

EDITOR'S LETTER



I love the holiday season and the opportunity to potter around the garden, relax next to the pool with a book and, of course, have the time to invite friends around. And you can't beat the weather in Gauteng over December! Although I find it's too hot to spend hours decorating the house, it's always nice to add a touch of sparkle such as candles, lanterns, a wreath on the front door and

perhaps a decorated tree. Have a look at stylist Tess Paterson's great ideas on page 30 for creating a festive atmosphere simply and easily.

A well-known designer once said to me that the best way to show your family and friends how much you appreciate them is to spend time setting a beautiful table. To give you loads of inspiration, decor editor Andrew Mackenzie and some of his favourite decorators reveal how they're planning to impress their guests this festive season. See their stunning tables on page 38. And if you're not sure what to serve, take a look at the menu devised by Clare and Fiona Ras on page 114 which combines exotic flavours with South African style.

In this issue we've also included homes that reflect the holiday mood. Although the apartment featured on page 52 is used mainly for holidays and weekend breaks, it's been decorated with as much care as the owners' permanent home. We love the 'tree' which forms the centrepiece of their patio table. Having just visited the fabulous Le Touessrok resort in Mauritius I just adore the chic combination of French and island styles in the Constantia house featured on page 58, and what's great about the Johannesburg home on page 64 is that although it's sophisticated and glamorous it was designed for a young family with two small children. No doubt they'll be growing up with a sure sense of style.

If you're still searching for the perfect presents, why not give a gift that benefits others. Here at *Garden and Home* we were inspired by www.makechristmasmatter.co.za which enables you to send a food parcel to a family or a walker to an elderly person in lieu of a gift. At www.santashoebox.co.za you can personalise a gift box for a disadvantaged child, while at www.gifts4good.co.za you can make a huge difference to a rural family with a gift of a water tank or gardening tools to a community project.

From all of us here at *Garden and Home*, happy holidays!

May Jane