## **Creative Living**



## The fine art of holiday decorating

special writer

For many of us, the Christmas
holiday season is an excuse to
break away from the restrictions
of the "quiet good taste" that
governs our lives the rest of the

year.

Perhaps it's our collective memory that guides us to the unrestrained disorder that characterized the pagan Saturnalia of ancient

Rome. For we deck our homes with strings of multicolored lights, winking and blinking in the solatilal darkness, the drahness of everyday garb gives way to richer fabrics, and even the most abstemious overindulge. Budgets, like dicts, are put on hold. Our world shimmers under layers of gold and red and green and giltter. There are, however, pockets of poetle simplicity.

The Smith house, in Rochester, is a pean to the sea-

for example, is a paean to the sea-son expressed in muted colors and elegant vignettes testifying to the taste and enthusiasm of the own-

taste and enhusiasm of the own"It just grew over the years,"
says Smith. "My husband and I
both come from families where
Christmas was really special. This
house, where we've lived for three
years, is especially amenable to
deep the because of the second of the
many look because the second of the
real wood indoors that
complements materials traditional
to the season."

dow, each illuminated by a small spotlight.

THE TRADITIONAL BRASS ceiling fixture in the generous foper is trimmed with small red velvet bows. Cedar roping and more red-bowed wreaths adors the railing along the stairs leading to the second floor.

The first of four trees in the house, and the only floor-to-ceiling tree, is in the sunlit living room. An elaborate crown of even lace and red ribbon caps the tree, its streamers reaching to the floor.

Chass ornaments are red and sixtemers reaching to the floor.

Glass ornaments are red and first smith has fashloned dozens of mosegays from evru lace, ribbon, liny red roses and babys at a circle, their arms outsit that a circle, their order of the tree.

with the subdued richness of the decor.)
In the brick-floored family room, a table-top tree is decorated with a Victorian motif — thy bows of ceru lace and white ribbon, white birthday cake-size candles and dried baby's breath, with a "skirt" of ceru lace. The tree sits in front of a window, the sun streaming in behind it.

behind it.

Beneath this tree are small stuffed animals from Smith's childhood, and, nearby, a large brown teddy bear embraces other childhood treasures. The brick fireplace



Staff photos by Duane Burleson

The mantle of the open fire-place and wood paneling of the den are an ideal setting for mounds of fresh greens and pine cones.



Lighted wreaths in each window give this Rochester Hills home a welcoming festive look

mantle is trimmed with natural greens, adorned with red ribbon and ceru lace bows, and fat cranberry candles in hurricane lamps. Antique-looking wooden Christmas trees came from the Kensings ton Academy Christmas Boutique, where Smith shops annually. Bunches of dried herbs and flowers bang from the wooden beams year around.

sunches of orion arets and nowers around.

THE HOUSE IS SURROUNDED by three wooded acres, complete with stream. A favorite weeken activity is to sit at the large kitchen window bird-watching and, sometimes, deer-watching. So it's important that the view from the window remain unobstructed.

With the sure eye of the ministurist, Smith framed lace dollies in arrow embroidery acops and hung the bon. When the sun streams through them, they look like ecru snowflakes — and the view is intended to the sunstance.

In the master bedroom, with its will amount of the will be and white ribbons and toy white swans. The greens on the mantiepiece are trimmed with lace and dried baby's breath and here, too, are hurricane lamps with off-white candles.

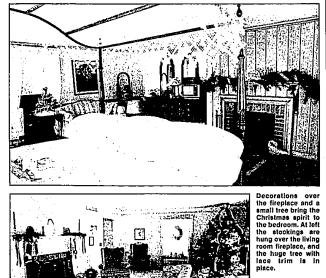
The remaining tree is made of grape-vines. "I bought it on sale last year at the end of the season. I can make grape-vine wreaths, but I have never been able to get the hang of making trees," she admits. This tree, which will feature thy white lights and corn hust ornamens, is in the stendied guest room.

Smith has taken classes and

ments, is in the stenciled guest room.

Smith has taken classes and learned to make wreaths and ornaments. She reads magazines, and visits Meadow Brook and Greenfield Village for inspiration.

"We do it for ourselves," she says of the undertaking that she and her husband begin the day after Thanksgiving. "Besides, I'm a practicing psychologist, and work-





## Many dimensions Side-stepping boredom

staff writer

Kegham Tarlan moves adroitly
from one art medium to another
without ever losing his persons
identity or lowering his standards of
excellence. In fact going back and
forth between a variety of disciplines — ceramic and bronze sculpiture, oil painting, collage, drawing
and multimedia works is both natural and necessary for him if he is to
continue to explore, be creative and
grow.

continue to explore, be creative and grow. first one-man show in four years at the Cade Gallery of Royal Oak through Jan. 11 illustrates his "It can't set any boundaries as to "at an medium work with — I can't stand overlang will be same medi-um too loog," be said.

. Please turn to Page 3 erge oil painting, right, has he textural quality so char-icteristic of Tazian's col-ages.





Kegham Tazian was at Cade Gallery while his exhibit was being arranged by owner Joe Fugate. Razian's sculptures, particularly, have a