



Winter Wonderland

A trio of talents put their creativity on display, conjuring up sparkling holiday decor throughout a beautifully appointed Raleigh home using an abundance of magnolia, sparkling white lights, and fresh flowers

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CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: A cedar garland with a magnolia swag in the foyer • Pretty packages on an antique settee • An arrangement of white amaryllis mixed with greenery, tallow berry, and viburnum branches
OPPOSITE: Weston Farms Emerald Lace wreaths grace the front door.



WHEN INTERIOR DESIGNER VICKY SERANY speaks about her clients Christy and Scott Goudy, you can hear the warmth and admiration in her voice: “We have worked on three homes together, and because they are in a creative field, they truly value design and get excited about the whole process. It’s contagious!”

In this home, Vicky realized that the architecture would lead the interior design. “This was a more traditional house than they have lived in before, and the rooms were well defined and not as open, so the challenge was to make sure everything flowed well between the spaces,” she says. To make that happen, Vicky used a spectrum of blues, from peacock to navy. She also evoked warmth in the classic floor plan with textural wallpaper—grass cloth in the living room, cork in the mudroom, and a tactile metallic for the powder bath.

Then there are the luxurious fabrics and rugs in all rooms. “The Goudys really take care of their home, so we used more precious treatments—mohair on an ottoman and a silk rug in the living room, for example,” says Vicky. “We were able to incorporate many pieces from their earlier home and then had fun adding a few new ones here and there. After years of working together, we have such trust between us that when Christy found the settee in the foyer at a local shop, I knew it would work perfectly.” A jaunty geometric print was employed to infuse the antique piece with a



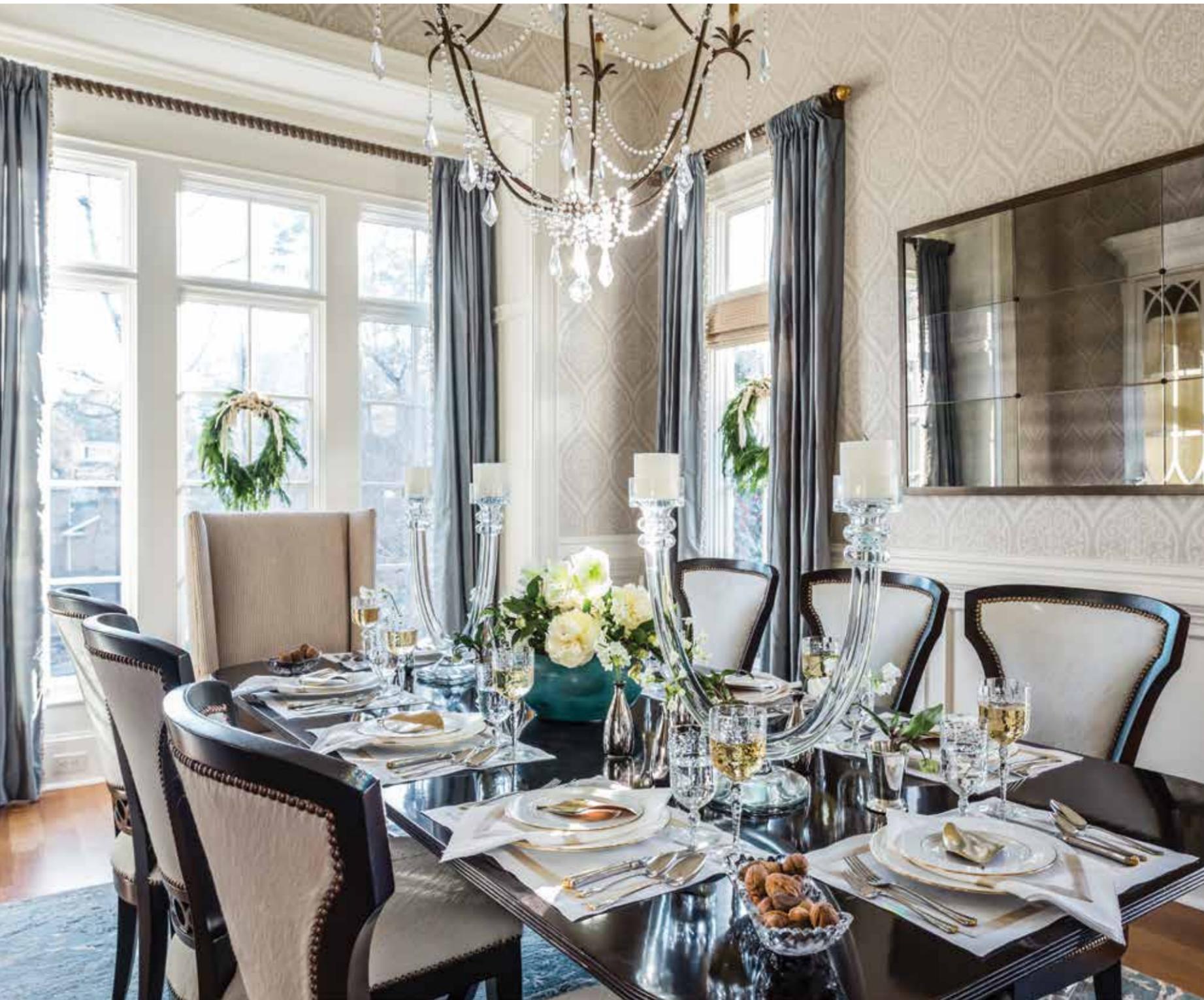
FOR THE LOVE OF MAGNOLIAS

Erin Weston of Weston Farms grew up appreciating the land, as her late father, Noel Weston, was the horticulturist for the city of Raleigh. After college she headed off to New York but felt the pull of her family farm leading her back to North Carolina. In 2002, she moved and started cultivating magnolia trees, scouring the globe for the best specimens, with help from her father. Erin started humbly, selling wreaths at a local farmers market, and now ships nationwide, creating installations at art museums, trade shows, and more. In 2019, Erin worked with Ed Glenn of New Growth Designs to create a botanically accurate copy of the magnolia flower from her farm. “The ephemeral nature of real magnolia blooms prompted us to seek out an alternative floral to pair with the farm’s fresh foliage, which dries beautifully and lasts for years.” Before he passed away, Erin’s father insisted that the blooms should have a clip attached to the stem so the flower can be easily added to real foliage. “He was right,” says Erin. “It is so practical and makes using the bloom so easy. He would be happy to know we followed his lead.” westonfarms.com; [@westonfarms on social media](#)

THIS SPREAD: Chairs from Hickory Chair with custom velvet pillows sit on a Kravet silk rug in front of the decorated magnolia trees. Ottoman by LEE Industries. Erin Weston of Weston Farms (above right) created the mantel garland with Weston Farms mini bouquets, ‘Raywood Weeping’ Arizona cypress, faux magnolia blooms developed with New Growth Designs, and fresh gardenias from High Camp Supply.

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more modern attitude. In the adjacent dining room, Vicky crafted a glamorous vibe with a crystal chandelier, glossy table, hair-on-leather upholstered chairs, and drapery panels in an icy-blue silk.

With the flow between the spaces perfected, the Goudy home was ready to show off some of its elegant, well-appointed attire for the holiday season. Vicky enlisted local talent to up the style quotient when it came to the Christmas decor: Diane Joyal of Bowerbird Flowers & Apothecary and Erin Weston of Weston Farms. “Erin has hosted magnolia wreath-making classes for our clients, and Bowerbird had been on my radar for a long time, so I felt like I had the best people to make it extra special for family and friends,” says Vicky. The designer drove out to Erin’s farm, and the brainstorming began.

After visiting the house and discussing what type of tree to use, Erin had a novel thought: “Why does a Christmas tree have to be a Fraser fir or the like?” she mused. “Why not magnolias instead?” Although she had never tried it before, Erin chose two magnolia trees from her farm and put one on each side of the fireplace. Because magnolia blooms fade in a few hours when cut, she used meticulous faux ones that she developed in conjunction with New Growth Designs. She also used them in the fireplace garland, along with mini magnolia bouquets and sprigs of ‘Raywood Weeping’ Arizona cypress. “I wanted to bring more fragrance to the room, so I tucked fresh gardenias into the garland as well,” says Erin.

To dress the trees, Erin called on holiday decorating guru Paul Hodges, who worked his magic with twinkling lights, clear blue ornaments, and spray-painted magnolia leaves formed into poinsettias. Diane brought floral flair to each room with fresh flowers and abundant greenery. “With such a neutral and wintry palette, I thought it was important to have a lot of texture and architectural elements like branches,” says Diane. “I also used a lot of smaller white flowers like hyacinth to invoke the feeling of snow.” The Goudys can only hope for a white Christmas to mirror the dreamy winter wonderland inside.

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ABOVE: Interior designer Vicky Serany **BELOW:** An arrangement of *Viburnum tinus* branches and cedar **OPPOSITE:** In addition to the centerpiece, Diane put small vases of hellebores at each place setting. She used leafy green cedar for the wreaths. “I love the drapery effect of the cedar,” she says. “It’s softer and dreamier.”





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT: A mercury glass container with hyacinth, 'Silver Bell' eucalyptus pods, phlox, and cone leucadendron with cedar and 'Carolina Sapphire' cypress • Even the mudroom is decorated for the season. • Scott and Christy Goudy and Caroline, one of their three daughters, enjoy the outdoor fireplace decorated with magnolias. • The sun-drenched breakfast space shows off a lively botanical print from Telafina on windows decorated with a classic Weston Farms Magnolia wreath. Diane added a mix of white flowers in mercury glasses for the table. ❖

