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 Siouxland Homes Magazine

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STYLE AT HOME

Holiday style 2022: Simply Scandi

KATIE LAUGHRIDGE
Tribune News Service

Few places in the world encapsulate the spirit of the holiday season quite like Scandinavia. It brings the scenery you'll find on your favorite Christmas cards to life: ice and snow, roaring fires and beautiful homey spaces that encompass the spirit of hygge.

A finalist for the Oxford English Dictionary's 2016 word of the year, hygge is a Danish term defined as a quality of coziness and comfortable conviviality that engenders a feeling of contentment or well-being, and in recent years it has taken the interior design world by storm. Pronounced "hyoo-guh," the word is said to have no direct translation in English, though "cozy" comes close. And this Christmas look follows suit.

Simply Scandi is a Christmas design that pays homage to the Scandinavian roots on my dad's side of the family, while still maintaining that new traditional style we are known for (more is more, after all!).

Trimming the Simply Scandi tree

In most Nordic countries, people put up their Christmas trees a couple of days before the big event and decorate them with flowers like a poinsettia. White amaryllis and red tulips are also popular, and they are the color inspiration for the Simply Scandi color palette.

The first thing that strikes me when looking at the Simply Scandi tree is the various textures at play that make the design feel so inviting and warm. I love the addition of handmade-looking elements to a design, and this style has many to choose from. Felt, wood, woven, hand-painted, this tree is a symphony of artisan craftsmanship. Bright red, creams and neutrals are the shining stars in this minimalist albeit striking look.

Although there are many differences between a commercial tree



Above: A collection of hand-painted bells are suspended from birch logs in front of the Simply Scandi tree. **Right:** The Simply Scandi Christmas design features bright red, creams and many handcrafted elements.



PROVIDED PHOTOS / TNS

and a tree you might trim yourself, this look might be the closest to a traditional tree you might find in someone's home. And it can be scaled back without losing its impact. When building at home, start by layering in lots of picks throughout the tree. Red berries bring cheer to this design. Group collections of ornaments in twos and threes nestled in and among the branches — not just the tips — to highlight different textures in your groupings. We use zip ties to secure these to the tree. We feel it gives us better control over the presentation of the ornament on the branch instead of simply

hanging them. Cascades of red ribbon are snuggled up among the details, their white snowflakes adding to the thematic design.

Decking the halls, Simply Scandi style

Scandinavian homes are often well-decorated for Christmas, with shiny baubles, candles and various other shimmering objects to enjoy. Although this design doesn't include any straw, a common Scandinavian ornament material, we did take a nod from the Nordic and left no space un-

touched as we piled on the holiday decor. Featured in this design are a cacophony of bells suspended from birch logs fashioned to the ceiling, the decor spilling into your line of sight.

Decorating a Simply Scandi tabletop

Many Nordic countries celebrate with an elaborate Christmas Eve dinner, which usually includes dry-cured lamb ribs, ham, goose or cod fish cured in lye (lutefisk, anyone?). Boards full of these foods are passed around the table. Glogg, a mulled wine into which

you can dip cookies, is a popular drink of choice across Scandinavia at Christmastime.

Scandinavian style is really known for its simplicity, and we played that up in this tablescape. An ornament plays double duty and acts as a napkin ring, holding a candy cane-striped napkin atop stacks of cheery red and white dishes. The dishes themselves are simple in design, but the alternating colors give each place setting some additional dimension. A wintry green is a welcome addition to the centerpiece, making the dishes at each place pop even more.

PLUMBER

Reader needs help with kitchen faucet confusion

ED DEL GRANDE
Tribune News Service

Question: Ed: We need a new kitchen faucet but I'm confused with my pullout or pull-down choices. I never had either type before and I want to make the right move. To help me decide, what are some advantages with each pull-style kitchen faucet?

— Liz, Texas

Answer: You're not alone with this question and I have addressed this topic before, but this time I'll focus on just a few advantages of each type.

First, each style can be very attractive design wise. A pullout kitchen

faucet usually looks a little more traditional with a straight, slightly angled spout. A pull-down faucet with a high arching spout can look a little more contemporary.

Next, for mixing valves, the pullouts in most cases use a one-handle valve located at the top of the faucet body with the spout going out horizontally. Pull-down valves, on the other hand, are mostly located on the side of the faucet body with the spout continuing up vertically.

As far as spray heads go, pullout heads can feature large handles that work great for filling vessels on

the counter. Pull-down heads can be smaller and sleek, and they work great for washing down the sink.

Bottom line: Choose the kitchen faucet that fits you best, and I'm happy to help you understand some of the ins and outs, ups and downs of choosing a pull-style kitchen faucet.

Master Contractor/Plumber Ed Del Grande is known internationally as the author of the book "Ed Del Grande's House Call," the host of TV and Internet shows, and a LEED green associate. Visit eddelgrande.com or write eadelg@cs.com. Always consult local contractors and codes.



KOHLER/TNS

A pull-down kitchen faucet with a high arching spout can look a little more contemporary than a pullout faucet.



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DESIGN RECIPES

Hygge for the holidays



MAYA KRUCHANKOVA/DREAMSTIME/TNS

While you can incorporate hygge into your home and lifestyle throughout the year, the holiday season is certainly the perfect time.

CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

By now you have probably heard of hygge, the Danish term for coziness and contentment. While you can incorporate the concept into your home and lifestyle throughout the year, the holiday season is certainly the perfect time.

Looking for ways to welcome a sense of hygge this holiday season? Begin by evaluating your whole home, then look for ways to uplift each space using these tips.

Infuse scents

In nature, each season brings a fresh fragrance and overall scents. Fragrance can also help provide a sense of calm. Consider infusing winter scents into your home over the holiday season such as juniper, fig, pine and sage.

Create cozy areas

Make spaces in your home that can be used as places for you and your holiday guests to refresh, recharge and renew.

Find a focal point

Even if you don't have a fireplace for everyone to gather around, you can still rearrange your space in order to create a central area that can serve as the hub of holiday activity. Go big with creating a cozy room, or simply setting an attractive communal table.

Incorporate nature

Natural elements such as wood can help warm a space.

Play music

Find calming and soothing music or sounds like water, bells or chimes.

Provide comfort

From welcoming your guests with their own cozy throw to providing individual slippers, providing comfort is the cornerstone of hygge.

Use greenery

Evergreens and winter-hardy plants and trees not only help add freshness to a space, but will also help improve overall indoor air quality.

Change your color scheme

Adding earth tones goes a long way to adding warmth and hygge to a space. Consider warm shades of brown, green, yellow and red.

Open the windows

Natural light not only impacts moods and helps enhance lives but improves

a sense of hygge. With the sun setting earlier during winter months, you can also achieve holiday hygge by adding festive elements like string lights and candles.

The Danish are considered to be among the happiest people in the world. Why not use some of these tips to create a sense of well-being and calm into your home this holiday season?

Cathy Hobbs, based in New York City, is an Emmy Award-winning television host and a nationally known interior design home staging expert and short-term rental/vacation home designer with offices in New York City and The Hudson Valley. Contact her at info@cathyhobbs.com or visit her website at cathyhobbs.com.

ASK ANGI

What are winter rooftop risks?

PAUL F. POGUE
Ask Angi

Your roof is one of the most highly visible and important elements of your home. It works every hour of every day to protect your home from the elements, including heat, driving wind and snow. It's easy to think of your roof as a stalwart defender, but roof maintenance is critical. Once that steadfast defense cracks, you can find yourself in a world of trouble.

In many parts of the country, cold months provide roofs with their greatest test, and most repairs run around \$1,000. Some of the most likely issues you'll face in winter:

Roof leak

A leaky roof needs to be addressed by a professional and fixed right away. Not only do leaks quickly cause structural roof damage, they'll damage whatever is unlucky enough to be underneath. Call a pro as quickly as possible, remove all items from underneath the leak and place buckets to catch the water, and use photo and video to document the damage.

Tree limb damage

High winds, winter storms and snow buildup can break overhanging limbs and hit your roof. If this happens, no matter what time of day or night, cover it with a tarp as swiftly as possible and call a professional. You don't want to do this work on your own. Be sure to contact your insurance

agent right away as well. Your homeowner's insurance likely covers the damage.

Ice dams

When ice freezes and refreezes on your roof, it can form solid ice dams. These can create damaging roof leaks, mold, and mildew. You can hire a pro to remove these dams, but you'll pay \$300-\$600 per hour for the job. Poorly insulated attics often cause ice dams, so make sure your attic is properly ventilated and insulated.

If you haven't had your gutters cleaned yet this season, hire a professional gutter cleaner before the freezing days arrive. Clogged-up gutters are another major cause of rooftop ice dams, as well as large icicles that post a danger to your gutters and anyone beneath them.

Repair or replace?

Deciding to replace your roof is a tricky decision. Don't wait until your old roof starts leaking. By the time you notice a leak, structural damage has already occurred. You'll have more extensive work to do, and you'll pay accordingly. Hire a qualified roof inspector if any of these warning signs appear:

- How old is the roof? Many roofs last 20 to 25 years or longer, depending on material. If you don't know how old it is, consider having it inspected by a pro.

- What does the roof look like? Check for irregularities in shingle



CHRISTIAN DELBERT/
DREAMSTIME/TNS

Heavy icicles are a sign of roof dams, which can be damaging to your roof and need to be addressed quickly.

lines. A sag indicates rotting sheathing. Pay close attention to valleys, where rain and snow flow to gutters.

- Do you see asphalt granules in the gutter? If so, that's a sure sign your shingles are breaking down.

- Does the flashing around chimneys, vents or skylights show damage like being rusted or eroded?

- — What does the attic look like? Check for evidence of leaks or moisture, preferably during rain.

Tweet your home care questions with #AskingAngi and we'll try to answer them in a future column.



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DAKOTA DUNES, SD



251 LaCosta Lane • \$550,000

Lovely LaCosta Lane, 3044 total SF custom built ranch townhome on a private lot backing up to greenway, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, and 3 stall epoxy floor garage. Hardwood floors in living room & kitchen, granite countertops, heated tile in primary suite, LL suite w/ laundry, plus main floor laundry and great storage space. HOA handles all the exterior work \$250/mo.

ELK CREEK, SC



4531 Whitetail Court • \$449,750

Enjoy this beautiful 1578 sq ft ranch with 2 bedrooms both with walk-in closets, 2 baths and 3 stall heated garage. LL has daylight windows for future finish. Enter this lovely ranch home to open floor plan with custom kitchen with island, quartz tops, walk-in pantry, \$4,500 appliance allowance, dining, and great room connectivity. Consistent LVT flooring throughout the space for versatile and flexible living. Primary suite includes tray ceiling, plush carpets, custom walk-in closet, and 3/4 bath with walk-in the shower and double vanity. Upgrades in this spec home: 74" fireplace, heated garage, quartz tops in kitchen and baths, 85 gallon water heater, rock landscape beds. You will love the floor plan. HOA \$250 per month.

WYNSTONE, JEFFERSON, SD



701 Red Cedar Court • \$425,000

Multi-level 4 bdrm/3 bath home, 3 stall heated garage w/ hot & cold water and great 2 story views to the west from living and hearth room & more (ready and quick possession). Open kitchen w/ peninsula, dining w/ slider table deck, & hearth room w/ fireplace & view combine for great gathering spaces on hardwood floors. Primary suite is spacious w/ walk-in closet and built-in tub, double vanity & shower. Lower level was completed in 2011 with large rec room area, solid surface floors, lots of daylight windows and perfect layout for the entire family to enjoy. Updates since 2016: fully sprinklered, Carls installed iron fence w/ multiple gates throughout back yard, concrete edging, landscaping and septic system 15' light fixtures throughout the home. New since 2021: AC, water heater, garage storage racks & 220vded, Google Nest security system, kitchen appliances, custom blinds, ornate floor, cabin mitigation, rock landscape beds.

ELK CREEK, SC



5217 Lynx Court \$329,750

New Construction - estimated completion December 2022. Take advantage of the 10 year tax abatement. Gorgeous Elk Creek Community w/ pond and Club House. Come and see this 1398 sq ft townhome w/ 2 bdrm/2bath, 2 stall heated garage and tons of additional custom amenities and upgrades included at a spec home price: LVT, 60" electric fireplace, quartz tops, walk-in pantry, heated garage, and 50 gal water heater. Convenient Sioux City neighborhood and Sky Bluff Schools. HOA \$250 per month includes: snow removal, lawn care, mowing/fertilizing, mitigation and Club House w/ pool & fitness center. Design elements subject to change and availability.

New "build-to-suit" lot listings:

2644 Albatross/Lot 25 Claret View - \$142,900
2682 Albatross/Lot 27 Claret View - \$162,900
17 Spanish Bay - Dakota Dunes - New Price - \$250,000

If you aren't working with an agent, you are missing out.

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STYLE AT HOME

Holiday style 2022: Old World rustic

KATIE LAUGHRIDGE
Tribune News Service

Every year in January, the team and I make the trek to market in Atlanta in search of the finest baubles and jewels to adorn our shop for the holidays. I know what you are thinking: Who in their right mind is thinking about Christmas in January? But, we are!

We keep a keen eye out for timeless styles, rather than trends, and scour through floors and floors of decor to curate themes and items.

For months, boxes of Christmas decor have been arriving. I always love watching the magic of the items we lovingly picked one by one become a cohesive, beautiful display. Old World rustic was the first Christmas theme that came together on the floor this year – and it immediately became a favorite. While collecting my thoughts for this piece, I reminisced with the members of our team who collaborated on the look. Our lovely product coordinator shared, “We loved the different textures that evolved, from shiny to galvanized and birch to fur, it all just came together.”

I’m immediately struck by the details that come together to make this holiday scene. Like the little pop of the citrus-inspired deep oranges and yellows. I love a classic dried fruit element, and these colors speak to that without being too literal. The colors add some dimension to this organic look.

The tree is the cornerstone of this holiday look, and this one is certainly

dressed to impress. Wanting to re-create the look at home? Our team has a few different approaches, all of which lead to a beautiful end result. This method is easy to follow and leads to a well-balanced design.

When building this tree, we began by layering with picks to make the tree fuller. I like the organic elements found in the weepy white branches and cranberry-colored stems placed throughout – very rustic. Next we anchor the larger elements to the tree: a jolly Santa, fur-trimmed sleighs of varying sizes and showers of galvanized bells. We saw the potential at market right away, and our visuals team had some great ideas for their use, like tucked into a tree, collected in a basket, perched on a coffee table or nestled into the mantel.

After the larger elements have found their places dispersed throughout the tree, it’s time to add your ribbon. You can cascade it down the tree, or weave throughout depending on the look you prefer. Once your ribbon is placed, start at the center point (or focal point) of the tree and begin placing the smaller ornaments and work your way out from there. Small loops of ribbon can have a large impact if you aren’t wanting an ornament heavy tree.

We carried this theme throughout the room, incorporating both natural and elegant accents for a look that is both rustic and refined. A wood and metal lantern paired with a shimmering golden reindeer, dressed up with



HANDOUT/TNS

This room is decked out in Old World rustic Christmas decor.

greenery and ribbon make for the perfect coffee table vignette. Add some candle sticks and a smaller lantern for a larger space, or pare down by removing a piece or two that doesn’t work for you. Play until you have the right mix, one that gives you the right amount of volume and movement.

I just adore the depth and texture this look offers. It’s the perfect theme to kick off our Christmas features, too! Stay tuned – over the next few weeks, we will be featuring many more holiday looks.

Adapted from nellhills.com. Katie Laughridge is the owner of Kansas City interior design destination Nell Hill’s. For more information, contact Katie at info@nellhills.com.

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PLUMBER

Installing a kitchen faucet to fit the available sink holes

ED DEL GRANDE
Tribune News Service

Question: Ed: I was able to buy a new cast-iron kitchen sink at a discount price. But the new kitchen sink only has one sink hole for the faucet. I'm used to seeing more holes in the sink rim. What type of kitchen faucet do I get to fit this style of sink?

— Ted, Rhode Island

Answer: With a new kitchen sink and faucet, usually you pick out a faucet and order a sink with the correct number of faucet holes. When you just need a new kitchen faucet,

all you have to do is order a faucet style to fit the existing sink. Here are some suggestions for matching up a kitchen faucet that can fit your one-hole kitchen sink.

Four-hole mounting: Four holes can accommodate a two-handle faucet with a remote spray head. Or, a faucet with a deck plate can cover three holes, with the last hole for the spray.

Three-hole mounting: Use a two-handle faucet without a spray, or a single-handle control with a separate spout and spray.

Two-hole mounting: A single-handle faucet with a side spray can fit.

Finally, a single-hole sink uses a single-handle faucet with a pullout spray spout to give you a hole-in-one install.

Master Contractor/Plumber Ed Del Grande is known internationally as the author of the book "Ed Del Grande's House Call," the host of TV and Internet shows, and a LEED green associate. Visit eddelgrande.com or write eadelg@cs.com. Always consult local contractors and codes.



KOHLER/TNS

When you just need a new kitchen faucet, all you have to do is order a faucet style to fit the existing sink.

Thank you Siouxland!

Thank you to all that trusted us this year to make your real estate dreams come true. We love this community and are passionate about making it a better place for all our families to call home. We appreciate your nomination and vote for Best Real Estate Team in this year's Siouxland Choice Awards.

**- Jeff & Rachel Carlson,
Carlson Group at RE/MAX.**



CARLSON GROUP @ RE/MAX PREFERRED



How to fix problems when replacing old hardwood floors

JAMES DULLEY
Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear James: The old hardwood floors in my parents' house are a mess. I would like to repair them and use as much of the original wood as possible. Do you have any advice? — Nichole S.

Dear Nichole: As beautiful as a well-maintained vintage hardwood floor looks, it can look really bad from buckling, cupping, splitting, etc. In addition to just looking bad, these flooring problems can increase the chances of someone stumbling, especially of concern for older people with impaired balance.

Just because hardwood flooring is old does not mean it should be badly deteriorated. Hardwood flooring can last for centuries. There probably are some underlying problems that are causing the deterioration. Before you start your project, search for new hardwood that matches the existing floor. This way, you will be able to reuse some of the old floor.

Buckling and cupping are usually related to moisture issues — either too much or too little. The humidity level in homes can vary significantly from January to June. Even though the hardwood seems to be sealed with a durable urethane coating, moisture will get into the wood.

As the moisture content of any wood increases, the wood expands. When it dries, the wood contracts. This is the primary cause of cupping, where the underside of the wood is moister than the top surface. When the bottom expands and the top contracts, the hardwood cups.

It is important to find the source of the moisture under the hardwood and block it as much as possible. Don't just take a sander to the installed cupped hardwood and sand it flat. It may look good for a month or two, but when the moisture level changes, it may end up being crowned instead of cupped.

To solve the cupping, you will have to remove the hardwood. Apply some type of film or spray-on sealer to block the moisture source from beneath. Once this is done, reinstall the hardwood and give it several months to stabilize. In either the spring or fall when the humidity levels are often in the mid-range, sand the hard-



wood flooring to make it level.

Buckling of a hardwood floor is also related to moisture issues. Usually, the hardwood flooring was installed when it was too dry and in its contracted size. When it adjusted to its normal moisture level, it expanded. As it expands, the gap between the pieces shrinks until it is gone. At this point the hardwood has no place to go other than buckling up.

As with cupping, remove the hardwood and apply a moisture seal on the subfloor. Allow the hardwood to acclimate to the normal room humidity and then reinstall it. Unless the tongue-and-groove edges were damaged when it buckled, the floor should lay reasonably flat.

Uneven gaps between the pieces of hardwood mean that some pieces are expanding or contracting due to moisture changes more than others. Areas with wide gaps are often located over a heating duct, which warms and dries the hardwood. If you have access to beneath the floor, lower the heating duct and put reflective foil insulation over it. Give it several weeks to stabilize and add slivers of wood in the extra-wide gaps.

Send your questions to Here's How, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

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2655 Albatross • \$729,750

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