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LISA HENDERSON
the
**SOUTHERN
BELLE**

Lisa Henderson, owner of the eponymous Lisa Henderson Interiors, is lauded for her updated take on traditional spaces, mixing classic silhouettes and patterns with fresh color palettes and playful details. She's no stranger to working with antiques, drawn not only to their timeless natures but to the stories behind them as well. That formula holds true in the University Park home she shares with her husband, Luke, and their children Lottie, 13; Luke, 11; and Libby, 8. The beautiful yet livable spaces inside are filled not only with punchy fabrics, passementerie, and touches of whimsy but also treasures picked up on travels and plenty of meaningful family mementos.

So it's no surprise that Henderson follows the same tried-and-true design principles when it comes to the holidays. "I love a super traditional Christmas," she says. "I want my holiday decor to be meaningful, too. An heirloom and a collection at Christmas is really important to me."

All the Wrappings:
The focal point of Lisa Henderson's living room is the Christmas tree. She learned how to needpoint about 15 years ago, and each year she handcrafts new ornaments to hang on the tree. She also sprinkles in ornaments that she collects while traveling. "I'm always the person to pop into a Christmas tree store and get a little something," she says.



Seasonal Sentiments:
Henderson's holiday table is the perfect balance of precious and approachable. "Not every item has to be formal," she explains. "Those [Missette] placemats are very casual, and they are mixed with the more formal [Bernardaud] china." Other items are finds from the family's travels. Their collection of nutcrackers make up the nostalgic centerpiece.

To wit, Henderson is currently amassing a set of holiday china that she plans to one day pass down to her daughters. She also collects nutcrackers, allowing each of her children to pick out a new one each year. The assortment is displayed on bookshelves and incorporated into her tabletop centerpiece. But they aren't just for show, she insists. "The kids love to play with them," she says. "They break. We fix them. There's lots of repairs done on those nutcrackers over the years, and that's OK."

Each year, it's a family affair when Henderson brings down the boxes of seasonal decorations. The family listens to holiday music as they unpack and decorate the tree together. They especially delight in hanging the ornaments. Henderson herself has needpointed more than three dozen (see page at right), each of which commemorates a memory or experience that happened that year. "Christmas should be sentimental and nostalgic and special," she says. "It's about family." ■