



Lindsay of LVI Designs has created a naturally sophisticated home for her family. The living room, with a neutral palette of grey and cream, is full of curated accessories, texture and lots of natural light. Beautiful Christmas decorations set a joyful tone during the holidays.



STORY **KATHLEEN DUNCAN**  
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*The most wonderful time of the year*

A new Christmas stocking has been added to the decorated mantel of a Thornton home this season, although second-time parents Lindsay and Jeff suspect their baby may outshine the décor when out-of-town relatives arrive for the celebrations.

**RIGHT:** Ellie, the family's golden retriever, relaxes on a comfy sofa in the den. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT:** Linen stockings with fur trim are hung by the chimney with care. **RIGHT:** Lindsay used Simply White on the stairs and all trim while walls are painted Natural Linen by Benjamin Moore. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Curtains hang from floor-to-ceiling, framing a window on the landing leading upstairs. It's a quiet nook with a view.



The little one's birth was certainly a joyful occasion, but not the introduction Lindsay was expecting to make this year. "The welcome arrival of our second son delayed the official launch of my interior décor company **LVI Designs**," smiles the happy mom, whose eight-year-old son is still getting used to the idea of being a big brother. "In the meantime, I took the opportunity to transform this house into our new home." The young family was content living in Springwater Township until two-and-a-half years ago, when a sudden change of heart had them relocating 20 minutes down the road. "We weren't planning to move, but I completely fell in love with this house," she recalls, citing the irresistible lure of a bygone era. "It's the detailing and the craftsmanship that went into it. There are cute, little spaces that were obviously well thought out. Such nooks and crannies just aren't around any more." *Continued on page 80*



**FAR LEFT:** The creamy, neutral palette continues in the kitchen. Black is the metal colour of choice, selected for hardware on traditional cabinetry and in lighting over the island and dining table. **LEFT:** Santa, in his favourite blue suit, watches over the Christmas tree in the living room covered in lights and full of white, silver and gold baubles. **BELOW LEFT:** Lindsay's favourite butter tarts fill a silver, tiered tray on the stone counter. **BELOW:** Tufted linen dining chairs surround the raw, natural dining table topped with festive greenery.

Across 5,000 square feet, this 11-year-old traditional-style brick residence boasts multiple balconies (inside and out), transom windows (interior and exterior) and two child-sized hideaways tucked into the eaves. Designing for the unique personality of each room, Lindsay tucked beds into dormers, added a flush-mounted fixture to the nursery's nine-foot ceiling, and highlighted the hidden gem that is the stepped-down master bath haven.

Downstairs, it's the cosy front den that gets the stamp of approval as the preferred go-to spot for father and son.

"It feels like an old soul of a house," she reflects, with a particular fondness for the window-seat alcove that has become a favourite reading retreat for her and her

first born. "The charm reminds me of a Southern colonial."

To make it her own, she brought in her "comfort colours" of greys and creams, visiting **Irvine Carpet One Floor & Home** to source custom draperies and Benjamin Moore's Natural Linen for the walls and Simply White for the wide trim work and many mouldings.

The neutral palette, enhanced by the pattern and texture of a **Bayfield Carpet Inc.** runner, flows up an open switchback staircase. The large landing, which invites a pause with its book nook armchair and balcony access, functions as much as a destination as it does a transition.

The result provides a serene backdrop for the colours of Christmas.

Reflected lights from the decorated Fraser fir dance across the living room's full wall of windows, and sparkle from the walnut flooring to the black iron chandelier on the 25-foot coffered ceiling above. Adding warmth and balancing scale is the ornate fireplace, flanked by matching built-ins with shelves to host an array of holiday accoutrements.

"Our favourite Christmas ornament is one we all made together of an imprint of our beloved dog's paw print. Our golden retriever Molson was a very special part of our family and every year we take it out, it reminds us of her and we get to hang part of her memory on our tree."

Ellie, a young golden retriever, has since joined the household to make new memories.

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The formal wainscoting of the living room gives way to a wide archway revealing the chef's kitchen where their traditional turkey dinner will be prepared with many hands and much laughter. French doors beyond the kitchen table hint at the large terrace beyond, but for this meal the formal dining awaits via the main hall – or by servers through a butler's pantry.

“It gives the illusion of open concept, yet the warmth of defined spaces,” says Lindsay, who enjoys the outdoors just as much. “We entertain a lot, so the expansive decks are great when family comes over. We love the

outdoor fireplace – especially when the weather turns cold.”

Neighbours are never far away in this cul-de-sac on the edge of town, but the 1.5-acre property has been strategically developed and landscaped to optimize privacy and rural vistas. Overseen from the back deck, a small but lush forest splits the backyard into the lower and upper lawns with sheltered walking trails perfect for young imaginations and a playful puppy.

An in-ground pool is planned near the pergola-covered patio, giving multiple options for outdoor living and welcoming new friends.

In the dining room, a round, solid wood pedestal table has two sets of linen covered chairs, both with tufted backs. Black, glass fronted cabinets flank the fireplace. A wreath hangs from the mirror and a bowl of clementines on the mantel add a festive touch and a pop of colour to the room.

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Originally from Burlington, the couple of 15 years knew family and friends would also be frequent visitors. **Prycon Custom Building & Renovations** installed a guest suite in the walk-out basement. While the new rooms match the tone of their upstairs cousins, the adjacent family room features a more casual, rustic style with its stone fireplace, barn beam mantel and tongue-in-groove pine ceiling.

Lindsay accessorized throughout with treasures they've collected over the years and with new finds from local retailers.

As this personal project wraps up and as motherhood allows, she will turn her focus to establishing LVI Designs and lending her creativity to client homes and businesses.

"I've done commercial work as well, but it's mostly residential spaces of all styles," she says, anticipating the challenge of taking her passion to a new level of professionalism. "My company will concentrate on interior décor – the colours, the furniture and the overall design."

Until then, Lindsay, Jeff and their sons are enjoying their new family dynamic in their beautiful home. **OH**

In the master suite, Lindsay layers fabric in grey and cream and adds a hint of faux fur to a room furnished with bespoke furniture. The home's hidden gem is the master en suite, which you have to step down into. Here, Lindsay adds a light blue to the walls, which blends beautifully with the cream-coloured cabinetry.



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