

A HOME *for* *all* SEASONS

When your home is drenched in dreamy go-with-everything neutrals, transitioning from holiday to everyday is a total breeze. Decorator Maria Killam shifts from winter to spring simply by swapping out a few statement-making accessories.

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Seasonal Shuffle

The Christmas tree takes up the same footprint as Killam's Eames-style chair and ottoman, which means the holidays have little impact on the family room's floor plan. Instead of cramming the displaced furniture into another room, she stashes it in her backyard studio until the new year. *Sofa, ikea.ca. Side tables, homesense.ca.*

Hello, yellow!
Add stacks of magazines to your bookcase for a brilliant burst of colour.



Mantel Peace

Come spring, the wreath is replaced by a bold botanical canvas that reiterates each of the family room's key accent colours. *Anita Lindblom artwork, bluedotartstudio.com.*

SOMETIMES THE RIGHT WHITE ISN'T WHITE AT ALL. In fact, throughout decorator and blogger Maria Killam's Chilliwack, B.C., home, the walls are painted a warm ivory "greige" — a colour that, in this case, reads white because of the abundant natural light that floods the space.

"You need light in order to choose really pale colours," says Killam. "If you tried to put this colour in a basement suite or a dark, north-facing space, it could look like a dingy apartment beige."

The soft, subtle neutral serves as an infinitely versatile backdrop for Killam's ever-changing array of accessories. "It makes it easy to choose accent colours, that's for sure!" she laughs. "And those bright, beautiful accessories are what prevent a neutral space from being boring." *Design, mariakillam.com. Rice Paper CA037 paint (walls), Artisan White CA013 paint (trim), cloverdalepaint.com. ©*

Catch the Drift

The lime gourd lamps that flank the sideboard brighten up the dining room throughout the year. Over the holidays, they're joined by potted amaryllises and a fluffy feather boa that mimics freshly fallen snow.



Fresh Start

The springtime swap-outs in Killam's open-concept living/dining room are subtle, but the space feels lighter after the layers of festive decor are shed.



Right on Schedule

The delicate kalanchoe on display in the living room is the perfect choice—and not just because it delivers another pop of pink. Like poinsettia, it's a winter bloomer that flowers just long enough to provide a hit of colour for the holidays.

Vanishing Act

Gorgeously wrapped gifts are scattered around the home and serve double duty as decorations. The best part? They all disappear on Christmas morning, saving the need to pack and store them for next year. Gift wrap, target.ca, marshallscanada.ca.

Pales in Comparison

Light, powdery paint colours pose a unique decorating dilemma. "They easily reflect other colours—from indoors and out—and, until you have a room painted, they're hard to judge," says Killam. Her advice: Paint one full room before committing to the hue as the dominant neutral throughout the house. Mirror, side table, homesense.ca. Faux-fur throw blanket, potterybarn.com. Rug, pier1.ca. Coffee table, moeshome.ca. Rustic maple laminate flooring, pravadafloors.com.



THERE'S STILL TIME TO BUILD A GINGERBREAD HOUSE FROM SCRATCH. WE'VE GOT THE RECIPE AT canadianliving.com/gingerbreadhouse.



Found the perfect paint chip? "Keep in mind that colours get twice as bright once they're on the wall," says Killam.



Block Party Although the brilliant raspberry of the living room drapes is one of the dominant colours in Killam's holiday palette, it's not repeated as significantly come spring. "I'm actually colour blocking with the raspberry in this room," she says. "But the reason I can pull it off is because the yellow on the sofa is so strong. They balance each other out."

A Guiding White

The neutral envelope continues into the kitchen, where Killam opted for conventional white subway tiles in lieu of trendier options. "The biggest mistake people make with colour is incorporating it into their fixed elements," she says, noting that over the six years she has been blogging, she has seen three distinct accent-tile fads come and go. "First there was mosaic, then pencil tile, then laser-cut Carrara. They date almost instantly, but white subway tile has staying power." Artisan White CA013 paint (on cabinets), cloverdalepaint.com. Cabinets, qualitycabinet.ca. Range hood, kitchenaid.ca. Cooktop, bosch-home.ca. Dining chairs, eq3.ca. Sconces, circaighting.com.