

The HOLIDAYS!... It's all about things!



Your home should tell a story, your story! The fact is that it's the "things" we have that speak of who we are and what our home says of us. "Each object tells a story and each story connects us to one another and to the world. The truth is, things matter. They have to. They're what we live with and touch each and every day. They represent what we've seen, what we've loved, and where we hope to go next. They remind us of the good times and the rough patches, and everything in between that's made us who we are." Nate Berkus

These words are true all year through, but they tend to be more significant at holiday time. Christmas is the time of year for families to get together and celebrate. For many, it is a time to take a break from the endless routine of life and have some fun decorating the home to celebrate the Christmas season.

Traditional Christmas lights can spark a competition in the neighborhood as each family competes to create the best illuminated home. From Christmas trees, to Santa and his reindeer, the creations are usually a sight to see but getting ideas for something fresh and innovative can be difficult. Christmas typically brings a very traditional style of decoration with the standard red and green colours, Santa and the reindeer, green Christmas trees, door wreaths and nativity scenes, etc. But it can be so much more than these. Christmas can be the time when you bring the things that matter most to you to new life! Some of us may have just a few things, and others may have many but it really doesn't matter, it's what these things mean to you that counts. The ottoman that's been in



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your family for decades may usually spend its day hidden away in a room upstairs; try bringing it out to play for the holidays. Put it in the family room near the Christmas tree, or switch out a piece that's in a common area with one that's not often seen. These small moves will not only allow them to function as conversational pieces when friends and family come to visit over the holiday season, but will also give the sense that you've redecorated the home. The bonus is that they may bring some joy by reflection over

what they mean to you by the history they keep. Polish the old silver candle sticks that may only come out at dinner parties and make them a seasonal fixture on a side board for the holidays. Move paintings from room to room or switch lamps from a bedroom with those in the dining room.

The simple fact is that Holiday decorating can become tedious and we all know that it's by far the most hectic and expensive time of the year. Why not save yourself money and time and frustration and use the things you have already. Move them around, polish them up, and tell people about the items, why they matter and why they've managed to stick with you from childhood to adulthood. You could even gift a piece to a close friend or family member who would understand the intrinsic value and appreciate the thought to which you will always be associated when they look at it in their home.

The stories of our lives are hidden in our "things" and we can use the holidays to remind us of the joy and happiness that can come from the meaningful old things instead of the frivolous new ones.

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