

EXIDECLATIONS

IT'S A COLORFUL ADVENTURE TO PREP A MASSACHUSETTS COLONIAL FOR A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

BY KRISSA ROSSBUND PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRUCE BUCK PRODUCED BY ESTELLE BOND GURALNICK





When Catherine "Cat" and Peter Malone bought a classic 1910 Colonial Revival house in Milton, Massachusetts, in 2005, they made the transaction with the understanding that grand festivities to celebrate the holiday season would be part of their almost 100-year-old new home's tradition.

Delighted to inherit a residence with such a gold standard, the Malones embraced the challenge of hosting a great celebration with gusto. Three years into their occupancy, the family's Christmas open house has become an eagerly awaited event among their family and friends. "We have about 150 guests," says Cat. "Some are friends from our new neighborhood, and others travel from Maine and Cape Cod."

Anticipating a design makeover—as most new occupants do—Cat and Peter recognized that whatever colors, fabrics, and furnishings were selected to beautify their home, ultimately jovial guests would be the final accessory, so comfort was essential. The structure itself, with generous rooms around a large central hall, already encouraged free movement from room to room.

The Malones called on Boston-area designer Gerald Pomeroy, who focused on aesthetic trimmings since the skeleton of the house was already packed with interesting architectural details and was in great shape. "The children plus a busy social life demanded



an unfussy, livable decor," says Pomeroy. "But I also wanted to reflect the couple's interest in antiques, art, and culture."

Recognizing that his plan should be youthful and sophisticated for the Malones—while tantalizing their guests with cheerful surprises—Pomeroy saturated the rooms with explosions of vibrant color that are intensified at Christmastime by fragrant greenery, sparkling ornaments, and bundles of fresh flowers. Local floral designers Daniel Lopez–Ospina and Jeb Taylor created decorations that are traditional, festive, and color-keyed to each individual room.

The living room palette gets straight to the point with intensely colored fabrics that pop against yellow walls. Linen in gold and coral follows the graceful curves of the window cornice. In front of the fireplace, facing loveseats are covered in an elaborate coral wool embroidered with a chinoiserie floral motif, and a pair of English Regency chairs are cushioned with silk stripes. The seating pieces share a cream-colored tufted ottoman, and an English carpet underscores the room's cheery warmth. The room's colors blend beautifully with the Christmas tree and with the neoclassical mantel that's dressed with fresh greenery, bowls of persimmons, and ruby-glass ornaments in crystal bowls.

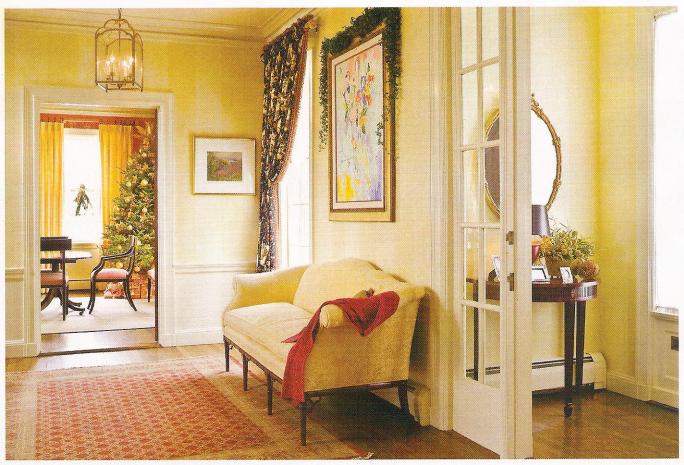
The architectural envelope of original wainscoting, crown molding, fireplace surround, and crystal chandelier in the dining



















room guided Pomeroy's choice of vivid color for the walls. The chinoiserie silk-on-paper in bright coral with lavender accents is positioned against moldings painted a warm beige. "The dining room is one of the most important rooms during the holidays," says Pomeroy. "Guests come here right after they've arrived, and the dramatic room communicates a sense of excitement." It's also in the dining room where guests are greeted by the Malone's biggest Christmas tree, one that is wrapped in tiny white lights and studded with small clusters of coral glass balls, larger gold balls, and fresh coral and gold Dendrobium orchids. The same flowers glow in an extravagant mantel decoration: a lush garland of the orchids interwoven with magnolia leaves.

The master bedroom's palette takes a quiet departure from the bold, warm tones of the public spaces. The bedroom Christmas tree, decorated with mercury glass and blue silk balls, stands in a white cast-iron garden urn.

Although they've only lived in the house a short time, Cat and Peter have created many memories. "I want my family to feel warmth, joy, and beauty with family and friends during the holidays but also in those moments with just the four of us." in Interior designer: Gerald Pomeroy

Floral designers: Daniel Lopez-Ospina and Jeb Taylor For more information, see sources on page 112

