

YOUR MID-SOUTH HOME AND GARDEN MAGAZINE

FOOX

November • December 2015

INSPIRING
GIFT IDEAS

HANUKKAH
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HOLIDAY
ISSUE

**CRAFTSMAN
ANTIQUE**

A Midtown treasure

Classic



Architecture, Contemporary Accents

Story by **Holli Weatherington** • Photos by **Mike Boatman**

Upon stepping into the Hood family's home in Midtown, one is immediately struck by the beauty of the past with the craftsman architecture, heavy moldings and millwork. Then, what brings the home to life is a diverse mix of rich colors, both modern and classic furniture, and all rooms are adorned with or accented by contemporary art. Built in 1925, the home is complete with a synthesis of arched walls and ceilings, exposed brick and all the charming aspects expected of a home built in the early twentieth century.

"This house may be an antique but we don't treat it that way," says owner, Betsy Hood. "We try to be true to the architecture and style, but we make it fun and funky."

"There's not a straight floor in the place," she adds. "My favorite thing about it is how airy it is, the tall ceilings and the quirkiness of it. I like old houses. They're built better."

Hood's style is what she coins "amped up transitional" in that she and her husband, Jason, love arts and crafts, along with strong colors. Each room is painted a different color, all neutral but deep tones, complimented by bold accents and modern touches, as well as classic furniture.

With a family of four, two cats and one dog, this family definitely uses every inch of this home. From the front foyer to formal dining room and expansive kitchen, to the upstairs library and ultra-cool stone sun room, no part of the home is off limits from the flow of everyday life.

The Hood's designer, Anna Lattimore, works with them to create the eclectic energy. Their builder, Tim DiSalvo, handles the renovations and architectural touches.

Lattimore says that most of the paint colors chosen are historical colors that have been grayed down. For instance in the entryway, it's a warm charcoal that appears almost blue. The dining room is a gold color that Betsy coined "bit-o-honey" while the living room is a grayish green and the kitchen is a stronger Safari/avocado color. Lattimore

explains that all the family's wall colors are an equal level, neutral but rich.

"They have a warm palette with colors that are saturated," says Lattimore. "That gives the house variety but it is a back drop to their art and furnishings. We didn't want their walls to be the stars."

The Hoods are faithful to their craftsman house while putting their stamp on things.

"They like strong color and I think one thing we did create is harmony among the strong colors by taking it far enough," Lattimore adds.

"With an older house you can change things on the walls. With the heavy molding around windows and cased openings, you can use a stronger tone because it holds up to it," continues Lattimore. "The millwork in houses like that can be overwhelming so colors help bring it all together."

"By contrast, in an open floor plan it's harder to make sense of changing all the colors, so often you get to

have more fun with color in an older home," says Lattimore. "A lot of their art is more contemporary and that keeps the house very fresh and alive and relevant."

The fireplace renovation helped tie the living room together better with the grayish walls of the living room and the adjoining rooms with their green tones.



A fresh bundle made with real magnolia leaves, pine cones, ivy and pine sprigs offers a unique and fresh take on the holiday decor.



Expanded cabinets and separate fridge and freezer offer plenty of room for this family.

“Before, the fireplace was in pink granite and I hated it,” says Hood.

The theme of unique tiles is repeated throughout the house. The fireplace is covered with hand painted glazed tiles in shades of green and the mantel was painted white.

In the kitchen, DiSalvo redid the floor and renovated the kitchen with new cabinetry and a glass tile backsplash. The backsplash was definitely in keeping with the home’s personality — classic lines with bold statements.

“That is totally unexpected in a house like that,” says Lattimore. “I love for every house to have a conversation piece

and that backsplash is definitely a conversation piece.”

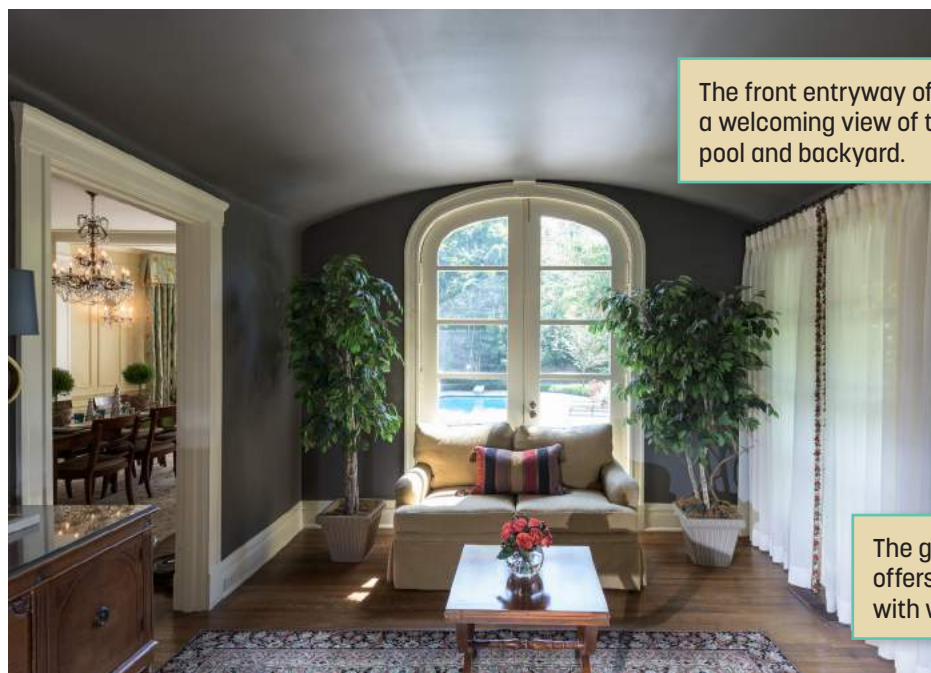
Some of the same architectural touches seen on the outside of the home are echoed in the house.

“Tim worked hard to match the hood and island corbels,” explains Hood. “He copied the exterior corbels.”

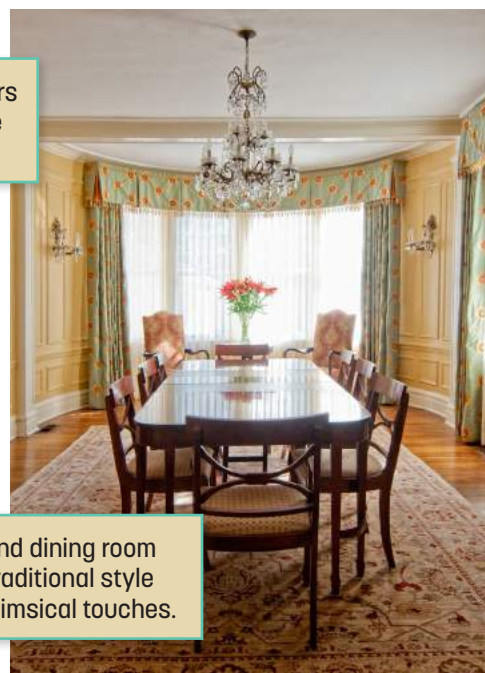
The dining room has traditional, handed down pieces, and colorful local art. The draperies pull it together.

“Tall ceilings, millwork detail, paneling and large bay window make it a very grand room. The color and sun-flowers is all Betsy — fun and whimsical,” says Lattimore.

Concludes Betsy, “I don’t want what everybody else has.”



The front entryway offers a welcoming view of the pool and backyard.



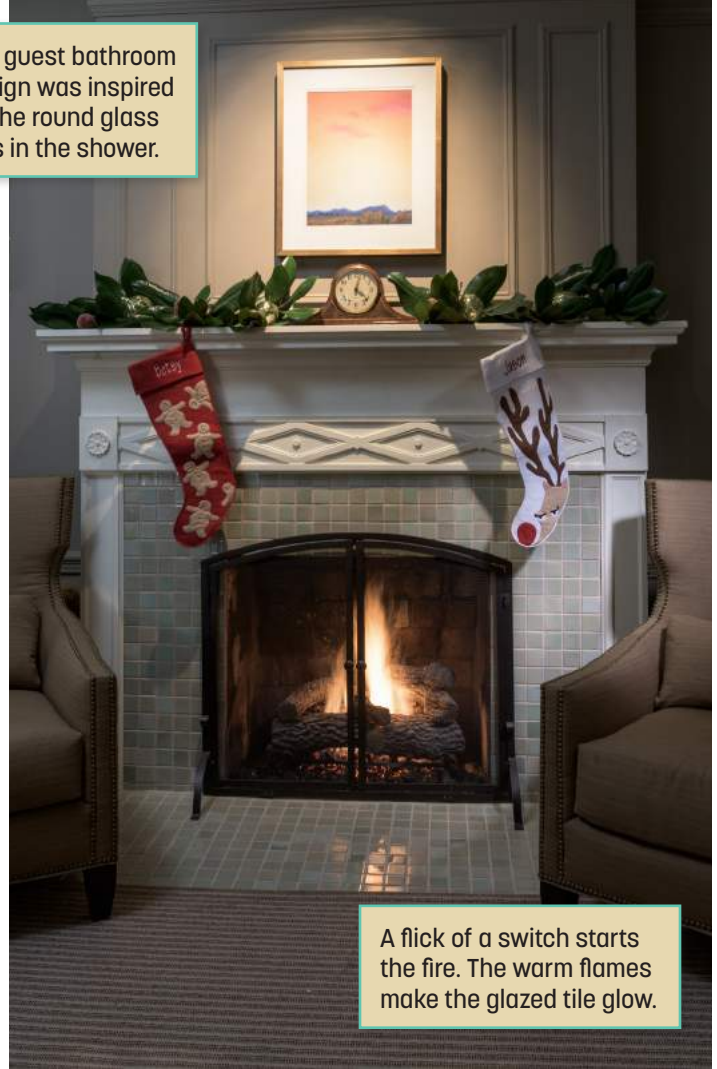
The grand dining room offers traditional style with whimsical touches.



The guest bathroom design was inspired by the round glass tiles in the shower.



This wreath is handmade with magnolia leaves.



A flick of a switch starts the fire. The warm flames make the glazed tile glow.

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