

Here in the northeast, winter has presented its calling card a few times already – in fact, I write this while snow falls over Manhattan’s parks, bridges, towers and townhouses. And shoppers. While I don’t love the fact that it gets dark by 4 o’clock, one nice perk is that the city’s lights are aglow early, abundant and cheering. Early evening walks are even more beautiful than those taken in muggy summer, since facades, spires, lampposts, and especially people sparkle with hospitable illumination.



23 karat Italian gold leaf over plaster mantel by [Mark Randall Studio](#)



German 23 karat gold leaf verre eglomise fireplace screen by [Matt Meyer Fine Gilding](#)



Above and right dining room fireplace with Italian aluminum leaf verre eglomise by [Simes Studios](#) © Simes Studios 2017



Verre eglomise detail [Simes Studios](#) © Simes Studios 2017

There’s a heightened feeling of warmth and congeniality when one comes in from the cold bluster of the outdoors.

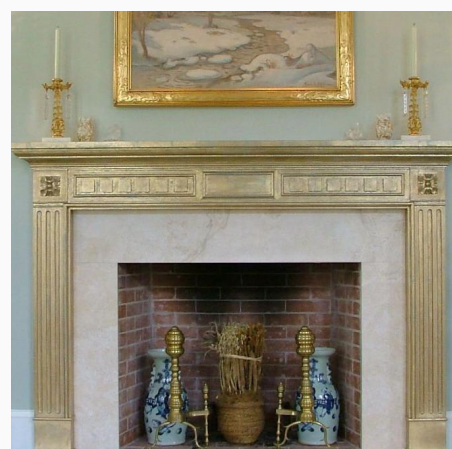
Maybe our inner early cave dweller’s DNA comes out, to lead us further into our dwellings, fling our furry mammoth capes and boots aside, and head straight for the welcoming flames of the hearth.

Of course, these days, we’re rarely faced with an actual blaze – fire pits are snug in their snowbeds on terraces. Indoors, we can enjoy all manner of safely contained embers.

And, because we modern cave dwellers love to embellish, we’ve devised delightful methods to extend the physical and visual heat we enjoy, to spark the light and manifest the holiday glow. Often, the decoration out-dazzles the fire itself!



Verre eglomise glass surround with Lemon Gold, Moon Gold and Imitation Gold Leaf



Gilded and Glazed Fireplace Mantel

Above left and right by [Heidi Holzer Design and Decorative Work](#)

To keep you going till you can get to your own hearth, you can bask in the glow cast by this scattering of beautiful fireplace surrounds. Baby, it’s gold inside.

Jennifer Longworth

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