

THE LOOK: A COASTAL CHRISTMAS

with claudia leah

When the holidays approach, a decorator's eye turns to all things glamorous and glittery!

This is definitely the season when we strive to impress our guests and make our homes extra welcoming and over-the-top fabulous. As you plan your holiday décor, remember to build on quality furniture pieces you can have in your home all year long. A room decorated with quality items that provide gleaming surfaces and eye-catching hardware makes easy play to form the backdrop for your holiday wonderland. Just place the tree as the main focal point, then add some well proportioned, stunning accessories for this special season - please forgo a cluttered mess of craft store style tchotchkes that all too often become too much of a good thing. Emphasize festive finishes in silver, gold and ice-tones and invest in timeless, elegant pieces that will enhance your home throughout the holiday season. They can be enjoyed for many years to come and will garner much compliment to attest to your oh-so-impeccable taste! Cheers to that!"

For a coastal Christmas look, color plays an important part. The eye-catching aqua blue sideboard in this sleek sitting area can become a holiday grazing station when topped with a tray of spirits and barware. Envision a crystal bowl filled with silvery ornaments that echo the circular pattern in the wall-covering perched beneath the mercury glass sunburst mirror.



In a nod to all things Christmas, this fur topped Plexiglas footstool combines two essential elements of the season - a cozy, tactile pillow top on a sparkly acrylic base.



Bring in textures that reflect the sparkle of the season as well, such as the silvery glint in this throw pillow.

Delicate veining in the mirrored cabinet backs and the nubby finish of the cabinet doors add texture to this bar cabinet, a clean, non-distinct piece that can easily serve year-round. Anything that goes into a bar can add sparkle - the glassware, the ice bucket, even the liquor bottles themselves with their brightly hued concoctions or colored glass.



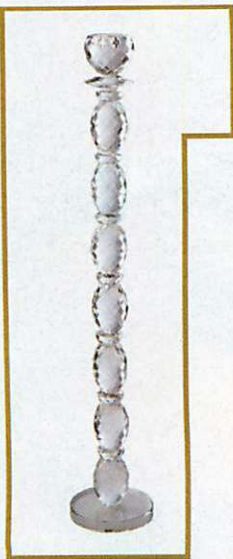
The deep facets of Swarovski crystals pick up every ray of light in the room, casting a holiday shimmer on your favorite photograph.



Mirrored and mobile, this glitzy gold bar cart can wheel holiday cheer into any room. Stock it liberally as intended with libations and snacks or repurpose it in a guest room with welcome baskets of toiletries and treats.



You can opt for a coastal version of the traditional Christmas stocking, embroidered delicately with a symbol of the sea.



These crystal candlesticks are a statement piece. They present a cleaner look and, following the "less is more" concept, a few well-placed pieces of the proper scale are more interesting than a scattering of tiny things.



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