

# GLAMORIZE

By Lisa Kestenbaum

## YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERINN VALENCICH OF OMNIARTE DESIGN



Left: Wrapped gifts can become stylish accessories when placed in corners or on the tops of chairs.

Below: A seasonal word or phrase looks chic and welcoming when coated in silver.



From cookouts to cocktail parties, season's greetings mean season's gatherings. There are many special ways to spice up your soirée, such as using exciting color palettes or custom-made ornamentation. Whether you are entertaining five guests or five hundred, think outside the box (as nicely wrapped as it may be).

Designer and celebrity stylist Erinn Valencich, owner of Omniarte Design, advises her clients to start party planning by choosing a color palette. Valencich also reminds them that holiday décor is not necessarily limited to traditional holiday colors.

"Anything can be festive-feeling, as long as you spread it around the house," she said.

Once you decide on a color scheme, feel free to play with it, Valencich said. Look around your home for objects to incorporate. "If you're doing red, take red toys from your kids' closet to use as decorations," she said. If you would rather stay close to the "holiday" theme, wrapped gifts make stylish accessories when placed in corners of rooms or on the tops of chairs in a dining room. Wrapping paper can also be a great way to pull colors together.

The designer recommends incorporating deep purples, deep violets and silvers to achieve a chic, creative look. Small accents, such as purple stemware on your dining room table, are functional and can easily transform a room. "You can even go to a Michael's craft store and find glitter poinsettias; add silver and purple ribbon. You'll get a whole new look for little money," Valencich said.

Even if you are not planning a specific event, Valencich suggests keeping your dining room table set on display for both décor and function. She recom-

mends starting with a table runner, then placing a tall accessory, such as a feathered tree or a large candle, in the middle. For a finishing touch, sprinkle smaller decorations, like confetti, down the table runner. Valencich notes this technique is simple and extremely versatile. When you wish to dine or use the table for a buffet, remove the tall center piece and leave the remaining ornamentation.

To create a more individualized style, Valencich frequently uses "Wonderful Graffiti."

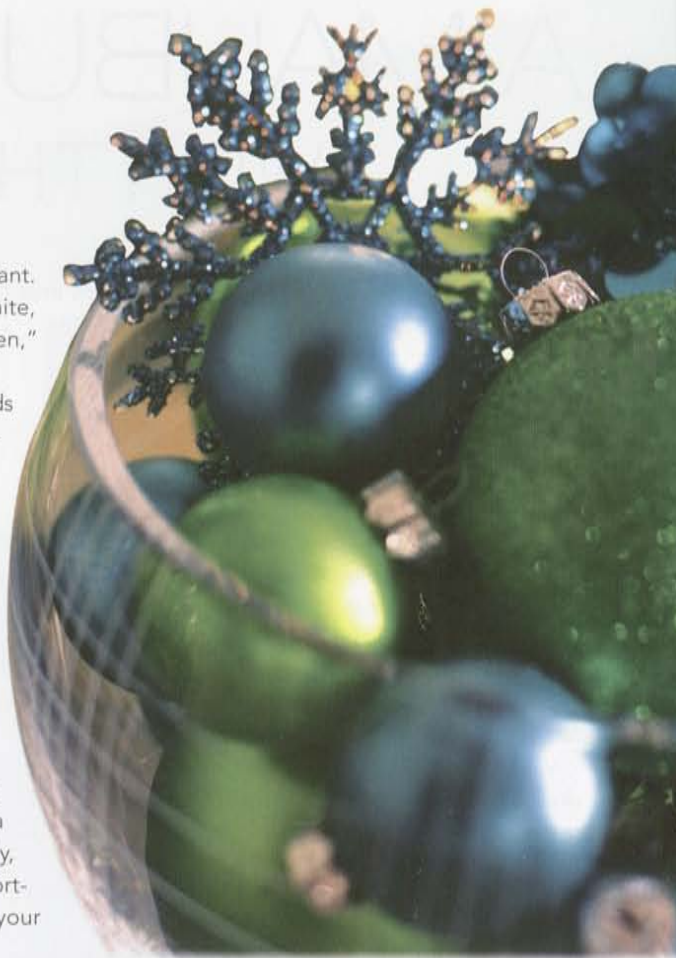
These customized expressions for walls or other smooth surfaces are removable and can quickly add personality to an entertaining space. A seasonal phrase such as "Noel" looks stylish above a table or chair, and can also be placed in an entryway to greet guests.

When preparing for any type of gathering, do not shy away from going bold.

"You can mix it up if you want. Do one room in red and white, and another in blue and green," Valencich said.

Lastly, the designer reminds clients to "supplement, complement and accent"—layer colors, textures and designs for a festive look.

This season, it is easy to make any gathering creative and exciting. Dig deep into your holiday storage boxes for favorite decorations from previous years and place them in different spots to give old ornaments a new sparkle. Most importantly, create an inviting and comfortable look that complements your personal style. ■



Valencich suggests bedecking your dining room table with a tall accessory, such as a feathered tree or candle, in the middle, and smaller decorations, like confetti, sprinkled down the table runner.