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CHRISTMAS

at Designers' Homes Across America

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At home with
Shayla Copas



Little Rock, Arkansas

An invitation to the home that Shayla Copas shares with her husband, Scott, and their King Charles spaniel, Roxie, is itself a Christmas gift. It's easy to see why Copas, owner of her eponymous residential and commercial interior design firm, has won so many holiday awards: *At Home In Arkansas* magazine named her one of Arkansas's 2015 Trendsetting Designers. In 2014, the Holiday & Decorative Association recognized her for "Best Christmas Tree in the Nation" for color and ornaments. That year it also named her the winner for Best Christmas Wreath Design in the US. Governor Asa Hutchinson appointed Shayla to the Arkansas Governor's Mansion Commission in 2015, and she designed the interior for Governor Hutchinson's inaugural ball.

Holidays are celebrated with "a multitude of soirees at our home with family and friends, while helping a worthy cause," says Copas, a board

member of Easter Seals and an advisory board member for Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas. "Christmas is such a wonderful time to do this."

Guests are welcomed with the sight of glorious wreaths outside and inside, and Christmas trees star in the show. A self-described traditionalist, particularly at Christmastime, Copas usually decorates more than one tree and designs them around the colors in the room. "I have gone with a monochromatic color scheme in the past, but currently I am using more vibrant colors," she says. "Sometimes I choose a theme for the trees. When my daughter was young, I designed the most fabulous tree in her room with snowmen and snowflakes.

"We always go with an artificial tree," she adds, "and I use a different topper each year depending on my mood." However, many of the ornaments return each year, particularly her favored glass ornaments and gold cherub

ornaments. "We decorate the foyer, formal living room, library, dining room, kitchen, and powder rooms," she says. "Next year I intend to decorate our master bedroom and the carriage house."

For the holidays, Copas loves glam—"anything that sparkles, and the more the better!"—such as the glittering, life-size rhinestone deer sculptures that recline on the grand piano in the entry foyer. Fireplaces also go glam. "I feel a mantel should be decorated elaborately. I hang a wreath above the mantel, and we hang stockings. Between us, Scott and I have four children and four grandchildren, so there are a lot of stockings to fill," she says.

Anticipating the family's arrival on Christmas Eve, "my husband and I start cooking the night before," Copas says. "After the meal, we like going to a movie as a family. My favorite thing about Christmas is family time. We are so fortunate to have each other."



The classic entry with sweeping stairs is elaborately decorated with boldly scaled garlands and wreaths. Handsome double doors swing open to welcome guests.

Opposite page Beyond the glittering rhinestone reindeer is a glimpse of the dramatic living room.





Roses on the coffee table are an early, elegant symbol of Jesus.



Gold draperies in the living room are a beautiful backdrop for the tree with its gold and Tiffany-blue ornaments. The gold cherub is one of Copas's favorite ornaments.





A garland, gold-trimmed wreath, and Tiffany-blue ornaments embellish the living room fireplace.

