

A Fort Worth home dresses up for the holidays.



MERRY AND BRIGHT

Text by Debi Bryant. Interiors by Joseph Minton. Photography by Ira Montgomery.



Devon, 7, Raelyn, 5, and Vivian, 3, are eager for the festivities to begin in their deep red holiday dresses.



Twinkling tree ornaments and sweet-smelling greenery

combine with serene, gracious interiors to fashion a highly personal statement of style, sentiment and tradition in this elegant Fort Worth home, decorated by Joseph Minton. A towering, thick natural spruce, loaded with old-fashioned, handmade ornaments and crowned with a golden angel, dominates the spacious living area at this time of year. "I like an old-fashioned tree," Joe says. "It suits a house that is furnished with antiques. By using the natural look, the place becomes just what you want for the holidays—warm, cozy and inviting. Besides, it makes everything smell good."



For special entertaining at this time when friends and families gather, Joe set the table using antique cut crystal with gold trim and Crown Derby "Golden Aves" china. "It just looks like the holidays to me. I prefer it to the traditional green and red," he explains. For the floral design, Minton turned to Rob Van Heyningen of Richardson-Whitney, who produced an unusual and memorable table centerpiece of rock crystal spheres and specimens, accompanied by creamy white orchids. "We thought these items picked up my gold and white theme very well," Joe says. The English table of Georgian style is made of burl walnut and came from Joseph Minton Antiques in Dallas.

The comfortable living room features a soft leather sofa, two upholstered English-style lounge chairs and an English ball-and-claw bench upholstered in an Oriental remnant. The fireplace mantle displays a seasonal floral arrangement composed of evergreen cuttings, pine cones and berries interwoven with Chinese red ribbon.

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Even the bedrooms are decked out with holiday flourishes. In the master bedroom, a delightful retreat decorated in soothing whites, creams and beiges, features a French four-poster iron bed draped in pine boughs and magnolia leaves. The bedding is crisp white Irish linen, a theme that is accentuated by the unlined white sheers and bamboo shades on the windows. The ceiling is covered in camel-colored roses on a white background. Contrasting nicely with the off-white woodwork, the walls are also camel-colored. The chairs and throw pillows are covered in a 18th-century pattern of cream, beige and caramel roses, made by Bennison.

In the oldest daughter's room, red-striped walls create a cherished setting for dreams of all sizes. Butterfly prints hang above twin beds that are covered in floral and striped comforters. A festive arrangement of red tulips and berry branches sits brightly on a pine bedside table. Beneath it, a woven basket holds St. Nick and other stuffed toys. Even a favorite teddy bear, waiting expectantly on the bed, gets dressed for the occasion with red bows.

Joe, whose design firm Joseph Minton, Inc. is located in Fort Worth, has been in the design business for 30 years. He says, "I love decorating for the holidays, but, as for me personally, my favorite thing to do at this time of year is go to Colorado and ski. I like to see snow." ❄