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HOLIDAY HOME

LAVISH
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*Creative
Christmas
Displays*

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Filled with
**ENCHANTING
SEASONAL CHARM**



Traditional with a Twist

A YOUNG FAMILY CELEBRATES
THE SEASON IN STYLE.



When Elizabeth and George Bassett redesigned their Alexandria, Virginia, house, they wanted to create a family home where traditions could thrive with contemporary flair.

“We wanted the exterior to look like it had evolved over time, but inside, the house features elements that are classic yet fresh, reflecting this vibrant young family,” says architect Christine Kelly of Crafted Architecture when referencing what was once a small brick house and is now a five-bedroom Colonial.

“Christmas is such an active and joyous time for us,” says homeowner Elizabeth Bassett. “We have three young children (ages 6, 8, and 11) who believe in the magic. It’s also always been a season for them to see their grandparents and other special people in our lives.”



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Traditions are handed down. Elizabeth associates Christmas with her father's parents. "Having them visit us in Ohio from New York was the most wonderful part of the holidays for me, even more so than the hordes of gifts they'd bring!"

Honoring grandparents has become part of the holiday tradition in the Bassett home, where Elizabeth's and George's parents come to stay each year for the season. Decorating officially begins after Thanksgiving.

"Unpacking the ornaments each year is a gift in itself and a walk down memory lane," Elizabeth says. "I start by hanging ornaments that represent family members on our main tree in the family room. I always start with glass-blown bluebirds for my grandparents, a record player ornament in memory of my father-in-law, themed ornaments marking the births of our children, and so on."

The family room's tree is the tallest in the home. It features cascading iridescent blush and green ribbons and vintage glass garlands. Tucked throughout the tree are all the personal family ornaments, highlighting years of tradition.

Yet the Bassett holiday palette is anything but traditional—Elizabeth trades dark reds and greens and heavy tartans for a confection of pastel pinks, blushes, and blues; golds; and doses of cheery reds and lime greens. "It feels very 1960s Grinch meets Mad Men," she adds.



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The Bassetts' home lends itself well to holiday décor that leans toward whimsy. With a foundation of such timeless elements as natural wood and burnished metal, the personality-rich prints and saturated shades can shine to their fullest—meaning details like an over-the-top gingerbread house feel right at home.



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From the foyer tree, which is decked with dried hydrangea and magnolia—and perked up with oranges on party days—to the colorful mid-century glass bulbs decking the home office tree, the season is announced throughout the home. Elizabeth favors high-quality faux trees, which always look good, don't shed or need water, and can be repurposed each year.

The Bassetts also love to host parties, both for the kids and grown-ups, throughout the season. All the decorations ensure guests feel the joy of Christmas as they mingle from room to room.



Framed by a shining emerald green in a high-gloss finish, the view of the dining room promises a gathering that's as comfortable as it is stylish. Cutting a contrast against the ultra-luxe butler's pantry, the classic crystal chandelier and pastel-friendly palette offer visual rest without skimping on charm.



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“My mom threw the best holiday parties, so I’m not sure I’ll ever live up to that,” says Elizabeth. “Every year, we do host a big black-tie Christmas party with 125 people. It’s a great time to dust off the tuxedo slippers and dance! Christine designed the main level to be spacious

and open, so we can accommodate all of our friends.”

Other holiday traditions include baking cookies with heirloom cookie cutouts, hosting an open house after attending church each Christmas Eve, and spending all day in pj’s on Christmas Day. ❄️

Text and Styling by Charlotte Safavi Photography by Robert Radifera



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