Light the Holiday Spirit

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Light the Holiday Spirit

Cloak your home in Christmas gaiety with the help of Dorothy Anne Roost who offers tips on combining lights with designs and color

Make this holiday a sparkling one, expressing the season's greetings with original lighting effects outdoors and in. In the illustration below figures of the Wise Men located above the doorway, are silhouetted against a silvery blue background. Green plywood trees are emphasized by multi-colored lights. Pine branches lend the final touch.

The star glowing atop the fraternity house at the right belies its tin-can origin. Light radiates from a cellophane covered star cut in the top of a large metal can and from slits along the side. Composition board cutouts backed with colored lights complete the picture.

Simple but effective arrangements can be evolved as the holidays approach, from the use of spot lights and color roundels placed behind strategic bushes. The doorway at the left glows from a projector spot lamp covered with amber colored cellophane, in bold contrast to the rest of the house which is toned a delicate blue green. You can work out your own color schemes and patterns of light.

At the top of the next page is a striking, successful centerpiece, a bowlful of Christmas tree lamps over which are shining colorful Christmas balls. Greens and tall candles com-
plete the sparkling effect in a fairy-like manner.

Reflected in the mirror at the right are the colors of lamps concealed in a metal vase that holds silvery artificial Japanese lanterns, purchasable at the dime store. The arrangement is mellowed by the light from candles in star-shaped holders.

Another striking vase decoration would contain a large twig which has been dipped into a thin starch solution, then into Christmas snow. Place blue cellophane over the lamps in the bottom of the vase. You can hang cranberries or colored gumdrops on the twig. If you do accent a room with an unusual lighting and color pattern like this, enhance its charm by placing it in front of a mirror, either on a table or mantelpiece.

Cut modernistic Christmas trees from heavy white cardboard or composition board. Fasten a light bulb between the two flat pieces and the gleam at the sides will look like snow.

Lovely shadow patterns to accent a room can be created by concealing lamps behind or in a shallow bowl, in which are pine branches, as illustrated at the lower left. The shadows are cast by a few of the pine branches which extend back toward the wall from the arrangement, and may be tinted by adding one or two larger lamps of a contrasting color.

An energetic decorator can construct a large star as illustrated below, with a wooden frame, chicken wire and light bulbs. This should be mounted against a sturdy background and wired down. The star in the center may be a large electric one or the remains of a tin can. If you feel a creative urge, express your Christmas feelings in light and yours will be a sparkling Yuletide.