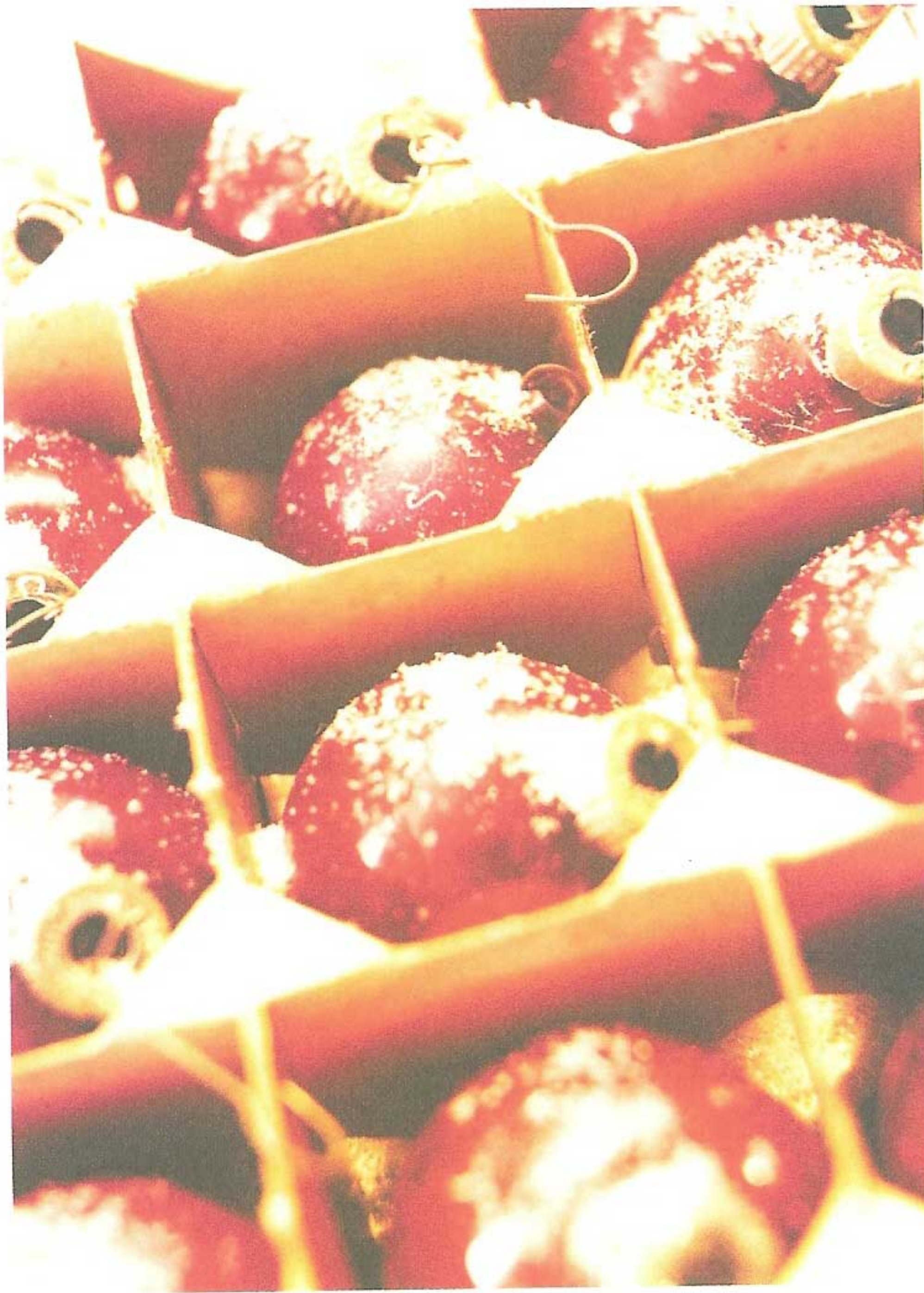




Designer FYI

By Kris Linder

Decorating for the holidays



Christmas seems to inspire us in many ways and for many reasons: It is a time to celebrate joy and children, a time for spirituality, when we turn our minds to giving instead of getting.

Since our homes reflect our concept of our inner selves, it is fitting to look at the seasons throughout the year and how we might decorate for them. For instance, Christmas decorating should be fun — pine boughs, ornaments, bows, twinkling lights and candles can be used in every room of your home and are available in a variety of places, from drug stores to specialty shops. Some of our local stores also have special presentations and classes on seasonal decorating. Gilmore's, a landmark in Saratoga, has hands-on classes starting soon and offers a terrific selection of seasonal decorating items.

But many want to know how they can decorate for the holidays in a more inventive manner. Sometimes, especially if you have moved or are recently married or divorced, it might be time for something new.

Those less traditional or in smaller spaces can try decorating with small cypress trees that come in two to five gallon containers instead of placing a big Christmas tree in the corner or in front of the window.

You can find small cypresses in both conical and twisted shapes at your local nursery. Place them in front of the hearth and trim with white lights, small ornaments and baby pine cones to create a festive look and to center your decor around the fireplace. Gifts can be placed on each side of the tree, in chairs or on tables, giving the whole room a Christmas feel.

You can also prepare your home for the winter season by changing to darker hues and jewel tones in pillows, bedding, bath towels and accessories. Candles in every room add a touch of warmth and light. ↑

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Interior Design Source owner Kris Linder consults, designs, remodels and provides interior furnishings for a large segment of Silicon Valley. Call her at 408.395.4028 or visit www.interior-design-source.com.