

decorating

A COLLECTED CHRISTMAS

CAREFULLY CURATED VINTAGE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS IN SHADES OF PINK, DESIGNER BAMBI BRATTON'S SIGNATURE COLOR, PROVIDE ENDLESS OPTIONS FOR HOLIDAY DECORATING AND FUN ANTIQUING TRIPS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

By **Ann Koehler** | Photography by **Buff Strickland**



When Bambi and David Bratton began the search for their first home together, the property they chose held a small bungalow, built in 1938, framed by a white picket fence. At 640 square feet, they had a vision that one day this would become the office for their growing businesses, Bambi A'Lynn Interior Design and Watermark Homes by David Bratton. Behind the bungalow, on a nice grassy expanse, they could already picture the home of their dreams. Two years later, as both of their businesses grew and combined, they were ready to build.

During those two years, David worked towards his vision of the new home addition and readapted office, and Bambi planned every detail, from the teal blue gloss paint in the library and the double-sided fireplace framed with hand-painted Moroccan tile, to the cozy banquette-lined dining nook where the morning sun filters through a row of windows framed by café-curtains overlooking the tableau. Even the upstairs space was carefully crafted with her growing nieces and nephews in mind — cozy bed alcoves tucked under the gables with trundles beneath, piled high with custom French mattresses and cheerful pillows in inviting hand-blocked prints. “Pink has always been my favorite color but in decorating my home with my

husband, I gravitated towards the blues that would balance the femininity that pink brings to a home. We used softer shades of blue-gray in the front rooms, a pale blue-green in the kitchen, a deeper shade of teal blue in the library and indigo blues in the upstairs guest quarters,” explains Bambi on how she created a balanced color palette that transitions from room to room.

She has also scoured the Round Top Antiques Fair twice a year for collections — creamware, silver, antique linens and Christmas ornaments were bought and carefully stored until the day came when she could find the perfect placement in her new home. Bambi's love for color, textiles and antiques comes even more alive during the holiday season when she decks her

home in shades of pink mixed with natural elements in green and white. In every room, there are coordinated holiday decorations displayed in very refined ways. Bambi's strategy for consistency throughout the whole home: “We focus on highlighting specific areas with individual vignettes using vintage ornaments, pink glass balls, ribbon and fresh greenery.”

Throughout the year, her mother and sisters comb estate sales and antique stores for antique pink ornaments to complement her white Christmas tree. “I usually find unique ornaments during my Round Top shopping trip. This year I am specifically looking for glass tree toppers and an antique crèche,” she says. As her holiday collection grows, so do her displays, saying that she has been adding to and cultivating the overall look since they moved into the addition 10 years ago.

Already thinking ahead to this holiday season, Bambi adds, “Last year was a favorite but I always find areas to enhance. For example, this year I would like to incorporate the front yard and porch, including adding a live Christmas tree, box-wood topiaries and a new wreath.” ♦

BAMBI A'LYNN INTERIOR DESIGN
214.354.5552 | bambialynn.com | @bambialynn

