

# SEND US A PICTURE OF...

Nobody loves a red glass ball quite like an interior designer. Or glitter, or tinsel, or a popcorn garland, or a string of beads, or...

Interviews by  
SHAX RIEGLER



When Mark and I were first married and still in grad school, he painted dozens of ornaments on shirt cardboard. They still have pride of place on our trees every year. For this tree—it was 1976, when Kate was eight and Alexa was five—we made garlands of popcorn string and red wooden beads that looked like cranberries. They were cute, but not cute enough for the time it took!"

DUANE HAMPTON

"I've always loved Christmas trees, but since we usually go to France for a holiday vacation, I ordered this one all done up from L'Olivier in New York. It's made of gold foil—a perfect combination of beauty and practicality."

PENNY DRUE BAIRD



"I'm from New Orleans, and once, after a hurricane, my mother gathered the fallen magnolia leaves and preserved them in glycerine until Christmas. We painted them gold. I grew up loving the glitz of Christmas, and this tree, in my house in Los Angeles, reflects it. It holds all of the blown-glass ornaments my husband and I collected in the early years of our marriage, glass beads, and the glitter-and-feather concoctions of our daughters."

SUZANNE RHEINSTEIN



"After too many years of erecting a 20-foot behemoth, I've simplified. Now I get a pair of miniature trees, put them in gold-painted terra-cotta pots—I spray them in my garage—and place them on a console table flanking an antique mirror. I trim them with multicolored ornaments. No lights. No muss, no fuss. Easy to put up, easy to take down. You can't beat that." >>

JAMIE DRAKE



THEY'VE SHOWN US THEIR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS TREES, NOW YOU SHOW US YOURS AT [HOUSEBEAUTIFUL.COM/SENDUS](http://HOUSEBEAUTIFUL.COM/SENDUS)

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*"Every year the trees on Park Avenue are strung with lights. I take part in the holiday lighting ceremony, and I can see them from my house, so I don't feel the need to have my own tree indoors. Last year, I hung wreaths and garlands in celadon green, silver, and white in my entrance hall and reception room, including on four sconces I commissioned that were inspired by Jean Cocteau's Beauty and the Beast."*

GEOFFREY BRADFIELD



*"We always throw a big party for about 400 people, and I started putting trees throughout the house to get guests to circulate and not congregate in the one room with the one tree. Most of them are live and in the root ball and get replanted on my farm after the holidays, in a spot we call Christmas Tree Corner. We put the little purple one in my niece Lauren's room about nine years ago. She never wanted to go to bed and leave the tree in the living room, so she got her own. I made it purple because that went with the lavender-print Kathryn Ireland wallpaper in her room. The tree in the kitchen is edible, a tradition my mother kept when I was growing up. It's decorated with cookies, ribbon candy, gumdrops, and other old-fashioned candies that people can eat right off the tree. The strings of popcorn and cranberries go outside for the birds and squirrels when we're done. I love a big, glitzy tree, but the little ones really capture my heart every year."*

BARRY DIXON



*"I think Christmas trees are most fun and meaningful when they involve a particular theme. In Germany, where my husband grew up, they often use just one color—trees might be filled with red bows, red apples, red ornaments. One year, we decorated a tree using only ornaments made of straw. This one, the first in our new home, is decorated with round glass ornaments in a range of colors. I love its absolute simplicity. You can really see, and appreciate, each ornament." \**

CATHY HOBBS