

INTERIORS

JOANNE & ALAN LABEOUF • 3392 OLYMPIC DRIVE



Our **North Pole Village** was started in 2000 when Joanne bought the first piece for me. I'd been admiring the handiwork of 'Department 56', a famous producer of miniature, hand-crafted lighted theme villages and their components. Over the next several years, as the village grew larger than their coffee table could handle, there was a need to make a display to accommodate the growing collection. I designed and built the layered and shelf display to house the village in a way that would allow all buildings to be seen. Each year another section was added somewhere to house the new buildings produced that year until the village area available in the room was maxed out a couple of years ago.

When the village had expanded to a larger size, there was room to incorporate the American Flyer trains that I'd kept from my childhood. The four trains you see date from the 1950s.

The village has **207** buildings, **27** large accessories (elves, santas, sleighs, animals, etc.), and **290** small accessories. It is populated by **22** Santas, but only **9** versions of Mrs. Claus. There are **452** elves: **336** men, **38** women, and **78** children. There are **648** trees, and **37** bushes plus the continuous line of round shrubs around the lower level.

The structure of the display is composed of **40** modular pieces that are put together each year with over **600** bolts and screws. There are **28** back modules holding **44** shelves. The display has **46** trap doors underneath, and **71** hatches on the tops and sides to allow access to all of the complex wiring to light the buildings and trees, and to set things in motion. Speaking of wiring, there is a total of **2,632 feet of wires**, which is a half mile! The whole display is held up by **60** legs on wheels. There are **33** street lights: gumdrops, snowflakes, and candy canes. **36** reindeer are located throughout the village, including Rudolph of course. There are also **18** polar bears, **11** penguins, and **17** snowmen, as well as various dogs, ducks, and other characters like Mickey and Scrooge McDuck. The snowflakes gently falling on all the backboards were all hand glued in place, and there are over **10,000** of those. Ask me how I know that!



- ALAN LABEOUF

