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## Making a home cozy, but still chic



cozy festive

There's no need to give up elegance for winter's warmth

BY KRISTIN TAVEIRA  
Special to Newsday

Soft overhead lighting, punctuated with decorative accent lights or the flickering flame of candles or a fireplace, create inviting depth and a festive glow. "Using additional 'layers' of lighting on dimmers softens a space and adds warmth and ambience," Wilkes says. "Specifically, adding chandeliers or wall sconces bring to eye-level a wonderful decorative element that makes a room more inviting. This type of accent lighting" — shown here inside a Merrick home — "casts a flattering glow to the room's ceiling, walls and furnishings, and also to people's faces, which therefore makes the space a favorable gathering spot that feels nice to be in."

When it comes to home interiors, there's an age-old tug-of-war between form and function: We want our home to look like a pair of killer heels, but feel like our favorite fuzzy slippers.

Happily, when it comes to decor, you don't have to sacrifice cozy for chic — or vice versa. In fact, adding an element of softness to a sleek

space or creating some definition to offset your too-cuddly trappings can give your home a finished look that's equal parts stylish and snug.

But designing a room that evokes the warm-and-fuzzies while still looking polished, put-together and personal takes a bit of skill. "Cozy is a visual as well as a tactile experience," explains Caroline Wilkes of Caroline Wilkes Interiors in Merrick. "A cozy space requires furnishings and fabrics that bring comfort to the body and softness next to the skin." But it's not just about the touchy-feelies — it also has to look the part, she adds: "A cozy room must also be perceived as comfortable and inviting and appear relaxing and intimate."

First, carve out your corner.

"An extremely important part of a cozy space is the definition of that space," says Brooklyn designer and Smithtown native Harry Daniell. An area rug and an intimate furniture arrangement can help mark your territory. "Conversation groups should be situated within an 8- to 10-foot radius," says Rosalba Campitiello of East End Interiors in St. James. "An area any larger would result in a separated seating arrangement — anything but cozy."

Next, use cheery colors and soft lighting to give the space a glow. "Lighting in a cozy room should be warm and not