


Interior designer Julie Kantrowitz poses in her client's Ridgewood home. Read more about this home on page 48.



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HOLIDAY CHEER *made* easy

Less is more in these lovely Ridgewood homes

WRITTEN BY CINDY SCHWEICH HANDLER

When it comes to dressing up for the holidays, houses are like people: They can sport a lot of finery, or rock a more low-key look. The two Ridgewood homes featured here fall into the latter category, proving that when there are classic, family-friendly designs, quiet touches of Christmas cheer speak volumes. >





KANTROWITZ, COURTESY OF NICKI BOSCH PHOTOGRAPHY

CLAIMING SPACE FOR FAMILY TIME

Kantrowitz took advantage of the extra-large hallway to enlarge the family room, which she opened up to the outside with two sets of French doors, and a door on the landing with access to the outside replacing a window. The ceiling used to peak, and its height was brought down; reclaimed wood beams were installed. The light fixture, which is made from natural fine rope, is from Palecek, and perfectly scaled for the space, she says. The neutral colors of the room make a nice backdrop for the tree and the candy cane amaryllis on the coffee table. (Above) Kantrowitz adds some finishing touches to the tree. >



PIPER, THE DOG, COURTESY OF NICK BOON PHOTOGRAPHY



EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE

(Top left) "When I renovated this kitchen, the first thing I did was ask the clients what their main objective was," says Kantrowitz. Hence the new coffee bar at the far end of the room, with an espresso machine and hot chocolate options for cold weather. (Above left) This closeup shows the many drawers in which family members can place their devices, hiding unsightly wires and plugs; one of the drawers has an outlet in it for discreet recharging. (Top right) The counters and back splash are quartz; in this view looking onto the island, the back splash is highlighted with holiday greenery. (Above right) Piper eyes the cookies, baked by Kantrowitz's friend, Kristen Daffron, with interest.

THE TABLE IS SET

The eat-in kitchen encompasses this table, which is topped by the fur throw runner. Its built-in banquette makes it easy for kids to slide into place, and the chairs provide adult seating. The "contemporary but not too traditional table" has a wood finish and a stainless steel base. The light fixture has a "casual finish that's similar to the table," says Kantrowitz. Against the room's neutral, quiet tones, the branch berries add dots of color.