

SEASONED WITH SPARKLE

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A BATON ROUGE HOME ILLUMINATES THE CHRISTMAS
SPIRIT USING ELEGANT LIGHTNESS



Santa rarely starts his gifting from scratch. His delivery of presents is usually guided by the wish lists of well-behaved boys and girls with a smidge of creativity thrown in to surprise.

For the Baton Rouge home of Alayna Smith, husband Jason, and their two sons, designer Colleen Waguespack didn't start from scratch either. She and Alayna had spent more than 10 years traveling and visiting antiques shops to acquire pieces for the Smiths' "someday" house that was finally built in 2018. Waguespack's mission was to take that collection and unveil interiors that shed delight and joy every day, as if Santa appears with gifts all year—not just on Christmas morning.

"Alayna dreamed of a house filled with antiques and beautiful artwork from Southern artists," Waguespack says. "We focused on finding things with both quality and value. It was important that anything we bought would last and be just as relevant when the Smiths finished their 'someday' house as they were the day Alayna bought them."

A white Christmas with a glistening blanket of snow on the ground is not in the cards for a home situated in the South. A light Christmas, however, is possible and Alayna's preference for amplifying the interiors. With furniture in warm versions

of cream, with the occasional accent of stained wood and gray, the home beams with elegance and serenity. At Christmas-time, greens intertwine with gold and silver to trumpet the season with luxury and color.

"I'm not a fan of harsh tones with lots of colors," Alayna says. "I'm drawn to light and bright schemes that bring in calm and tranquility. The monotone neutrals set a meditative mood."

The foyer is grand in size but muted in the number of objects that might compete with the sweeping curved staircase. An antique French secretary balances an abstract black-and-white painting on the opposite wall, creating an intriguing mix of eras.

Likewise, the living room assembles old and new. Assigned with streamlined furniture—a shapely feminine sofa, a tufted daybed with midcentury leanings, and a travertine cocktail

Foyer The curve of the grand staircase hints at the season with a simple swag of garland. **Living room** The monotone ivory palette of the living room is punctuated by a chartreuse pillow that rests on the sofa year-round. During the holidays, it informs the Christmas tree trimmings of green, gold, and silver and the coordinating wrapping paper. **Previous pages** Jason and Alayna Smith share their Baton Rouge home, built in 2018, with their sons, Mikey and Ryan.



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Dining room “Because we started collecting antiques years ago, most of the pieces were in the Smiths’ previous home too,” designer Colleen Waguespack says of the dining room furniture. “Alayna wanted to fill in the house with modern pieces, so I designed a plan that could accommodate both.” **Kitchen** Double wreaths hung in the windows and a large poinsettia on the kitchen island prompt the Christmas baking and entertaining. “My boys have grown past gingerbread houses at this point,” Alayna says. “But I imagine grandkids doing the same someday. I want this house to be where they come home with their own families no matter where they live.”





table—the space also welcomes the history of a Swedish bergère chair and a Swedish buffet. Artwork that features shiny leaves by artist George Dunbar dazzles above the classic fireplace.

The kitchen's modern disposition is the yin to the traditional dining room's yang. Clear glass pendants over the island and polished nickel barstools with woven leather seats dot its minimalist design.

On the other hand, the dining room is rooted in traditional flair. Dentil molding caps walls covered in grass cloth with a tone-on-tone chevron print. A rock crystal chandelier lights an ensemble of antique furniture that includes a table with side chairs covered in gray mohair and host chairs upholstered in ticking stripes.

"I'm a girly girl who loves fashion and glitz," Alayna says. "Colleen would help mute that by presenting elements that made their marks but in a way that wasn't too glaring."

Study The multiuse study offers comfortable seating on the velvet sofa, where the Smiths can enjoy a glass of wine. **Portrait** Homeowner Alayna Smith makes notes about holiday entertaining at her desk in the office as Cavalier King Charles spaniels Maddie and Mason seek her attention. **Hallway** A snapshot of the Smiths' affinity for artwork, the hallway features a gallery-style layout of frames on one wall and a pair of bleached Italian consoles and abstract paintings on the other.





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The peaceful vibe transfers to the primary suite, where rest and relaxation are the main intents. The iron canopy bed boasts an airy profile that doesn’t overwhelm. In the corner, the modern lines of a tulip table contrast Swedish antique chairs. At the window, a French chaise provides a comfortable perch to take in the views. A bench with an ivory velvet seat and acrylic legs melts into the scheme. The simplicity of the primary bathroom is punctuated by a sculptural tribal stool.

With a foundation of soft hues, the Smiths’ home invites Christmas to unfold beautifully both in decoration and in the joy that comes from the bevy of guests.

“We are both only children,” Alayna says of herself and Jason. “We are a small but tight family that loves opening our home to entertain family and friends and celebrate Christmas. It’s a sacred time for all of us.”

Interior design Colleen Waguespack Architecture Hoffpauir Studio

Primary bathroom Marble tiles laid in a chevron pattern on the floor offer subtle visual texture with color variation. A striped sheer descends over the arched window. **Primary bedroom** “I like to keep a bedroom all one color,” Waguespack says. “This space had a beautiful view, and the single-color palette was restful, quiet, and soft and didn’t interrupt what was going on outside.” A chinoiserie panel hung to the side of the bed delivers movement and silvery glamour.

