



Winter Wonderland

The tree features plenty of traditional baubles alongside soft pink and glittery ornaments. Many of the hanging decorations feature feathers, a texture that's echoed in the white-feather garland the design team at Kalu Interiors draped elsewhere in the home.

WINTER WHIMSY

For this playful pink-and-turquoise decor scheme, Kalu Interiors embraces at least one classic holiday ethos: more is always more.


by **STACEY McLACHLAN** // photographs by **JANIS NICOLAY**



The More, The Merrier

On the dining table (top right and bottom left) flower arrangements from Vancouver's Gilligan Girls on Main lean in to the pastel concept, while simple dishes from Pederesen's Event Rentals top golden placemats from Kerrisdale Lumber. Place settings here are topped with a macaron or a snow globe ornament. "It's fun to use ornaments in a non-traditional context," says Lui. String lights wrap the trees (bottom right), of course, but Lui and Kassam also added some to side tables around the room. "I love layering lights," says Lui. "Turn off all the lights and have the sideboard and tree lit, and it warms everything up."





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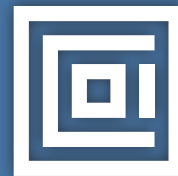
Happy Holidays

Designers Phyllis Lui (left) and Aleem Kassam of Kalu Interiors, who decorated the home for Kids Help Phone's Homes for the Holidays in 2019.

All designer Phyllis Lui wants for Christmas... is more Christmas.

“I’m a bit of a Christmas nut,” laughs the co-principal of Kalu Interiors. “At home it’s over the top, and every year I’m changing and tweaking it.”

Last year, her holiday dreams came true: as part of the Homes for the Holidays fundraiser for Kids Help Phone, she got the chance to decorate a whole second house—a gorgeous contemporary home in Kerrisdale from builder VictorEric—in full-on winter whimsy. And so, Lui and design partner Aleem Kassam leaned into her holiday obsession full-force, using the opportunity to embrace the season’s allowance for over-the-top touches. “You just can’t be afraid to go bold and take risks,”



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All Creatures Great and Small

In the den off the entryway (top left), Kassam and Lui embraced some winter wildlife: a pair of little polar bears live under a glass cloche, and a bowl of stuffed mice ("You can put just about anything interesting in a bowl and it's an instant centerpiece," says Lui) is wrapped up with feathery garland. The designers kept it simple in the breakfast nook (bottom right), with bows on the backs of the chairs and a small flower arrangement that matches the more festive florals in the living room.

Glam Entry

The dangling pendant lamps in the stairwell just happen to look like Christmas ornaments: Kalu just added the garland (adorned with more ornaments, of course) and a pair of mini trees to enhance the holiday vibe. "I feel like with Christmas, you're kind of allowed to go a little tackier," Lui laughs. "Embrace stuff that's unexpected."





Pretty in Pink

Upstairs, the holiday theme is continued subtly via soft pink, white and grey linens from QE Home in the bedrooms. In the girls' rooms, the team at Kalu added tiny seasonal details, like little gift boxes on the nightstands, Christmas angel dolls and a macaron tree; in the parents' suite, a simple wreath hangs over the headboard to signal the season.



says Lui of her more-is-more holiday decor philosophy. "It's hard to do it wrong."

With that in mind, Kassam and Lui veered away from classic red and green in favour of a pretty pastel palette of soft pinks and turquoises. "The goal was whimsical glamour," explains Lui, "a kind of surreal, fairy-tale feeling." Out of context, the colour story might not compute, but alongside flocked greenery, Christmas-y metallics (warm golds, sparkling silvers) and twinkle lights galore, it's downright dreamy.

The design duo also brought in elements like feathers, faux fur and glitter wherever possible, to add layers of texture. Traditional ornaments—many from Lui's own stash—are nestled into a giant flocked fir tree from Hunters Garden Centre alongside glittery, blush-pink poinsettias.

Baubles aren't constrained to the tree, however. Lui and Kassam have scattered them throughout the house: piled playfully in a mercury-glass bowl, positioned on bedside tables, dangling from the chandelier over the dining table and even scattered through the garland that wraps the stairway banister. "They're even in the flower arrangements," laughs Lui. It's almost like the decorations themselves can't help but spill through the house to spread joy—just like Lui's own holiday cheer.

*Homes for the Holidays runs virtually this year! For info and tickets, head to homesfortheholidays.ca. **HL***