

Elegant Equestrian

This North Carolina interior designer's holiday home takes cues from her love of horses and nature—and a hint of glam.



For designer Lauren Clement, husband Chris, and their two daughters, Finley and Campbell, Christmas is a family affair. “I love to involve my daughters in all aspects of my holiday decorating,” Lauren says. “Sometimes, it is as simple as us decorating the tree together.”

The designer's home was custom-built in 2017 by a family who made beautiful and classic selections, Lauren says. However, the family who built the home received a job offer in California and never moved in. So the Clements were able to move into a brand-new, custom-built home.

Throughout the year, the family home is decked with comfortable furnishings and relaxed, decorative accents. Naturally, their holiday decorating follows suit. Lauren describes her personal style as modern traditional with a nod to nature. Her love for the outdoors began in childhood. “I started riding horses when I was 6 years old, and I really spent more time in a barn than anywhere else until I went to college,” she says. “Now, both of my daughters ride, so the nature/farm/wildlife concept is natural to me, as it is my passion.” And while nature-inspired motifs may be her comfort zone, Lauren doesn't shy away from a touch of glitz and glam. “Don't get me wrong—I still love a bit of formality and sparkle here and there,” she says. “Balance is certainly called for when decorating for any occasion!”

“I love a little sparkle but not too much,” owner Lauren Clement shares. “I am a horse girl, so touches of nature, logs, raw wood, barns, wildlife all speak to me.” She departs from a more traditional farmhouse style, opting for a look that incorporates elements found in nature with layers of beautiful whites and traditional reds and greens.

In the living room, Lauren decorates with lighter colors like ivory and champagne, as well as some darker neutrals such as chocolate brown—all colors found in nature—and then adds subtle textures and patterns to liven it up. “I wanted to incorporate a Christmas design that looked like it could live in my home longer than just the month of December and felt smoother, more integrated,” she says. Lauren also decorates not one but two trees, which flank the fireplace in the living room. “The space on either side of the fireplace is quite large, and I am an incredibly symmetry-focused person,” she says. “After I put the [first] tree up, it just felt like there should be one on the other side as well. Plus, I like to throw a curve ball and mix things up a bit!”

Christmas in the Clement home is warm, cozy, and low-key, Lauren shares. “We all run at a fast pace, and this is the one day we all stay in our pajamas, snack all day, maybe take a nap; it is truly a day to just be us,” she says. Before they can fully relax, they spend a great deal of time prepping in the kitchen. “There is a lot of baking leading up to Christmas, which has made for so many fun memories,” Lauren says. “We use our island all of the time to prep as well as to serve. It is also home base for all holiday crafts that I do with my girls.”

The family’s beloved dog, Lucy, a 13-year-old dachshund rescued in 2006, enjoys the holiday décor from the comfort of a cozy chair.





In the kitchen, Lauren decked her barstools with embroidered burlap ribbon from Park Hill, along with an aluminum star, red ribbon, and a holly sprig for a quick and easy holiday touch.



The breakfast room provides the perfect backdrop for cozy holiday meals, and Lauren notes that the large raw wood chest is one of her favorite things to accessorize for the holidays. “I wanted a place for us to enjoy casual meals that is both easy and inviting,” she says of the breakfast room. “The [dining table’s] aluminum top is amazing for durability with kids, and I have a mix of easy-to-clean all-wooden chairs and then the upholstered banquette love seat on the far side for a cozy place to chat and eat.”

Lauren admits her family like to put their décor up as early as possible each season so they have more time to enjoy it—and with the relaxed, cozy space she creates, who can blame them?



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