

Country Home

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'tis the Season





ALL IS BRIGHT

PHILIP AND AMALIA SCOTTSAS ROMANCE THE HOLIDAYS AT THEIR
SPARKLING HOME IN NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE.





THIS PAGE A lucky flea-market find, the ornate mirror in the living room fits perfectly into a corner and reflects one of two Christmas trees. OPPOSITE A reproduction entertainment armoire dresses up for the holidays with a string of stars and a festive wreath. Outside, more seasonal decorations welcome visitors to the 1940s shingled home. Phillip and Amalia Scotsas met while dancing and continue to enjoy spins around the floor.

THE SATURDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING, 20,000 REVELERS CONVERGE ON DOWNTOWN NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL WINTER HOLIDAY STROLL.

For store owners Philip and Amalia Scontsas, it's the most wonderful time of the year. They enjoy it so much that even after getting their home-decor/fine-jewelry store ready with its many displays and decorating a holiday showhouse for charity, they have energy and creativity to spare when decking the halls of their own two-story Cape Cod-style home.

"Basically, we work all year for Christmas, and that extends to our home," says Philip. "The whole idea of getting ready, where we're going to put things—we just love it."

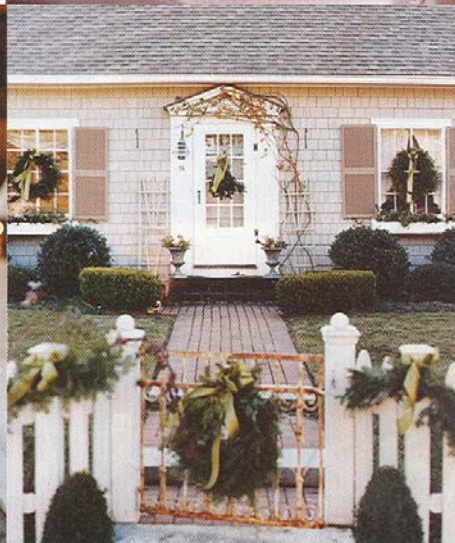
For most of the year, Philip and Amalia's 2,000-square-foot home is a comfortable, romantic mix of white slipcovered furniture and a well-edited collection of antiques acquired over the past 10 years from flea markets, antiques shows and shops, and estate sales. Glass-studded chandeliers hang like diamond necklaces in every room.

At Christmastime, two fresh trees go up in the living room, and they're not so much trimmed as inundated with glass ornaments from the 1940s and '50s. French doors wear garland swags, and wreaths appear on cabinets, mirrors, and even at the foot of the brass bed in the master suite.

In the dining room, Amalia throws a flouncy custom cloth made of white linen and old lace over the round table. She arranges place settings of heirloom and new china accented by sparkling stemware and votives. A vintage punch bowl from Philip's mother, filled with more glass ornaments, makes a festive centerpiece. The table is set and ready when friends and family members stop by for brunches and suppers during the holidays. Born in Panama, Amalia likes to prepare recipes popular there, such as roasts and fish soups.

On Christmas Eve, after closing the store, Philip and Amalia traditionally go to a favorite bistro to enjoy a relaxed dinner and a well-deserved martini. Then they go home to exchange gifts.

Of course, for those in retail, it's back to work the day after Christmas, but that's hardly a letdown for Philip and Amalia. "A lot of men come in to look at engagement rings that week," says Philip. "It's a very magical time, too."





THIS PAGE Philip and Amalia converted a breezeway between the garage and kitchen into a casual dining area. A late-1700s wall-hung cabinet showcases the couple's collection of white ironstone and echoes the lines of the curvy Queen Anne chairs. This old chandelier was hiding under a layer of dust in a box beneath a show vendor's table when Philip and Amalia found it. The rustic farm table keeps the space down to earth. **OPPOSITE** A limestone-topped custom island provides a country contrast to the marble countertops used elsewhere in the kitchen. Original cabinets were given new doors that resemble the home's divided-light windows.





SMALL TOUCHES MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN THE SCOTTSASES' HOME. PAPERWHITES AND OTHER FORCED BULBS, POTTED IN UNUSUAL CONTAINERS, SUCH AS A BIRDBATH FROM THE GARDEN, BRING A BREATH OF FRESH AIR TO WINTER ROOMS. IN THE DINING ROOM, ANOTHER INFUSION OF GREEN COMES FROM DEPRESSION PLATES—A GIFT FROM AMALIA'S MOTHER—THAT ARE LAYERED ONTO NEW WHITE LATTICE CHARGERS. PHILIP AND AMALIA ALSO TAKE CARE TO WRAP CHANDELIER CORDS AND CHAINS WITH RIBBONS AND SWATCHES OF FABRIC. FOR ADDED SPARKLE, CRYSTAL BEADED COVERS GO OVER MOST OF THE CHANDELIER LIGHTBULBS.







THIS PAGE Philip and Amalia combined four small bedrooms upstairs into two guest rooms, a laundry, and a luxurious master suite. They chose a dramatic and sculptural pedestal sink for the master bathroom since it is seen through the French door as one walks up the stairs. A bit of fabric and mistletoe for the vintage mirror infuses the room with seasonal color. **OPPOSITE** The master bedroom continues the peaceful and dreamy feel found throughout the home. The reproduction bed is layered with white linen and satin. To highlight the cape dormer, floor-to-ceiling panels work like romantic portieres. ©

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TURN TO THE SOURCE, PAGE 142.

