



# Country in the City Christmas Magic

*Country Living* creates an enchanted forest in the heart of a historic New York City park

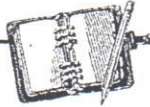
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL KOPELOW

**T**housands of shoppers and sightseers flock to Midtown Manhattan every day during the holiday season, eager to catch a glimpse of the Christmas pageant at Radio City Music Hall, the giant evergreen that towers over the ice-skating rink at Rockefeller Center, and the festive storefronts that flank Fifth Avenue. Last December, a new tradition was born when, as a gift to the city of New York, *Country Living* transformed the great lawn at Bryant Park into a fantasy forest populated by moose, grizzlies, and bear cubs fashioned from grapevines, wire, and twinkling lights. Inspired by the *Country Living* Forest—a reader-supported reforestation project in the Greater Yellowstone area—*Country Living* Holiday in Bryant Park offered pedestrians an escape from the big-city bustle in a 10-acre oasis behind the main branch of the New York Public Library. Visit the magical scene this year from November 27 through January 2.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THIS YEAR'S EXHIBIT, PLEASE CONTACT THE BRYANT PARK RESTORATION CORP. FOREST DESIGNED BY P. C. RUECKWALD FLORAL SERVICE. LIVE TREES COURTESY OF KREITNER'S TREES. SEE SHOPPING GUIDE FOR DETAILS.



Set against the backdrop of New York City's skyscrapers, *Country Living* Holiday in Bryant Park brings a bit of country spirit to 42nd Street. The holiday display will be re-created on the park's three-and-a-half-acre great lawn this year.



Year after year, our December issues continue to be among our favorites—filled with that distinctive mixture of merriment, history, elegance, reverence, and family tradition that go into making an American country Christmas. As we come to the last of our 1997 issues, we at *Country Living* have reason to feel especially festive, because we are beginning to gear up for our 20th birthday celebration. Although our actual anniversary date comes with the October 1998 issue, we've decided to spend the whole year ahead paying tribute to the ever-fluid, yet ever-classic American country style.

To start, in January, we are freshening up the look of our cover and column headings. Through the years, we've changed our graphics a little now and then, just as your decorating style has evolved. On the cover of next month's issue (*right*), you'll notice a slightly different look for our logo, and our banner has become a little thinner, highlighting some of the topics explored in every issue and, at the same time, affording you a larger view of our cover image.

Other plans in the works for our 20th anniversary year include more crafts projects under the guidance of Richard Kollath (who created the charming miniature trees and colorful holiday place mats featured on pages 112–115), more entertainment ideas from designer Peri Wolfman, more of the heartwarming essays of Faith Andrews Bedford (who will be a contributing editor), and more sensible advice on the speeded-up world of consumer home electronics under the tutelage of writer David Elrich. Since we know that antiques remain one of your top interests, we'll keep bringing you regular updates on the furniture, textiles, and accessories that will never, *never* go out of style, from painted furniture to Shaker boxes and, of course, quilts.

Throughout 1998, Editor's Journal, too, will be a bit different, carrying not only my own memories and musings, but the thoughts of several other members of our editorial family. All of us on staff are excited about our new look and our new additions, because we think they'll help you to enjoy *Country Living* more than ever. We hope that when you see next month's issue, you'll agree that we're remembering what's important and moving ahead in the right direction.

We wish you a Christmas to remember, and a Happy New Year!

*Rachel Newman*



**Left:** Our new look for the new year. **Below:** In Mississippi, Barbara and Mike Quick (*second from left and far right, respectively*) revived an Antebellum cottage slated for the wrecker's ball. Please see "The Ultimate Antique," page 130. **Bottom:** A new tradition began last year, when the Bryant Park Restoration Corp. invited us to decorate this Midtown Manhattan park for the holidays ("Christmas Magic," page 124). Many luminaries attended the lighting ceremony, but Boomer, New York City Parks Commissioner Henry Stern's adorable golden retriever, stole the show.

