

### Pretty and Plush

Fur throws, pillows and rugs add warmth and a cozy feeling to the holiday décor in the living area.

# SPECIAL *Sparkle*

EVERY INCH OF A SMALL CONDOMINIUM IS DECORATED FOR A GLAMOROUS CHRISTMAS.

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When Christmas is as important to you as it is to interior designer Mariella Cruzado, you don't let a small space limit your big holiday vision.

"Christmas means a lot to me," the Washington, DC, designer says. "My heritage is Peruvian, and I grew up in a Catholic family. Christmas is the biggest celebration of the year in Peru. It's a very special time to gather with your family and friends. There are always lots of parties, food, champagne, dancing and even fireworks."

### Winter White.

A table vignette near the tree features a flowerpot with white hydrangeas alongside white candles. White accessories add a serene winter glow to the colors of Christmas."



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This year, Mariella outdid herself when decorating the two-bedroom, 920-square-foot condominium she shares with her husband, Sean Khalepari, for the holiday. It was their first year getting a full-size Christmas tree and going all out with decorations. Mariella's brother, Piero, and his girlfriend were coming to visit from overseas, so she wanted to make it extra special.

"When decorating a home, I like things to be elegant and glamorous," Mariella says. One look around the young couple's chic condominium, which has an open-floor plan, confirms this. There's a gold-painted ceiling above the bay window, black-leather Louis XV dining chairs paired with Lucite ones, a pair of tufted linen armchairs, and plenty of faux-fur pillows and throws.

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### Working in Winter

Even the adjacent home office gets the holiday treatment with a wreath in the window and vases of red berries.



### Intimate Seating.

Mariella likes to layer her holiday table beneath the dramatic chandelier with a round tablecloth and a mix of placemats in eggplant and charcoal hues.



### Christmas Crimson

A rose bowl and loose pomegranates add deep reds to the organic evergreen and pinecone centerpiece on the dining table. The Lucite napkin rings have a built-in hole to hold more greenery and are dressed with silver ornaments.



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#### PERFECTLY PICKED

Mariella began her holiday decorating by getting a fresh Christmas tree with a full girth, which fit snugly but not overwhelmingly in the bay window of the small home.

“My house is full of metallics, and I wanted to go for that big sparkly look,” Mariella says of her tree-trimming. “I mix and match a lot of gold and silver ornaments, but I balance those with glittery snowflakes and glass balls. I also added pinecones to the Christmas tree. I wanted that organic element, and I didn’t want to overwhelm my home’s neutrality with all the shine.”

## Merry Mixology

Black wall paint defines the bar niche in Mariella's home. For the holidays she hangs a garland above it with dangling ornaments. "I like to keep out a bar during the holiday season," Mariella says. "It's a time to celebrate, not just one night."



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Greenery brings in more of the natural look that Mariella favors. She liberally uses faux garlands, centerpieces and wreaths as well as mixing in fresh evergreens in the nooks and crannies of the condominium. Battery-operated LED lights on switches are interwoven into the arrangements to ensure the nighttime sparkle.

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## FRESH TRADITION

Though Mariella's Christmas palette is the traditional red, green and gold, her approach is far from boring.

"I add pops of red in organics, like berries, pomegranates or roses," she says. "It's subtle, but the red is always present. To me, it's a must-have in Christmas décor, like a good red lipstick."

Mariella most likely had her favorite red smile on when she welcomed her visiting family and local in-laws on Christmas Eve for a traditional turkey meal in her glamorous holiday home.

"The tradition in Peru is to wait until midnight and then pop the champagne, give toasts and hug everyone. The celebration happens very early on Christmas Day," she says.

## Elegant Entrance

Gold-on-black trellis wallpaper adds definition to the tiny foyer in Mariella's open-floor plan. For Christmas, she hangs a garland above the foyer mirror as well as red and gold pops of color with berries and a vase.