

Custom

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CATCH UP WITH RONICA



I confess, I LOVE this time of year. I sing along with Christmas music in my car and I can't wait for the holiday Hallmark movies to begin. (I even have the Hallmark Movie Checklist App!)

Do you have a favorite Christmas cookie recipe you always make? I like to bake my great grandmother's Nunda (date nut roll) cookies each year. They are time consuming but so worth it!

When I was a child, we always went to the Christmas Eve candle light service and afterwards we would go to my grandparents house with my cousins and aunts and uncles. Those memories are so special! And now, a new tradition for the past several years is to get together with neighbors on Christmas morning to exchange gifts, have breakfast and make new memories. Pajamas required. We don't open our family gifts until after that gathering.

I look forward to choosing an ornament for my son and daughter each year for one of their gifts. I try to relate it to their school, hobby or sport.

And of course, I love to decorate for Christmas. If you missed last month's issue, check it out because I shared loads of easy decorating tips for transitioning between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

With this issue about decorating guest rooms in mind, don't forget to add some festive touches to your bedrooms like hurricane jars with ornaments, glittering candles, or candlesticks wrapped in green garland. There are some adorable succulent Christmas trees available this year in all sizes, real or artificial. Swapping out your regular bedding with something more festive will really enhance the Christmas atmosphere, and I can certainly help you with that.

Some holiday warmth and sparkle in your bedroom will ensure you go to sleep with a smile on your face and wake up feeling more cheerful, even when you can't afford to hit snooze again.

Happy holidays!

Ronica VanGelder

Owner, Ronica's Custom Creations

Dual-Purpose Guest Rooms

Let's face it. Although you want your guests to feel comfortable and welcome when they stay overnight, it's hard to dedicate that much of your space to visitors who only spend the night a handful of days each year. But what if you and the family could enjoy the room in between guests? And not just for a catch-all space where you store clothes and stuff you don't know what to do with. Your guest room can be a dual-purpose room, enjoyable for everyone.

An easy way to maximize your guest room is to create a home office by removing the nightstand and putting a desk in its place. If you don't have much room, a small writing table could suffice, or even a floating shelf will work in a really tight space. Go vertical from there and add shelving above the desk. When guests stay, store away the office supplies and use the shelving for extra blankets and towels.

If a double or queen bed is crowding most of the room, consider swapping it out with a sofa sleeper, a daybed or something that's become very popular—a Murphy bed that you can fold down from the wall when needed. Look for the ones with built-in storage or become a desk



FEATURE



when the bed is folded up. Such a space saver! A loft bed will also maximize space. Those are the beds that have a top bunk, but the bottom bunk area is open. You can put a desk underneath a loft bed like they do in dorm rooms.

If you want to keep the larger bed, or even twin beds, think about converting the closet into your office area. Remove the doors, clear out the clothes rods and tuck your desk inside. Some decorative touches like wallpaper on the walls around your desk and a hanging lamp will make the space look like a stylish addition to the guest room. And when you have overnight guests, you can temporarily convert that closet office into a vanity area by hanging a mirror above the desk and adding a basket filled with toiletries.

Babies don't need much room, so your nursery can serve as a guest room until baby is ready for a big kid bed. Set the room up with a daybed or a twin bed or two that they can grow into later. It'll be helpful to have a crib on wheels that's easy to move out of the room when visitors spend the night. Matching the bedding, especially the bed skirt and the crib skirt, will make the room adorable. And that grown-up bed will come in handy for mom or dad when baby is having a rough night and you want to stay close.

A media room or a play room can also double as a guest room. Just make sure you have plenty of storage space so you can hide away the video game consoles and toys when your guests arrive. Shelves with baskets or colorful plastic containers will make tidying up easy for the kiddos every day, not just when guests are scheduled. Sofa sleepers, futons and chaise lounges are great options for sleeping because they don't take up much space and everyone will enjoy the comfort of having something cozy to lounge around on when guests aren't visiting.



GUEST ROOM

ESSENTIALS



Making guests feel at home in your home is so important...and easy with a few special touches.

Before your guests come to stay, try out the room, even for a short nap, to make sure the bed is comfortable and the room isn't too hot or cold. Are your window treatments providing privacy and light control? Good pillows and clean, crisp, coordinated linens are a must. An extra blanket or throw should be available on chilly nights, and a fan in the room for warm ones. Add some door hooks to the back of the door to hold damp towels or coats too.

Set a vase of fresh flowers on the night stand and a small basket filled with some snacks, movie listings, and brochures about local attractions they may want to visit. A couple of bottles of water, or a carafe with glasses, is a nice touch.

A larger basket can hold plush bath towels, wash cloths and some mini bottles of shampoo, conditioner, bath wash, lotion and toothpaste.

Is there room to add a bench or ottoman to the foot of the bed? It would come in handy for your guests to use for their luggage or other belongings.

Want to add something really fun and useful you and your guests will appreciate? How about a coffee bar? You can set one up very easily on a small, rolling cart or even on top of a dresser. Don't forget to pick up a couple of cute coffee cups to match your decor.

Above all, enjoy your company and make some new, wonderful memories.



Custom Creations Refresh

Since this month's topic is about guest bedrooms, this window fashion redesign is a perfect example of how to freshen a room dramatically by simply changing the window treatments. My client wanted to dress up the bedroom windows, soften the look and add some warmth.

The top picture shows how her room looked with only the woven wood shades she had purchased for privacy and light control. She wanted her new drapery panels to coordinate with the bedding. Her comforter had a large geometric print, so we chose to go with a small geometric print in the drapery fabric, which is an embroidered design on silky fabric.

Bay windows can be tricky because of the angles, but are a fantastic focal point when dressed well. To make the area appear larger, we covered up the wall space between the windows. And as you can see in the finished project, that beautiful view of nature is now framed with coordinating draperies.

