you're lucky enough to have some, make the most of it.

This apartment truly is a little gem. What you have here is a contemporary home with all the mod-cons that exists in perfect unison with a touch of nostalgic charm, providing a little homey paradise in the middle of crazy city life.

And that sadly marks the end of our tour around Saprophyte's toad-inspired apartment. Remember, if you're stuck and need some decorating help, just take a walk, let nature inspire you and really bring the outside in. Much like Saprophyte did; who rose to the challenge and came out a winner.



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Jones, Darcy & Marks

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this is halloween

ARTICLE BY KATCAT | PHOTOS BY THE COMMUNITY

LivingSims forum members rose to the challenge to capture the perfect Halloween picture in the “This is Halloween” contest. We were chilled by many eerie and haunting sights and thrilled by beckoning porch lights. Here are the top five entries, chosen by our members.

happy halloween!



THE DEEP DARK

BY SAPROPHYTE THE WINNER

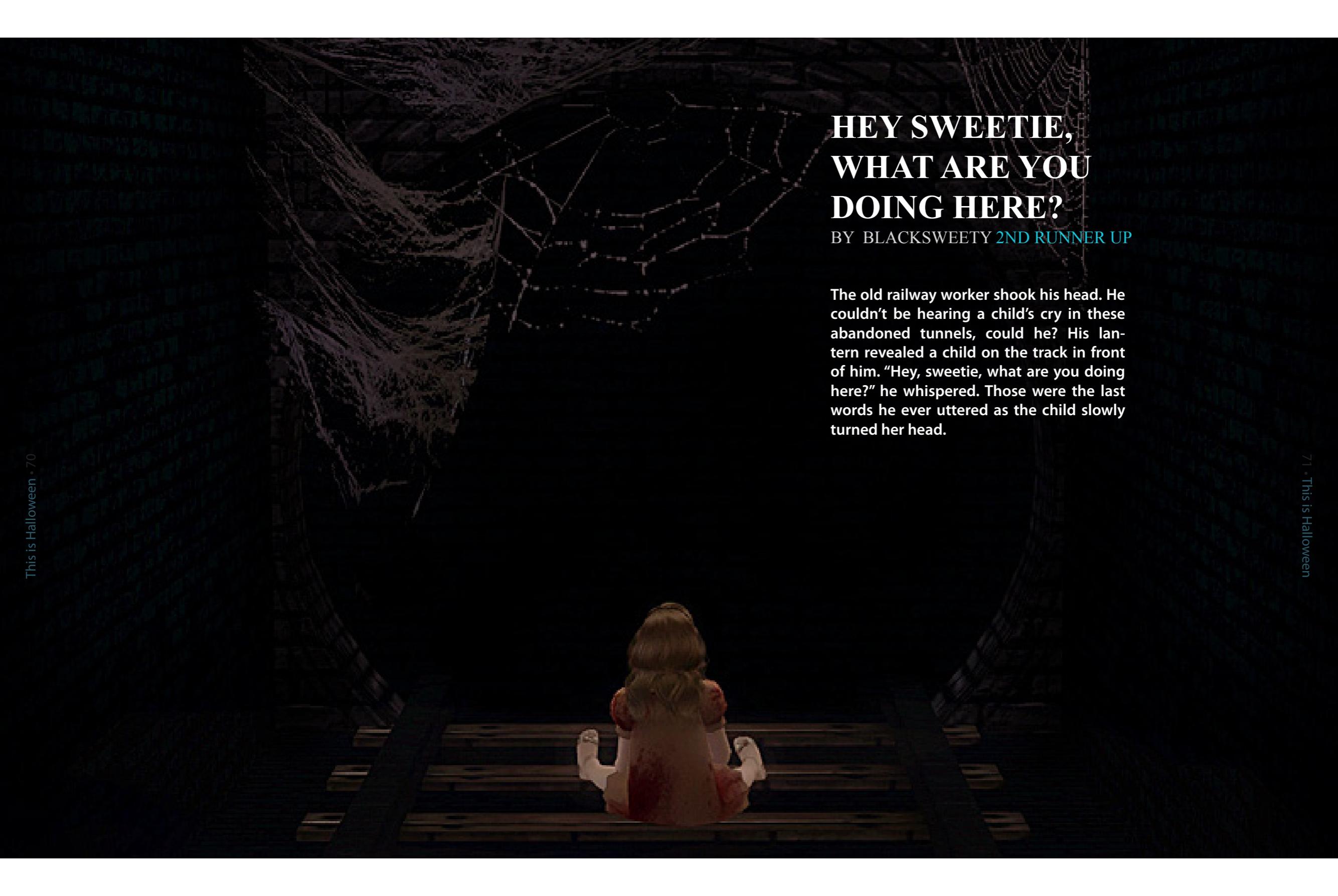
Terror rises from the deep, dark water in Saprophyte's winning entry. A still, secluded pond in the woods may look like a great swimming hole but beware the denizen of the deep!



MIDNIGHT GATHERING

BY MISMATCHED 1ST RUNNER UP

It is believed that on All Hallows Eve the veil between the living and the dead is the thinnest, allowing the spirits to leave their cold, damp graves. Mismatched scoffed at such superstition until she snapped this photo in the moonlit midnight hour.



HEY SWEETIE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

BY BLACKSWEETY [2ND RUNNER UP](#)

The old railway worker shook his head. He couldn't be hearing a child's cry in these abandoned tunnels, could he? His lantern revealed a child on the track in front of him. "Hey, sweetie, what are you doing here?" he whispered. Those were the last words he ever uttered as the child slowly turned her head.

LEGEND OF THE CRYPT

BY BRIDELYN RUNNER UP

Many a child was tempted to brave the dark graveyard to enter the secluded crypt on Halloween night. Who had placed the grinning jack o'lanterns to entice them? What was waiting in the crypt? As the skeletal tree branches scratched and swayed in the wind, the flickering light beckoned in the gloom. Dare they enter?



THE BRIDE

BY KIARE RUNNER UP

The mist-wrapped mausoleum was considered safe to approach during the day, that is what the historian was told. He was just there to document the old graves. The legend of the Undead Bride was just a tale to scare children. But wait; was that the squeal of an old door hinge?

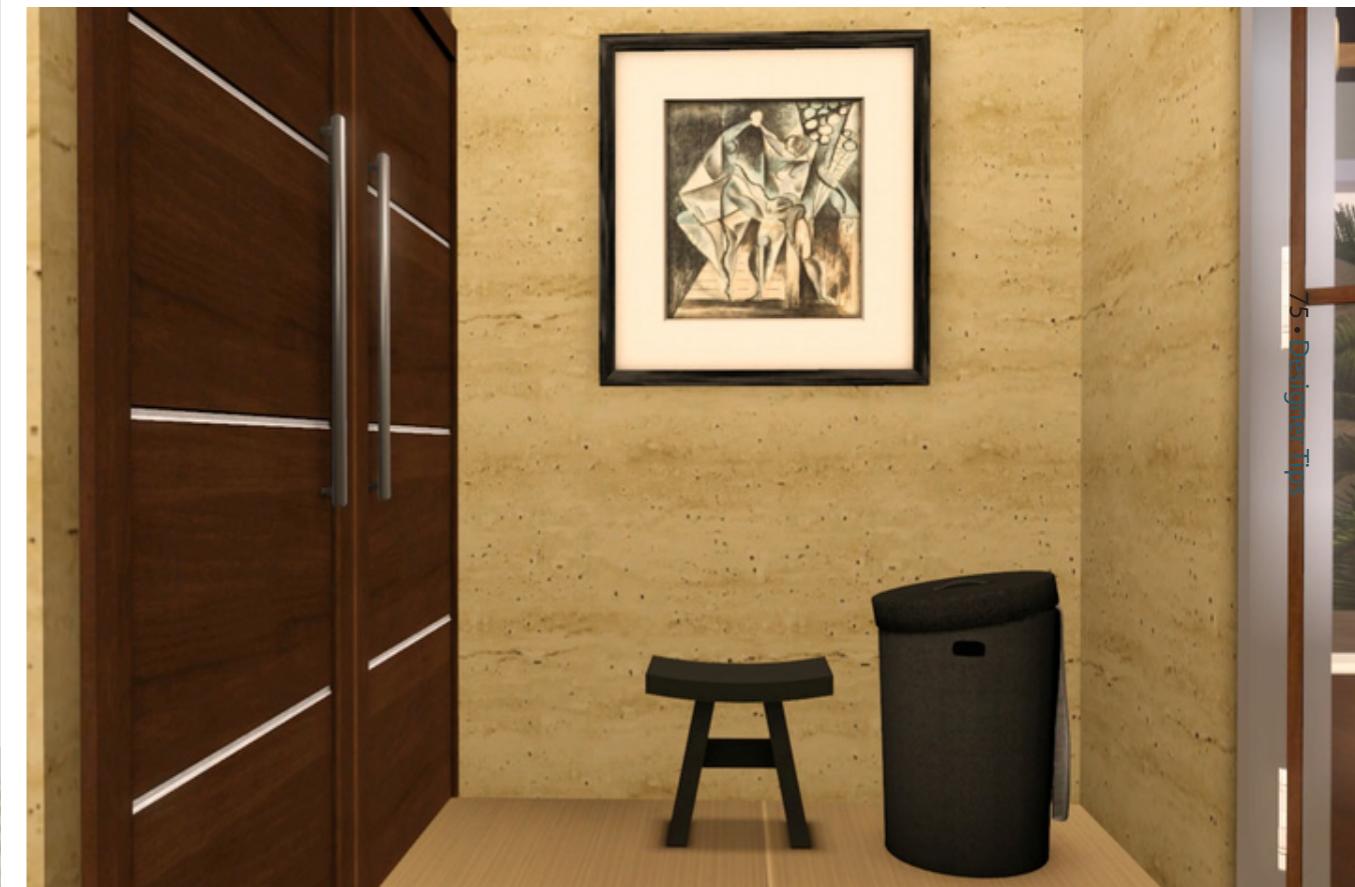
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for the Holidays*

Designer Tips

Article by: Velvet



Minimalism and muted tones work well together but if you want to kick things up a bit, add some contrasting colors to your palette. Keep it in the family by darkening your two main colors and you'll be surprised at the results.

Photograph by zveki



Photograph by fanieb

Mirrors, mirrors on the wall, dress up your space and have a ball! Mirrors add character to any space so find one or two that strike your fancy and make your space your own.



Photograph by Ankuuh

Low on funds? First time away from home? Don't worry, get eclectic; it's all the rage! Mix and match your furniture, lighting and even your colors if you want to make a statement (and save a few bucks).



Photograph by Protectron

Clutter up your piano and/or the space around it to achieve that lived-in look. It doesn't matter if you use a little clutter or a lot so long as you do something to make your musical instrument a part of your space. There's nothing sadder than an instrument that's been left to sit in a corner all alone.



Photograph by findu

Bright colors and winsome decor makes for the perfect kids' room. You'll find that various shades of red, yellow or green will work for boys and girls alike; it's hard to go wrong with a combination based on these colors.



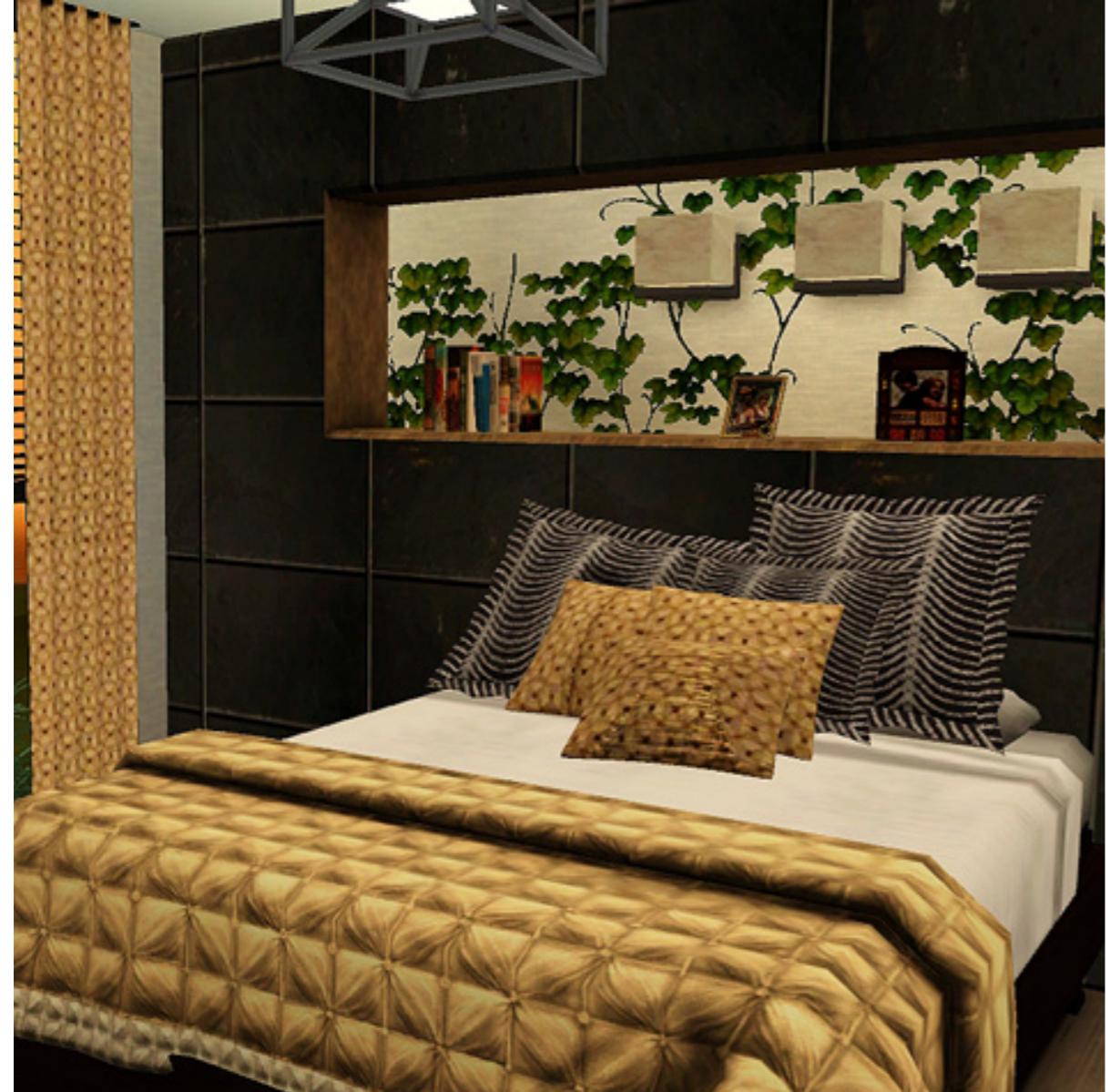
Photograph by moxxa

Don't want a busy room? Pick two or three colors and stick to it. Just remember, if you don't want to go from busy to boring, be sure to use at least one neutral color to break the monotony.



Photograph by Lady_Christine

When creating a theme for your space, be sure to maintain it throughout the entire area. This includes your seating, wall covering(s), plants, light fixtures, right down to the floor covering.



Photograph by tanpeaches

Woven fabric is very tangible and helps to enliven any space. If you want to add a bit of life to an otherwise dead space, introduce a bit of braided or woven fabrics to the mix.

Having a bit of trouble creating the right color palette? Look outside your window and you'll find a plethora of ideas. Whether it's the red, brown or gold leaves of autumn or the frosty blues and whites of winter, you'll never lack for color ideas if you look to nature for inspiration.



Photograph by tiki5872



Photograph by Trophy05

There's no need to pretty things up to achieve the old-world interior design style. Distressed furniture and decor are perfect for creating this look.



Photograph by newshoes

Nothing says rich like the color gold! Whether you're designing the queen's palace, a sultan's tent or a pirate's lair, gold is a must-have color - just don't take any real gold with you (pirates are a greedy lot!).

The stars come out at night...



starry night
comfy couch
warm blanket
bottle of wine
Christmas movie

online movies
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Article and photographs by: Velvet

Bella's Crafty Christmas

What do scented pinecones, green leaves and a glue gun have in common? Christmas, of course!

Remember those carefree days of childhood when you spent your days making your mum or dad a gift with nothing more than sticky glue, construction paper and crayons? There were no credit cards or buyer's remorse to darken your holiday spirit then. Adulthood can be just as fun; you can still craft your way into a perfect Christmas and I plan to show you how.

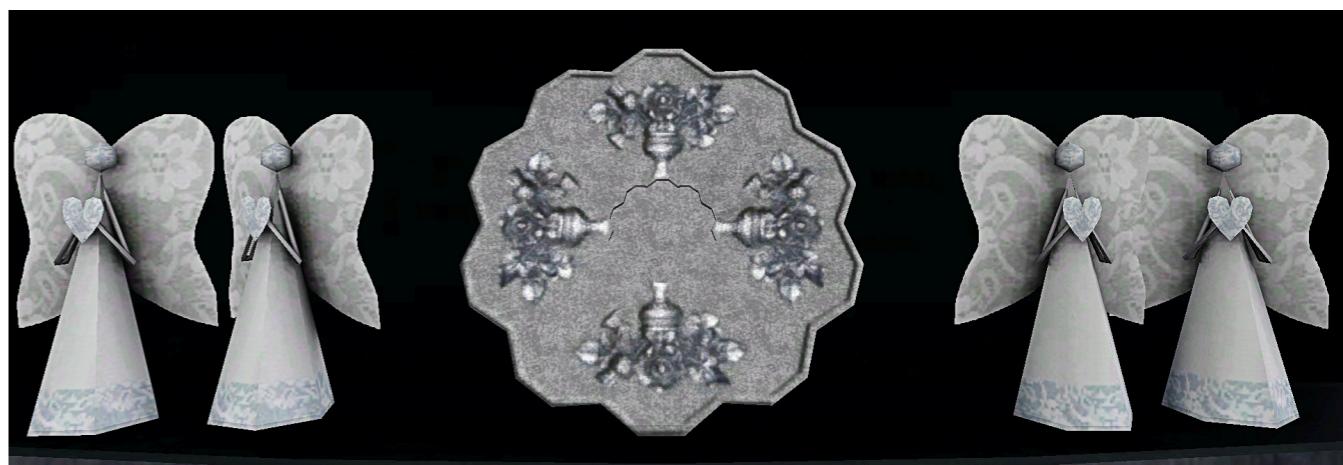
Personalizing your Christmas décor is easy and rewarding. The time you spend shopping for gifts can be wearisome and frustrating. Why expose yourself to more holiday-related stress by wasting even more time searching crowded aisles for wrapping paper, ornaments and all



the other trappings of the season? I have two words for you - stress less.

First things first, plan ahead. It's true that, for some, the best part of Christmas is the last minute dash to the store or the down-to-the-wire online purchase. If you're of that mind-set, you may not find this article as useful as someone like me. I take great pleasure in creating a new design theme each year and so I take time to plan ahead.

A design theme consists of two smaller themes. The first has to do with color. I knew early on that I wanted a blue, blue Christmas. Besides the fact that it's one of my favorite colors, blue is the one color that suits the season best. It's a very cool color and when coupled with white, it's even better. However, I





needed accessory colors to balance things out. I decided on gold and green. These would be used for the trimmings and would prevent my cool colors from becoming too 'cold.'

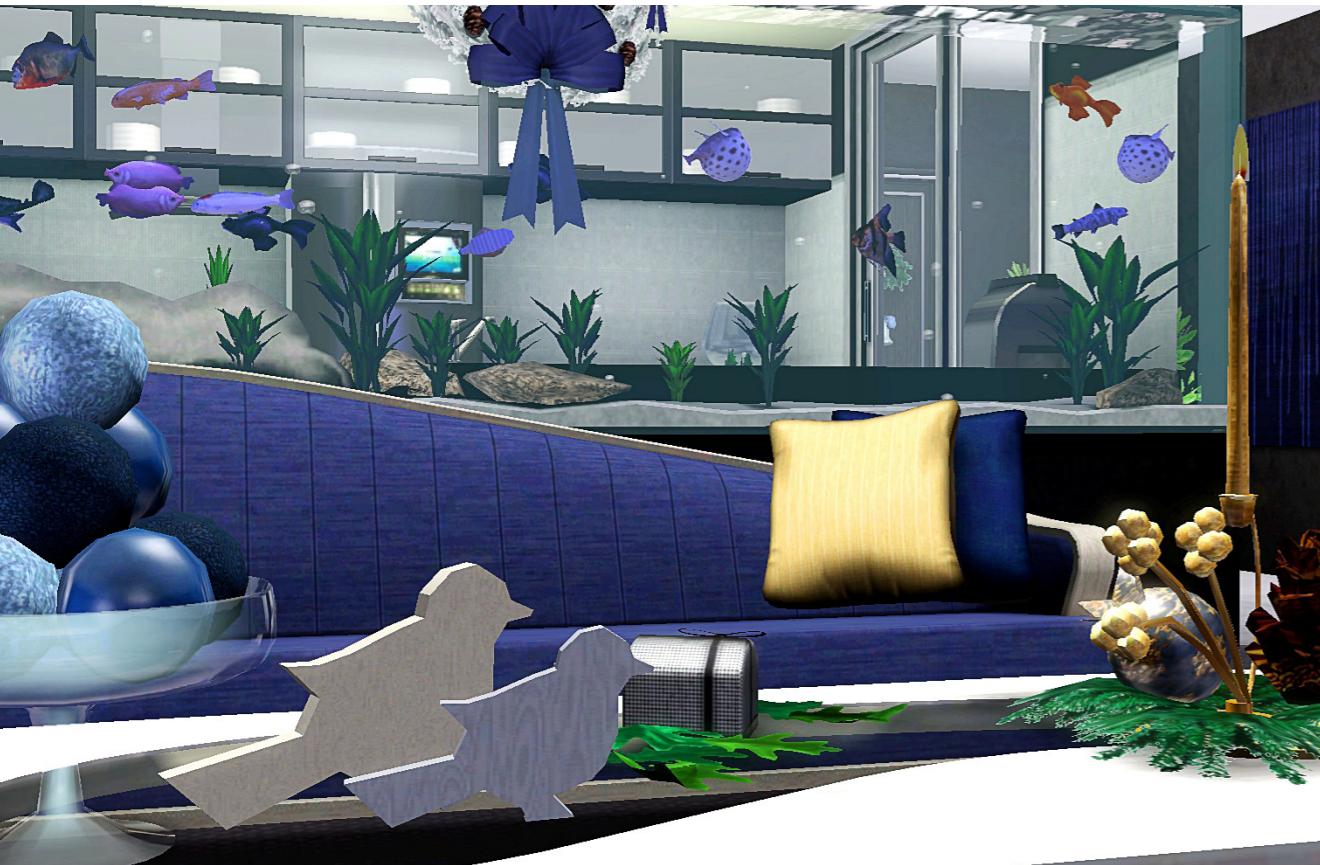
The second part of our design theme has to do with the overall style. Personalization equals warmth in my book, so this year my goal was to combine crafts and modern accents. Here's where the scented pinecones, a glue gun and green leaves come into play. The smell of fresh pine or spruce is enchanting; add the aroma of spicy cinnamon and you have heaven on earth! You can find scented pinecones, candles and even wreaths in any major crafts store. There's no need for trekking to the woods for a fresh Christmas tree either (good-bye messy pine needles!), artificial is the way to go if you want hassle-free, yule-tide cheer.

Don't stop with the tree, stock-up on wreaths for the hearth or window or wherever you want a little greenery (spray paint comes in handy for those who prefer a different hue). There's no magic to decorating your own wreaths or

adding a few shining baubles to a candle holder. All it takes, is an eye for color and composition... and a glue gun, just be careful of your fingers.

What about the ornaments? Well, they're not just for the tree. Find a set of your favorite ornaments and use them in a Christmas scape. They're perfect over the fire mantle, on garland or even in glass jars. I love to hunt for varying shapes of vases and containers in the second hand stores or flea markets throughout the year. I use the more interesting containers as ornament holders. You'll be surprised at how easily you can dress up everyday objects and turn them into eye-stopper decorations with a simple twist of a bow or the addition of berries or pine. From lace-winged angels to silk green leaves sprawled on a table top, your crafty Christmas is all up to you!

Now that you have an idea of just how simple it can be, make your blue Christmas brighter by crafting your way into a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





EAMES SHELL SIDE CHAIR DSW* WITH BARSTOOL BY POCCHI @ BPS

*DSW - DINING SIDE CHAIR WOOD

EAMES

Challenge Me To... Bring It On!

Our LivingSims forum members are all about the challenges. They love to build or decorate something they wouldn't normally think of for themselves so they bravely let other forum members do the thinking for them. Sometimes it's the urge to take on a unique challenge at a skill level they are comfortable with and this makes Challenge Me To so popular. Whether its Challenge Me To Build, Decorate, or Garden, it's lovely to see what other people come up with. Here is a showcase of what our very talented community members get up to when they get their creative juices flowing.

Article by annyway

Photographs by fanieb, jenba, sixtyten, moxxa, Vasilla, WickedEdge, annyway, kiare & macthekat



fanieb challenged by Anifromld

Dorothy is 82 years old and recently widowed. She's moving from her farm, which is now too much to take care of alone, to town. She's usually pretty spry, but every now and then she has her achy days when stairs are a bit much to handle. She has a lot of accumulated stuff that she just can't bear to part with. Build Dorothy a house with a lot of built-in storage, room for the grandkids to come spend the night, a bedroom and bath on the ground floor for those achy days, and room for a tiny veggie garden, because, as she says "Tomatoes in the store look, feel and taste like billiard balls."



jenba challenged by macthekat

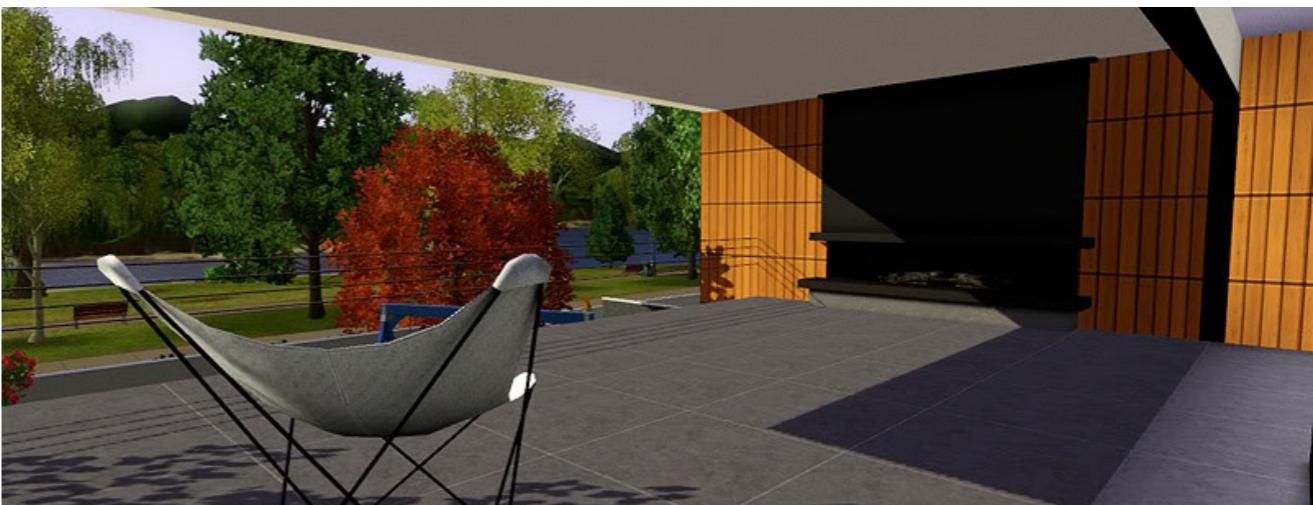
The manager of Champs Les Sims Hostel is devastated. His beautiful old building burned down in a stove fire started by a careless guest. He would like you to help him construct a new hostel with the insurance money, but he does not want to try to build a fake old building; instead, he wants something contemporary. He wants to commission you to build a modern hostel that fits the style of Champs Les Sims. He would like you to use local materials. He needs 5+ bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 toilet, a kitchen and a common room. He would also like a pool in the backyard.

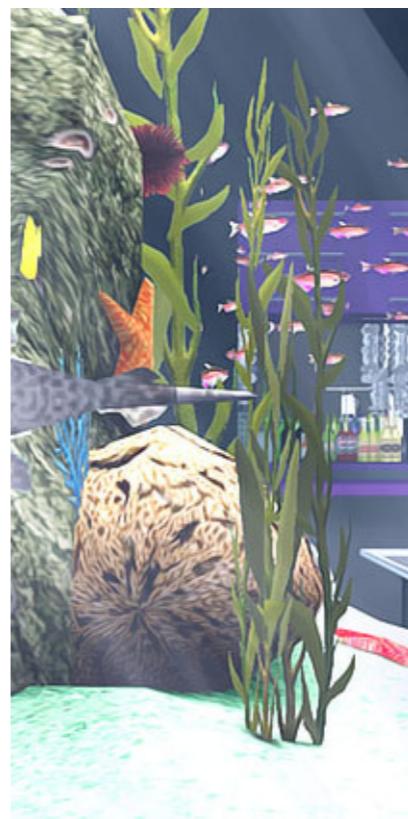




sixtyten challenged by macthekat

I know that you adore mid-century modern buildings but can you do a contemporary modern home? I challenge you to build a single family home. However, the people living there want to run a day-care out of their house, so they will need space set aside for that.

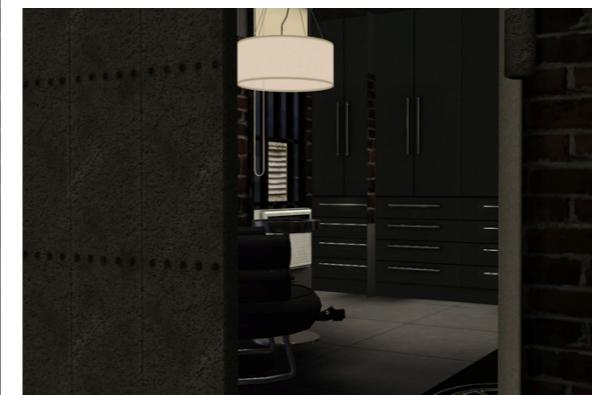
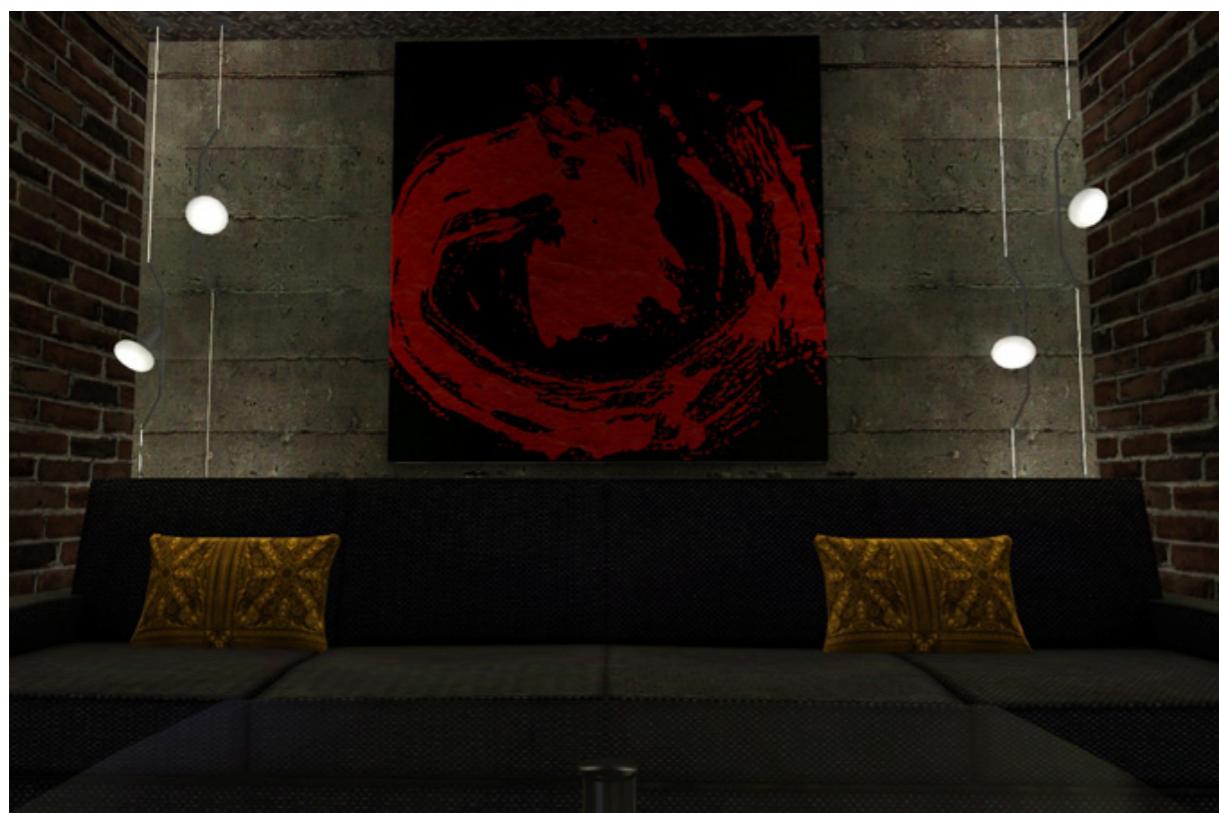




moxxa challenged by lylim6

I've never seen a gay bar done here before so my challenge for you would be to decorate a gay bar for me. You can do whatever you want with it. It may be big or small, just as long as you immediately know what kind of bar you are in.





Vasilla challenged by Anifromld

James just moved to the big city and got the job of his dreams at a brokerage firm. It's the first step on the fast track, but the pay at this level is a bit low. So now he has a dilemma. He can rent an incredibly awesome apartment at the "right" address, but he will hardly have any money to furnish it once he pays the monthly rent. Not a horrible situation, since he doesn't know anyone and won't be entertaining for a while. Or he can rent a crummy apartment and spend his money on really great furniture, which he can eventually move to a nicer place when his income expands. Either way, it's a 50/50 apartment. Either the apartment and furnishings (counters, plumbing, windows, walls) are incredible and the furniture is whatever he can scrounge, or vice versa and the furniture is awesome but the apartment is crappy.

WickedEdge challenged by Vasilla

I challenge you to decorate a house/apt for a couple who has just moved in together. Except there's one problem: they have completely different styles. Jamie is a punk rocker who likes everything vintage, especially distressed wood and quirky posters, in a tidy space. Ben is an artist who prefers more modern materials, like plastic and boldly colored spaces cluttered with the random items that inspire him. Can you find a way to mesh their styles and create a space that they can both call home?





annyway challenged by moxxa
Anny, so you live in a big city where there isn't much space for the gardens and your apartment building owner just offered to sell you the rooftop right above your apartment. Don't worry, you can afford it. So the thing is, will you accept this challenge and decorate the perfect rooftop getaway with stunning views of the city?



kiare challenged by macthekat

I know you just decorated a little Danish villa with a big backyard. I want to see that yard decorated! The family living there clearly likes traditional kinds of things so make sure you have lots of flowers and cute stuff out there. Oh, and the woman living there loves birds.





macthekat challenged by sixtyten

A sim family has just bought and moved into the middle of a row of Victorian terraced houses and have been blessed with outdoor space! The only problem is that it is a very long and narrow space, and they have quite a list of things they would like to include.

They are looking for a classy, elegant and sophisticated garden that suits the style of the house. The things that must be included are:

- A courtyard area for barbecuing and summer entertaining.
- A water feature of some description.
- A pleasant use of natural materials such as stone, wood, grass, etc.
- Because they are mid-terrace, they would like to be sheltered and have some privacy from their neighbours.
- A space for them to grow vegetables. This can be fenced off or otherwise separated from the main garden so as not to detract from the elegance of the rest of the garden.
- A level change would be nice!

The space available for the garden is 7 tiles wide by 25 tiles long. You do not have to build the whole block of houses, but you will need some sort of facade for the garden facing side of the building.



LARSIM·KUHL



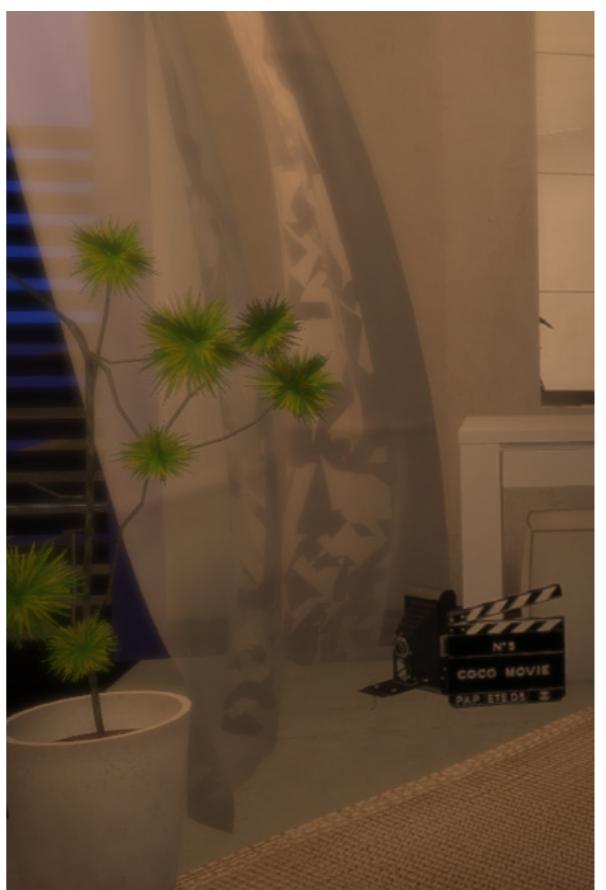
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MODERN CHRISTMAS with MARON

I can't really explain it. Every time I browse through the albums on BlackPearlSims, I keep coming back to hers. The way she edits the pictures, the atmosphere, the style, the picture taking angles, even the way every piece of furniture and clutter is brilliantly placed – all that made me her biggest fan. Who is she? Her name is Maron.

*Article by: moxxa
Photographs by: Maron*



After kindly opening the door of her home for us, we sat down with Maron and started the interview with the most obvious question - who is Maron? "My name is Alexandra. I'm an 18 year old girl living in Finland, even if my roots are originally far away from that country - I'm half Russian and half Armenian. Right now, I'm attending my senior year at high school and after that, I'm planning to start studying medicine. My passion is drawing and shoes and I love doing stuff in Sims 2."

When did you start playing The Sims?

"It all started with the Sims 1 and I loved it. I think I got the Sims 2 pretty soon after it came out - it was still very expensive. I fell in love with it and soon TS1 was forgotten.

After some years of actual playing, I got bored with Sims but gave them another shot after a while. Soon after that second try, I found the magical world of Custom Content. I downloaded

pretty much everything I could find. MY CC folder was a huge and messy black hole.

I started browsing through blogs in search of inspiration and found the amazingly talented maxis-matcher An-nas. And I've sooo fallen in love with her clean, minimalistic, detailed shots, that I deleted and reinstalled everything. Oh, those happy days when I only had about 6k of CC!

The second blog I loved, and my biggest inspiration, was Yuxi. Her pictures, her style, her decorations - it all was (and still is) so amazing!! And so, slowly but surely, beginning by copying something from her once in a while, I became the Maron you know."

Having both games installed on your computer – which do you prefer?

"Sims 2, definitely! I get a nervous breakdown every single time I play TS3. I honestly don't like all the menus, the camera mode and stuff; they're far too different from TS2. Maybe I just



have to get used to them. The details and landscape are of course incredible, but that's not enough for me. TS2 will be #1 for me always."

Can you think of any tips you can give to our readers?

"Don't stick to just one style. Try to do something in a totally new theme, like oriental, modern or fantasy. Don't just build boring real-life like homes. There are plenty of them in RL; you're actually living in one. Try out different things and try to build/decorate in the style you actually dislike or even hate and try to make it look good to yourself. That's a really good practice and you might open new opportunities, if you get what I mean. I am actually a living example that your tastes might change dramatically in no time. For a very long time, I loved everything grungy-ish, used tons of clutter and over-used Adele's amazing furniture. At that time, I hated minimalism and modernism. Well, if you know anything about me, you know what my "style" looks like now."

- Try to get your inspiration from different things, not only from an interior design magazine or other people's photographs. Think of your favourite colour, listen to new music, eat something new etc., and bring your feelings/experiences/thoughts into the game. You know what I mean. Right now, I'm really into modernish-weirdish style, I have no idea what to call that. Why? I like it, it's that simple."

We also asked Maron to build and decorate a house just for this issue.

"Well, I built a somewhat modern house with a touch of Asian-culture; the inhabitants are not supposed to be Asian though. A married couple with a teenage daughter has been traveling all over the world, getting inspired by different cultures and bringing back some souvenirs. I'm sorry that my house doesn't have that Christmas feeling about it, but I took some reference from my previous real life holiday decorations, and there is not much; a Christmas tree and some hanging lights here and there, mostly on the windows."



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Pets on Furniture

Unleashed has definitely been a favourite expansion pack for Sims 1 as well as Sims 2. Since the release of Sims 3, the simming community was itching to have pets in their game. When the official announcement was finally made you could almost hear the squeals of joy! It was love right from the start. To add to the love, LivingSims came up with an awesome challenge on the forum: Pets on Furniture! It was so exciting to see what everyone came up with and the amount of super-cute, adorable and creative ideas was really impressive. So without further ado enjoy the best-of-the-best Pets on Furniture entries.





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Article by: Ballarose
Photographs by: Ankuuh

Staff Gone Wild:
A New Year's Eve Special

Hey Ladies, I have a task for you which I think you will really enjoy. I want you to organize this year's LivingSims New Year's Eve party and you have carte blanche. I trust your creativity and I am giving you the company card so spare no expense. The LivingSims staff has worked very hard this past year and I want to give them the best party ever to show my appreciation.

MacTheKat Editor-in-Chief

"I think Mac has been nipping the eggnog too much," Anke said, snapping the laptop shut. Balla, who had been peering over Anke's shoulder, let out a squeal that could be heard down and around the block.

"This is going to be epic! Let's get moving and pick up the company card before Mac sobers up and comes to her senses," Balla giggled. Balla grabbed Anke's hand and dragged her out the door. It wasn't until they were three-quarters of the way down the front walk that they both realized they were still in their nighties. As motorists passing by honked their appreciation, they skedaddled back into the house and quickly dressed.

While Balla went to collect the company card, Anke made a quick call from the LivingSims offices. She had heard about a club that was destined for the wrecking ball and was given the green light to use it. The Grind, located on the wharf in Bridgeport, used to be the local hangout for all the dock workers. Over the years, the area had gradually started to become a very trendy neighbourhood, filled with artisan shops, theatres and restaurants. The Grind was destined for a major renovation and would soon be the newest addition to Bridgeport's vibrant and trendy night life.

First stop on the list was The Grind. Checking over the space, Balla's eyes lit up and an idea was set into motion. As Anke chattered, she could see the wheels in Balla's head turning. "I have an idea...what about a Hollywood themed party! People can get totally glammed out. Think old Hollywood - elegant gowns, men in tuxedos, cocktails and a jazz quartet."

The seed was planted and Anke pulled out her sketch pad and frantically started sketching her ideas for the space. In no time, that special Anke magic kicked into gear. She added a red carpet at the entrance to give it that Hollywood feel. Private little nooks were created where couples could share an intimate moment or friends could huddle and share some friendly gossip. Chandeliers were added, giving the room an instant glamorous touch. Mirrors were added to the bar area, reflecting the light off of the chandeliers, adding a splash of drama. Big screen TVs were placed on the walls in strategic places, continuously showing clips of old black and white Hollywood movies and artwork was placed around depicting glamorous starlets of an era gone by. Even the bathrooms were given the Anke touch. Anke chose deep and rich colours. Faux granite paint would be used on the countertops to give the bathroom a rich feel. Flowers and designer soaps were added. A small seating area was added.



While Anke was in her zone, Balla got on her cell and did what she does best – bring Anke's ideas to life. Calling in favours and making promises of future spreads in LivingSims Magazine, Balla was able to get big screen TVs, furniture and lighting on loan. Limousines, complete with chauffeurs, were hired to escort staff to and from the event. Caterers were contacted and buffet tables laden with scrumptious gourmet food were arranged. Balla also arranged to have a slew of paparazzi at the party and they were instructed to make everyone feel like a Hollywood star. She even had the brilliant idea of working with a local male escort service to provide some gentlemen to make sure that those ladies arriving unescorted, would not be wall-flowers. It was everyone's night to sparkle and shine!

The big night finally arrived. As the limousines started pulling up and dropping off the guests, the camera flashes were going full force. The Men with Muscles Escort Agency did not disappoint and there were a bevy of hunky guys to keep all the ladies happy and occupied. Champagne and cocktails flowed freely and everyone had a memorable night.

"It's a good thing that what happens at this LivingSims party, stays at this LivingSims party," Anke said. Little did she realize that those words were about to come back and bite her in the toosh.

The following morning, nursing a raging hangover, Anke grabbed the paper hoping for a little quiet read with her morning coffee. There, smack dab on the front page was a picture of Mac with one of the Men with Muscle escorts, in the middle of a bump and grind dance with the headline: "Staff Gone Wild." As Anke read on, she began to sink lower and lower into the couch.



Staff Gone Wild!

By Len Stalk

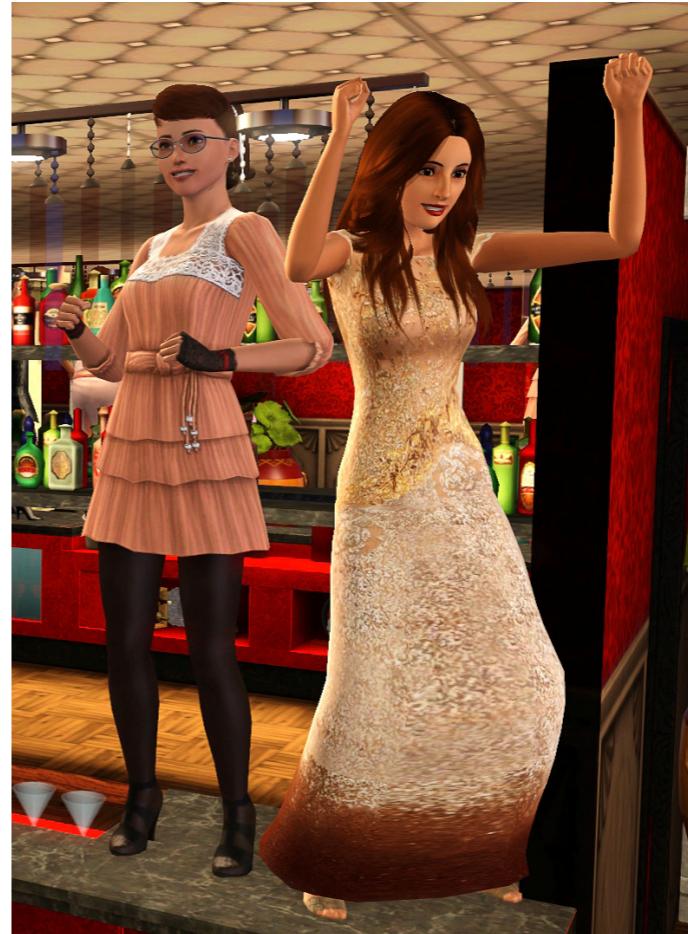
The normally conservative and refined Editor-in-Chief of LivingSims Magazine, Macthekat, showed her wild side and really let her hair down at this year's LivingSims New Year's Eve bash. And she wasn't the only one. What started out as a fairly low key evening turned topsy-turvy the minute Miss Kemantari took over the bartending. It only took a couple of her New Year's Eve specials, *Midnight-Between-the-Sheets*, before all inhibitions went right out the window.

Anke's eyes widened as she read each of the headlines accompanied by the incriminating pictures.

Deelightful was seen slipping out the back door with a bottle of champagne in one hand and a very handsome sim in the other.

Annyway, Saprophyte, KatCat and LemonJelly gave new meaning to the word bar hopping, when they simultaneously hopped onto the bar and pulled out their best stripper moves; moves that would put Gypsy Rose Lee to shame.

Anke folded the paper and placed it on the kitchen table. There was only one thing to do. Tiptoeing quietly upstairs so as not to wake Balla, she quickly packed an overnight bag and scribbled a note to Balla. Slipping out the front door, she jumped into her car and headed to her parents' house. She was planning to be miles away when the poop hit the fan on this one.





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Small Home, Big Heart

It's pretty easy to decorate a nice build on an average lot, but building a functional house on a 10x10 lot is really challenging. Our talented forum members showed us that it is possible and the results are beyond beautiful, creative and unique.

Article by KatCat & annyway

Photographs by Aramourn, Baufive, Ninja Unicorn, annyway, Kementari & Zhanna



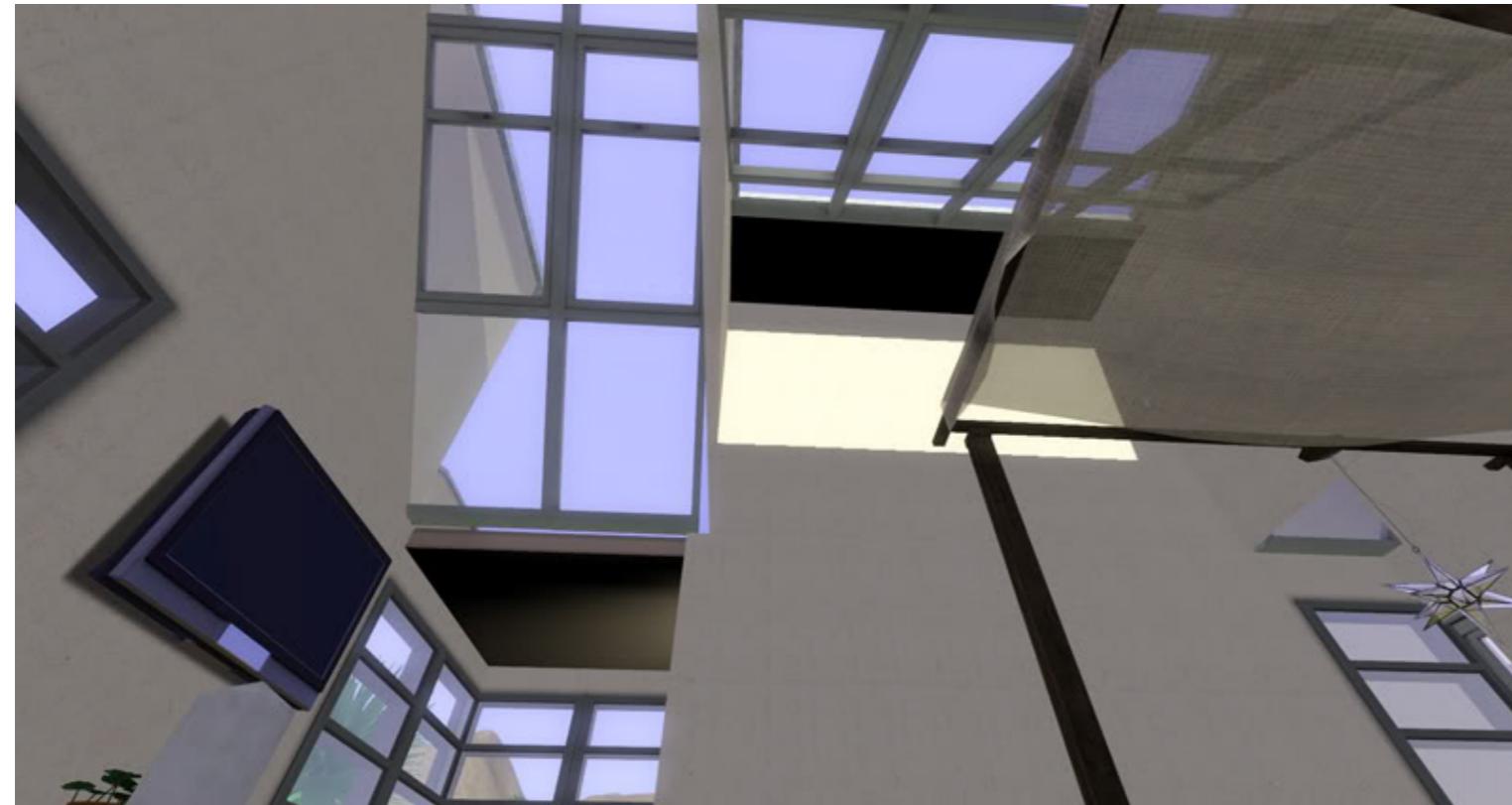
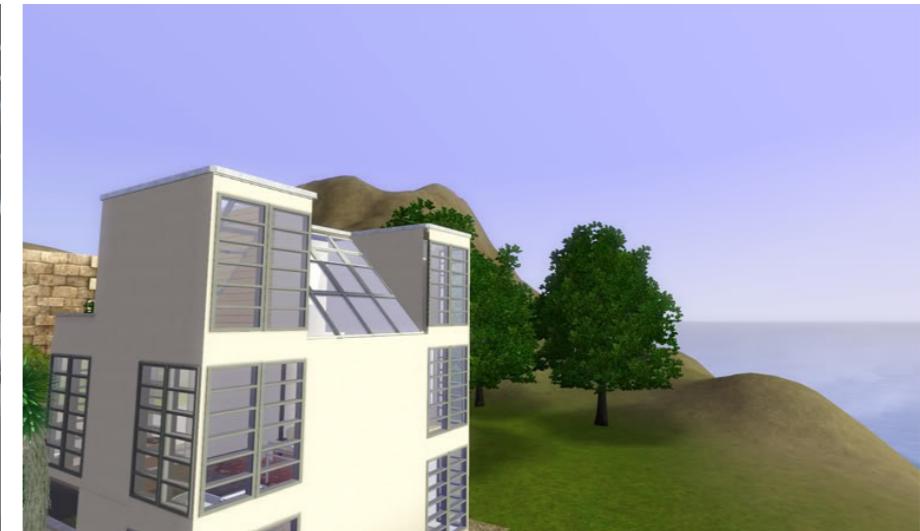
Aramourn

Aramourn's post-apocalyptic entry leaves nothing to be desired. With artificial sunlit rooms, a sky-blue and cloud-grey color palette, and a richly growing indoor garden, you'd never know you were underground.



Baufive

This classy little modern home by Baufive is open to the light and feels spacious throughout. The touches of sage green and turquoise in the main rooms extends the south-western décor used in the bedroom brilliantly.



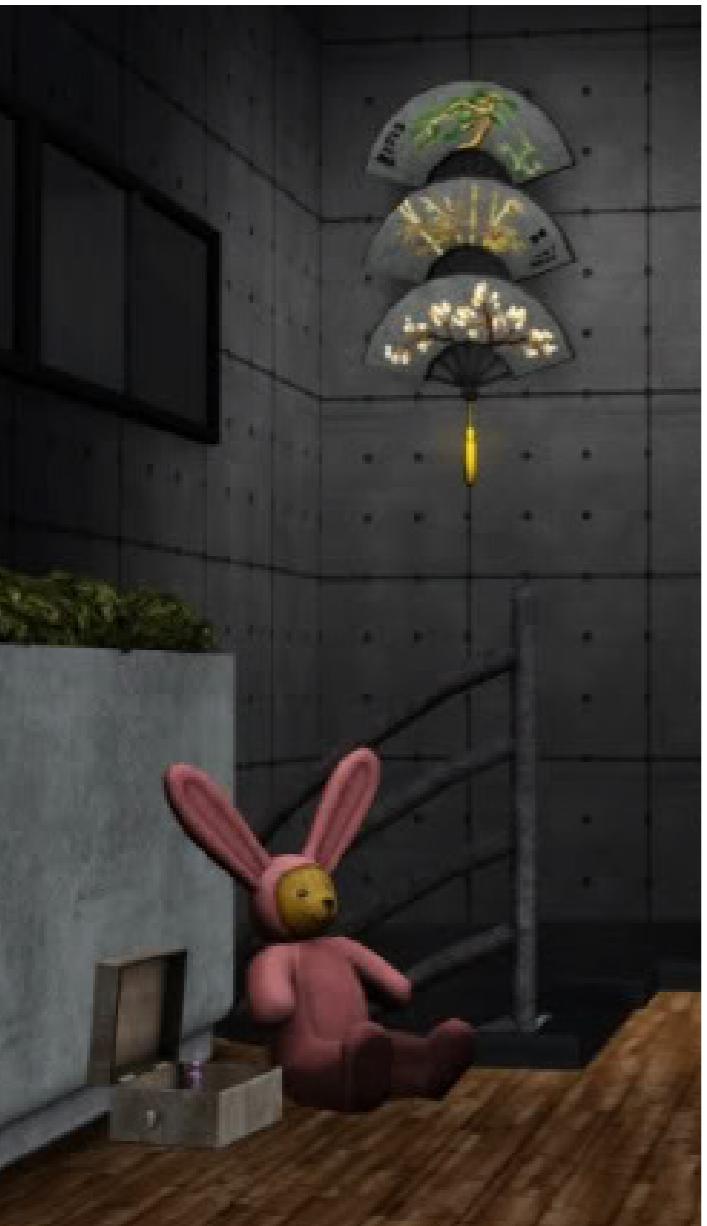
Ninja Unicorn

This crafty country cottage by Ninja Unicorn evokes visions of springtime with its abundant flowering bushes and vines. The reuse of old wood in the kitchen and living room and the addition of various animal-motived decorations adds to the country charm of this eclectic and cozy home.



annway

Who says city life has to be drab and boring? By using multi-colored concrete, different types of metal and dark wood floors, along with subtle shades of pink, grey and blue throughout the home, annway proves that city life can be upbeat and exciting. The added touch of strategically placed greenery within the home draws the beauty of her outdoor garden inside.



Kementari

Kementari's small Victorian-style cottage blends the small with the classy. With delicately carved wall and ceiling mouldings and vintage wall-papers, an overall feeling of wellbeing flows through the home. The touches of mint green and rose in the master suite complement the gold and white décor perfectly.



Zhanna

Zhaana's beachside home brings the African svelte to you with its dark wood and warm earth tones. Luxuriate in the wood panelled bath or watch the sunset in comfort from the cozy loft bedroom. The beautiful native artwork and hand-carved dishware make any meal exciting in the intimate dining room.



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Sun, sea, surf and Christmas?



Ah, Christmas. The season of goodwill and merry cheer is upon us. That special time of year when snow covers the ground, the roads are slippery, it's cold and dark and dreary and we struggle through overcrowded stores knocking elbows with frustrated shoppers. Wouldn't you just love the chance to get away from it all? Why not opt for something completely different this Christmas and instead of white snow go for white sandy beaches?

When I was offered the opportunity of spending Christmas on the lovely island of Simbados, I must admit I was highly sceptical. While I'm not a fan of winter, there's something magical about snow during the holiday season and the thought of spending my Christmas barbecuing on a beach didn't really tempt me at first. Until I realized quite a few people around the world don't actually have a choice so why not see how the other half lives. So I set aside my traumatic teenage experience of stepping into a jellyfish, which was incidentally also the last time I ever set foot onto a beach, and headed off to Simbados.

As soon as I heard the waves crashing onto the beach and breathed in that salty sea air, I could feel the tension in my body ebb away. The view of the ocean was breath-taking and I told myself that if the beach house was a disappointment, I'd just spent my time away right here on the sandy beach and life would still be good. But I needn't have worried as Coco Cabana couldn't disappoint anyone, even if it tried.

The first thing I noticed when I stepped inside the Coco Cabana were the big windows that flooded the whole place with light and allowed me to enjoy the stunning view of the ocean without being blocked by overbearing



curtains. Just like that, the whole house feels bright, fresh and airy. I was also struck by the cleanliness of the place and slightly freaked out when I realized keeping this house clean and tidy was to be my responsibility while I was here. I wondered if there was a suggestion box somewhere to ask for a maid or a butler or heck, both.

Luckily, a panic attack was averted when I spotted the kitchen. I'm a bit of a natural cook, if I do say so myself, and I'm automatically drawn to kitchens and this one is every aspiring chef's ultimate dream. Beachy elements are easy to spot. The counter tops for instance could very well be driftwood, the cabinets remind me of shells and everything is joined nicely together by the lovely brick-work on the wall. And how can you not love the funky ceiling light or the barstools? The lovely open plan design means you'll never be stuck alone in the kitchen. While you're slaving away at the Christmas dinner, you can still entertain your guests and be part of the conversation.

I set aside my sudden urge to start baking gingerbread cookies to explore the rest of the beach house. Christmas decorations were kept to a minimum. A lovely decorated tree stood out against the other décor, there were a few beautiful poinsettias placed around and the children's bedroom had some cute stockings. The master bedroom got the Christmas treatment on the pillows. The focal point was the surfboard above the bed but mostly I just wondered if anybody would notice if I took that fabulous starfish lamp with me. The living room featured the most amazing fireplace and despite the fact that I was walking around in flip-flops and a short sleeved t-shirt, I was very tempted to get a fire going.

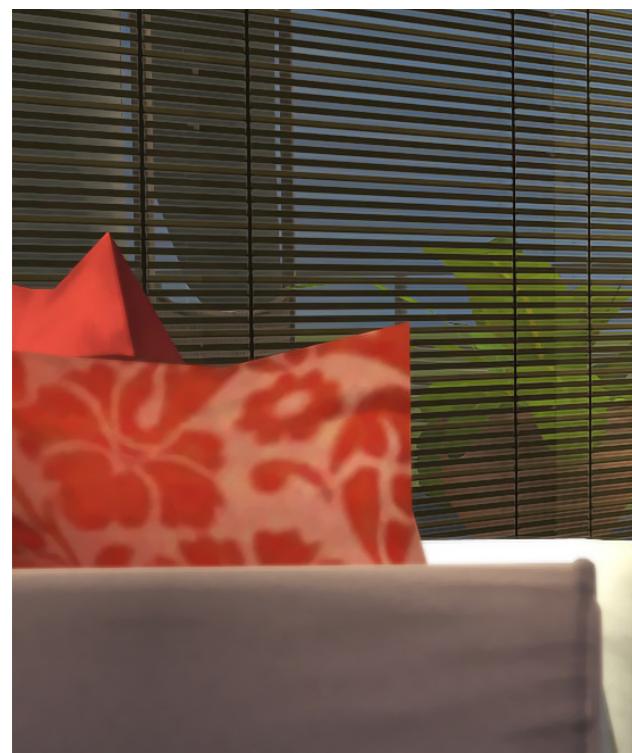


I approved of the minimalistic touch around the house. After all, the weather was superb and how much time would I really be spending inside anyway. But then I found the bathroom and the most fabulous bathtub I had ever seen. The tiles were exquisite, there was some lovely beachy decoration like shells and a tiny lighthouse and stunning tropical potted plants. I had to force myself to close the door or I would have stayed there forever.

This was the dream. The ultimate paradise right here at my feet. And I was lucky enough to be able to call this my home over the holiday.

So all that remains for me to do now, as I sit here with my toes in the sand and a cocktail in my hand, is to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, no matter where or how you celebrate. I wonder if I can extend my stay until New Year's Day.

*Article by: Deelightful
Photographs by: Moxxa*





Just in time for Christmas we created a brand new download page where you can find all gifts from our beloved and talented creators.





Opening Up the Vanderburg Mansion

Sitting on the shores of Hidden Springs Lake, the Vanderburg mansion is a hallmark of this tiny resort town. Growing up in Hidden Springs, I remember the looming black gables that can be seen from across the lake. Mallard Vanderburg, the founder of Drama Llama Cosmetics, built the mansion in the early twenties and the Vanderburg family had occupied it until last June, when it was sold to a young family from Bridgeport. For most of us in Hidden Springs, the outside of the Vanderburg Mansion was an icon, but the interior was completely unknown. Now, for the first time since it was built, the house was open to the public for a short time.



*Article by Eronoel & photographs by
EvaVonAsch*

Driving up to the mansion, I tried to remember how many times I had passed it as a child. As I neared the gate, it was like I was finally meeting a distant relative – something so familiar, but only superficially. Still, entering the Vanderburg land, I started to notice small differences. The grass was shorter, the hydrangeas neatly sculpted and the white trim had a new layer of paint. Mallard Vanderburg had died in the sixties and his son Thomas had inherited the house. But fifty years later, Thomas and his wife had gotten older and the house began to look worn. By the nineties, the shingles had started to fall off, the grass became more unkempt and the weeds had begun to sprout between the cobble stones. But the Gregorys had clearly put a dose of energy into cleaning up the gray halls.

A few seconds after ringing the bell, Jessica answered the door. She was a short, thin woman with a pixie cut. "Welcome, welcome,"



she said, as she ushered me inside the building. I stepped inside the entry hall and was immediately impressed by the quiet calm of the house. Whites and blue grays helped counter-balance the warm woods that dominated the entry way. Looking through from the front door, I noticed the backyard, with a large marble pool and the slightly frozen lake in the back.

"When we first saw the house, it was a mess," Jessica told me as she showed me to the living room. "The Vanderburgs had done extensive remodelling in the late sixties, so there was a lot of out-of-date feeling decor, like some orange shag! Liam and I tried to really revisit the original intentions of the house, expose some of the natural woods but also bring a modern feel to the place. Still, it certainly is a change from our penthouse in Bridgeport, which we had decorated in a modern minimalist style."

I could still see the modernist elements in their style, even with the more traditional décor. The living room was decorated in whites and light blues, clean lines and sparse decorations.

Following Jessica, she showed me a bar area with a grand piano. The room was decorated in lush browns. "This is the only room with the original wallpaper," Jessica informed me. "Liam loves the classic bars of films from the thirties and this room had been barely touched. We just refinished the wood and repainted the trim."

Leaving the bar, we headed into a small sitting area with a painting of a dancer and passed a modern workout room in green. We then walked into a stunning formal dining room with an impressive wood ceiling and large fireplace. "This room took a lot of work," Jessica sighed. "We noticed little hints of how it had been when the house was first built, like the ceiling, and tried to mimic them. We stripped a lot of paint in this room, just trying to recapture the natural





warmth of the wood." I poked my head into the kitchen, which was spotless, modern and white; a stark contrast to the more traditional dining room.

Going upstairs with Jessica, I told her how I had never been to the Vanderburg mansion before but it had always been a landmark in the city. The views from the second level were magnificent and staring out of the window, Jessica commented, "We decided to be minimalist here to really let the view speak for itself." We walked past a small theater with lush leather chairs and then into the main bedroom. "This is my favorite room in the house," Jessica beamed. "We actually brought this black furniture with us from our penthouse." A light yellow detail in the linen brought color to the otherwise neutral bedroom which was dominated by blacks, grays and whites. The sitting area reminded me of the balance that the Gregorys had managed to maintain between the classic nature of the house and their more modern design aesthetic

with some modern art and the classic furniture. From the bedroom, I was able to catch a glimpse of the large stone-lined bathroom with a classic Klimt painting.

When my tour was over, Jessica told me about the open house they were having for the community. There would be a raffle for a local charity and the house would be open for viewing. I thanked her for the tour and for finally giving the community a glimpse into this updated classic home. I, for one, finally have my curiosity satiated.





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Have the pet you always dreamed of...



Celebrate with Us

Article by: Eronoel
Photographs by: Community

Whether you celebrate the last two months of the year by the pool or in the snow, this season and its many holidays provide unlimited inspiration for the home decorator. Getting a jump start on the season, an October challenge encouraged people to rethink and redecorate their home with the holidays in mind. Here are six examples ready to fill you with ideas for holiday cheer. So wherever you are and whatever your holiday this season, come celebrate it with us!

Lylim6: Christmas Theme

In her challenge entry, Lylim6 introduced us to a warm rustic Christmas setting right out of a story book. With dark woods and a stone oven, this tiny cottage reminds us of the simple beauty of rural Christmases.

Do this: Create a homey holiday by complementing dark woods with rich reds and green. Also, don't stress about having everything holiday themed; a well-placed tree and a few decorations can go a long way in creating a warm liveable home.



Tiki5872: Christmas Dinner

With regal decorations and a tasty dinner spread, Tiki5872 created an ideal place for upper crust Sims to dine this holiday. From the intricate wall panelling to the white and gold china, Tiki5872's Christmas dinner is bursting with nineteenth century swank.

Do this: Don't feel like you have to put the Christmas tree in the living room; a large room like this dining room can easily hold both your turkey and your tree.



LadyLucie: New Year's on the Beach

LadyLucie reminds us that it isn't winter everywhere this holiday season with her classy white sand beach. Still, this isn't your traditional beach party. LadyLucie brings a quiet style in her décor with white curtains, a white table cloth and white flowered wreaths.

Do this: Think outside the northern hemisphere. So many depictions of the holidays involve cold and snow, but think about moving your holiday south. A beach or a pool can add a completely different feel to your end-of-the-year décor.





BlackSweety: Santa's Workshop

BlackSweety takes us to Santa's workshop where the elves are finishing up toys for the world's kids. This workshop is bristling with energy and is so filled with toys that they are falling off the shelves.

Do this: Embrace your inner child. Creating a place that you would have loved as a child is a key way to creating a space full of fun and whimsy.

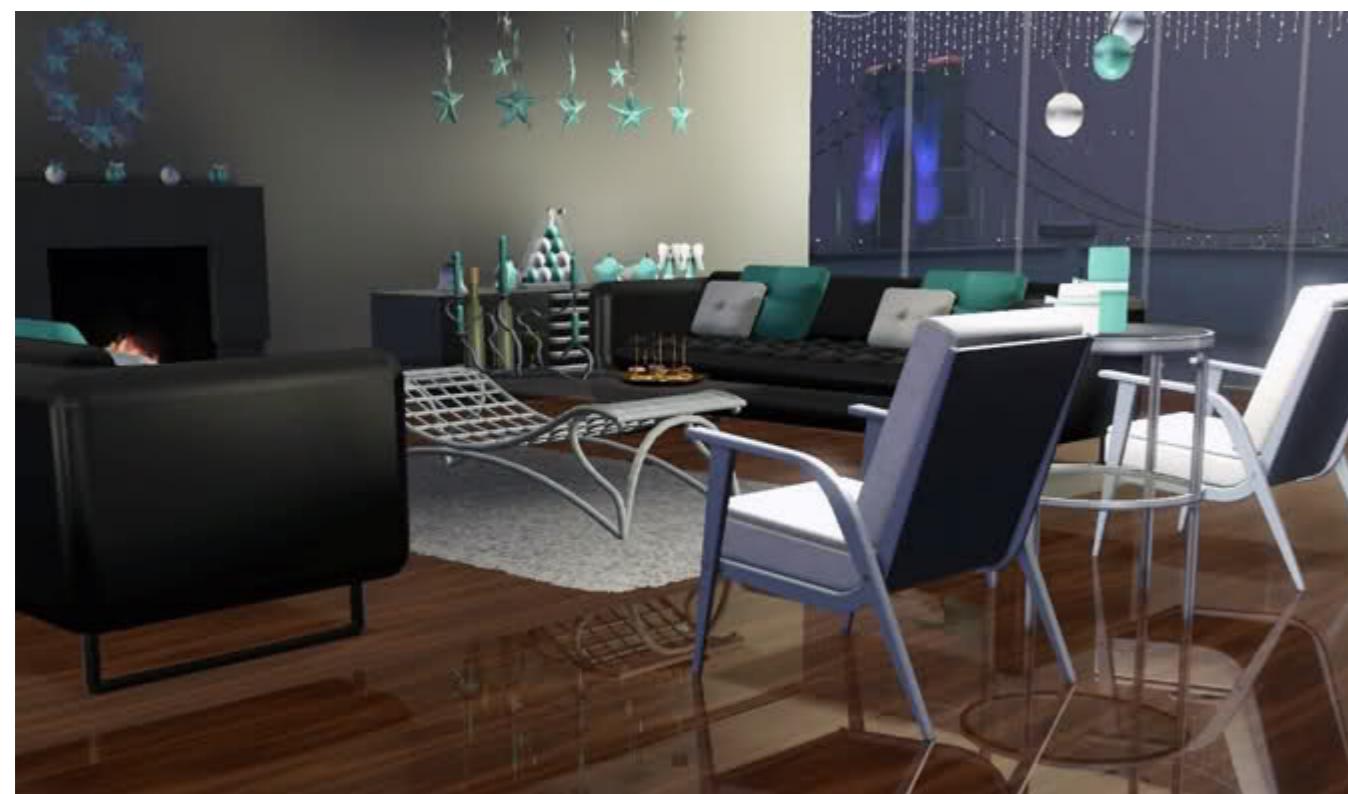




Bridelyn: Modern Christmas

Bridelyn decorated her living room for a childless professional couple who wanted to celebrate the holidays in style. With clean lines, white lights and cool colors, you almost feel like you are part of a winter wonderland.

Do this: Step outside the green/red dichotomy. Pair a non-traditional color with white and you have a recipe for some unique holiday décor.



POTW



Nominate today!

The World Review Series selects the pick of the “Create-A-World” crop in the Sims 3 community. This issue though, we are doing it slightly differently. In honour of EA providing us with a beautiful autumnal world, we shall be saddling a horse and taking a tour of Appaloosa Plains. Created to accompany the Pets EP, Appaloosa Plains is a world brimming with exceptional details and personality.

WORLD REVIEW AN APPALOOSA ADVENTURE

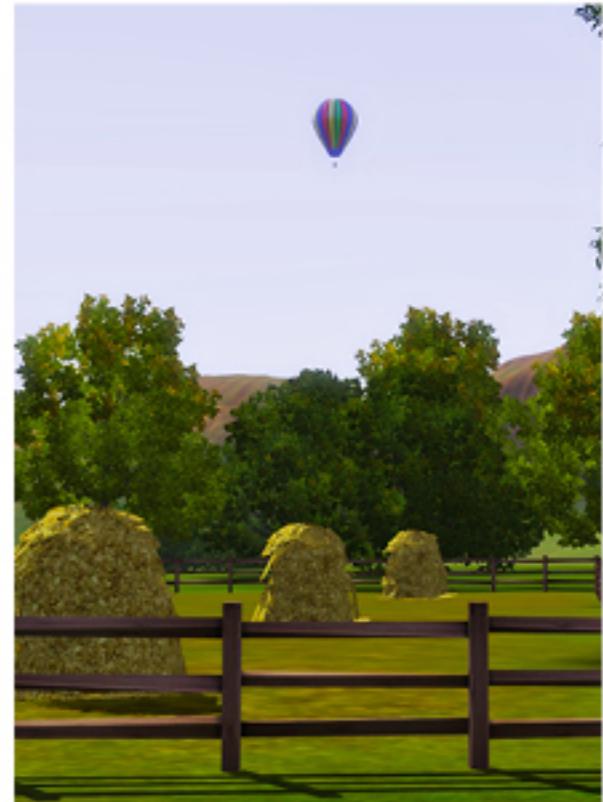


Article by: LemonJelly
Photographs by: LemonJelly

Upon my arrival, I was greeted by Vera Blackburn, local Squad Leader and canine whiz. Working in the military to make ends meet, it is dog training that really gets Vera's heart fluttering. I was pre-warned of Vera's harsh demeanour and ever present frown, but the woman I met was full of love for her two canine companions, Walter and Ginger. "I am so excited you are finally here!" Vera assured me, "where would you like to go first?" Noticing that she always had one eye on her beloved dogs, I suggested we start with the dog park. "Smashing idea, I'll just get their leads! Do you mind walking Walter? Ginger is a little skittish so I like to be able to give her my full attention if possible." Telling Vera I didn't mind at all, I'm a bit of a dog lover myself, I took Walter's lead and we began our short walk to the dog park.

Featuring a fountain in the shape of a dog bone and several fire hydrants, I felt this park must surely be canine heaven. "Quite right," Vera assured me, "Walter and Ginger could spend all

day every day in this dog park. This is primarily where I bring them to teach them tricks. It's also a great place to meet the locals and they often ask me for tips when they see me. It doesn't pay well but I really enjoy it." Seeing Vera's enthusiasm is really inspiring and also very contagious. It wasn't long before she was spotted and the locals began to ask her questions about their own dogs. Vera is clearly the resident canine expert in Appaloosa. Whilst Vera was occupied giving tips about the best way to bathe your dog without getting soaked, I was joined by Hailey Shepherd. Hailey is Vera's best friend and I couldn't help but notice she was clutching a book about dog breeds. "Oh, Vera is trying to help me choose a dog. I can't decide what to choose and Vera is so good at this sort of thing. I really want a dog to snuggle up next to whilst I read one of my romance novels. Bit embarrassing actually, I can't believe I just told you that and I don't even know your name!" Once Vera had a moment, she quickly introduced us and





kindly asked Hailey if she would mind giving me the tour whilst she finished discussing the pros and cons of pedigrees with Felipe Marshall.

"Vera shouldn't be long but whilst we wait for her, I'd love to take you to my favourite place, the library!" A mixture of the old and the new, the public library is an interesting sight. My eyes were really drawn to the front of the original building with its pretty brickwork and cornices. As the town has grown over the years, the council have had to extend to create more space. Using large windows in the more modern wing certainly allows lots of natural light to flow through, creating a warm and inviting space to snuggle down with a book or check your emails. Out of the windows, I spotted a flash of an awning and Victorian turret in the distance, "Oh yes, that's the Rags to Riches Consignment store. Would you like to walk over there?" It takes a lot more than a long walk to keep me away from an awning so we wandered back to

the dog park to collect Vera or at least tell her where we would be. Looking down the high-street, I really noticed just how pretty it is. When I first arrived, I was struck by the autumn trees that lined the pavement. However, there were also pretty vintage street lights and bunting hanging across the roads. You almost expect a parade with a variety of floats to come towards you at any moment. Well it wasn't quite a float, but an ice-cream truck did pull up next to us and neither Hailey nor I could resist. "We will take two freezer bunny popsicles please. Trust me Lemon, these are the best!" Not one to doubt a resident of the town, I took my popsicle, grateful for something cool for the walk.

Rags to Riches Consignment Store certainly contained everything you could possibly want or dream of. I picked up a Pudgy the Pony when Vera appeared back by my side. "Has Hailey taken you down to the Equestrian Centre yet? I think it would be great to go there next." I paid



for my pony, a gift for the LivingSims Staff Room, and we set off across town to the JRC International Equestrian Centre. On the way, we passed a very pretty ornate Victorian home. "Ah that's the home of Honey Darnell!" Noticing my surprise at the famous country singer residing in Appaloosa Plains Vera explained, "Word around town is that she has writer's block, can't write a thing, the poor dear. She came out here to clear her head. Of course she won't write anything if all those male suitors keep on disturbing her day and night!" Speaking of Honey, she just happened to pull into her drive in her very pink pick-up truck with a heart design. I even managed to catch a quick glimpse of her!

Satisfied by my unexpected celebrity sighting, we arrived at the stables. Sadly I am allergic to horses so I spent some time with Walter and

Ginger whilst Vera and Hailey rode the horses and showed me a few jumps before we headed back to Vera's home. I noticed too many things about Appaloosa Plains to fit them all into this article but what I can tell you, is that it is beautiful! A well thought out world which is spacious, but features the perfect mix of town and country. Its original Victorian homes blend perfectly with the more traditional ranches and the more modern library extension. The mix of the old and the new give this town vibrancy and personality which is unmatched by any other EA world I have visited so far. Now it's time for Vera, Hailey and I to spend the evening in the Watering Hole Saloon, but I won't be taking my note-pad or pen.



Created by Electronic Arts

Rating: ★★★★☆

Required: The EP Sims 3 Pets

Buy the EP
To get this world in your game



LAROSO



GOURMET RECIPE:

Chocolate Chip Cookies

RECIPE BY ERONOEL & PHOTOS BY FELIKAISH22

Nothing says the holidays like a nice tall glass of milk and a plate full of cookies. Whether you are going to leave these for Santa, share them with family or eat them yourself, these cookies will fit the bill.

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 cups butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 2 (3.4 ounce) packages instant vanilla pudding mix
- 4 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 4 cups semisweet chocolate chips (or chocolate chunks)
- 2 cups chopped walnuts (optional)



DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Sift together the flour and baking soda, set aside.

In a large bowl, cream together the butter, brown sugar, and white sugar. Beat in the instant pudding mix until blended. Stir in the eggs and vanilla. Blend in the flour mixture. Finally, stir in the chocolate chips and nuts. Drop cookies by rounded spoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets.

Bake for 10 to 12 minutes in the preheated oven. Edges should be golden brown.



THERE ARE PIECES THAT FURNISH A HOME. AND THOSE THAT DEFINE IT.



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Happy Holidays

with Pets

