

## How Newport's Gilded Age Mansions Are Decorated for Christmas

Every year, a team of 100 volunteers gets down to holiday business.

by **ROBERT KHEDERIAN**

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COURTESY THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF NEWPORT COUNTY

The mansions of Newport, Rhode Island were once boarded up the moment the summer was over. The Gilded Age took its seasons seriously and the summer cottage was, well, just for summer.

No longer. Now operated as house museums by [the Preservation Society of Newport County](#), three of the mansions—Marble House, the Elms, and the Breakers—reach their peak glory in the colder months. As soon as the seasons change, they transform into winter wonderlands for [Christmas at the Newport Mansions](#).



THE GREAT HALL AT THE BREAKERS.

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“Each house is stylistically different, and we underscore those differences through the [Christmas decorations](#),” says Jim Donahue, curator of historic landscapes and horticulture at [the Preservation Society of Newport County](#). “The Elms has a pastoral, country feel to it, while Marble House is completely over-the-top Rococo, and the Breakers is Beaux Arts.”

Instead of [historically accurate Christmas decor](#), Donahue uses modern holiday decorating styles. He believes it's in the spirit of the

Preservation Society's endeavor. "These mansions were summer cottages; they were not originally decorated for Christmas," says Donahue.

For complete story: <https://www.townandcountrymag.com/leisure/travel-guide/a25561015/newport-mansions-breakers-christmas-decor/>