

# TRADITIONAL HOME

KITCHEN RENOVATION:  
For the love of France

COMFORT & JOY  
FRESH TAKES ON CLASSIC CHRISTMAS DECOR

*Must-Have  
Metallics  
That Sparkle  
with Style*

WINTER  
2025



# ROLE REVERSAL

THE TABLES ARE TURNED IN VIRGINIA'S HORSE COUNTRY, WHERE CHILDREN LEAD THE WAY FOR GENERATIONS OF MEMORIES

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**T**he adults in a family are most commonly responsible for orchestrating Christmas. They shop for patent leather Mary Janes and tiny bow ties to be worn by their children at the school pageant. They schedule the family portrait that will grace holiday cards sent to friends and family. They delicately unwrap a bevy of nostalgic ornaments that remind of Christmases past, and they supply the kitchen with all the necessary confections to embellish gingerbread houses with architectural sweetness.

But at Beau and Dea Van Metre's Middleburg, Virginia, expanse, their children—granted, their adult children—played seminal roles in the development of the house's personality. First, their daughter Ashley led them to Kerry Delrose. The New York designer created interiors so decadent in design frills that Santa surely lingers with his cookies for a bit before carrying on to deliver gifts at his next stop.

"Ashley and her husband hired Kerry to decorate their home in North Carolina," Dea says. "They introduced us to him after that. We met him at The Plaza Hotel in New York for an initial meeting, and we had instant chemistry."

The Van Metres' house, originally built in 1934, has been in the family for more than 40 years. Beau's father had taken possession in 1984 and built a new wing that would eventually host two weddings—Beau and Dea's in 1989, and their daughter's in 2000. But after Beau's father passed, the house became too much for his stepmother to tend to. The neglect, in addition to a dated scheme, required attention and work.

Enter Chris Van Metre, Beau and Dea's son, who is a home builder. He envisioned glory, but it would require a facelift.



**Portrait and exterior** Beau and Dea Van Metre have lived in their Georgian home in Virginia since 2019. **Foyer** Patterned wallpaper sets the tone for maximalism. An antique carved and gilded French table is topped with red marble. **Previous pages** Draperies in the octagonal living room tuck into the moldings, clearing the view to the Blue Ridge Mountains. The entry's English center table features a turned-wood and barley-twist base. Santas and mini Christmas trees perch against the antiqued mirror walls.





During the renovation, Chris discovered original stone walls behind stucco. He carved out a large bedroom suite for his younger sister, Alison, from an area up the back staircase that was once staff quarters. He also added an apartment for the Van Metres' assistant, Alba, above the garage.

After the structural redo, Delrose started checking off stylish appointments from a long wish list that rivaled that of any child who believes they are "nice" and worthy of many toys.

Wish fulfillment begins in the foyer, where—like a package wrapped in beautiful paper with all the glitzy toppers—the festive entry hall unveils its own gift of pizzazz. A hand-painted wallpaper with a shimmering silver ground lines both walls of the wide space. Its detailed branches and birds summon pieces that are equally enchanting. A sparkling crystal chandelier, a marble-top carved Italian console, and a Venetian mirror all emphasize the wallpaper's stature.

At the end of the entry hall, an octagonal living room boasts walls of windows that frame the beautiful vista of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the distance like an important landscape painting—but this one is live and ever-changing. An assortment of upholstered seating defines the red-and-blue palette that carries throughout the house.

**Office** Beau and Dea share an office space that showcases the greatest hits of family mementos. Photographs, certificates, trophies, and a painting that alludes to the family's sailing pastime are displayed in the paneled room. The original fireplace and millwork add layers of interest and support the home's classic architecture. Silk velvet printed to mimic a kilim rug covers armchairs. The burl wood grandfather clock is a family heirloom. **Living room** A tree of life rug lays a colorful ground for the host of both solid and cut velvet seating. Side tables with red lacquer tops visually sync with the Christmas decorations.





I LOVE THIS HOUSE EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR, BUT WITH THE HORSES, IT'S MEANT FOR CHRISTMAS."

—homeowner Beau Van Metre







Designer Kerry Delrose understood that dining room walls in floor-to-ceiling red could deliver intensity overload. He tempered the powerful hue with white wainscoting embellished with traditional millwork. Above the sideboard, a framed silk scarf depicts a colorful profile of a horse and speaks to the region's emphasis on (and family's interest in) equine life. Winter greens and red and white ranunculus sing the Christmas spirit.



“I tend to lean toward neutral colors when I design interiors,” Delrose says. “Usually I have to pull clients out of their comfort zones, but this time the Van Metres pulled me out of mine. They gravitate not only to color, but to *bold* color. They committed to vivid red and blue, and we used it throughout.”

The dining room is notably poised for Christmas dinner with walls doused in an intense red. Santa in his suit would blend right in as guest of honor. Atop an Oriental rug that rolls browns and terra-cotta over the oak floors, a walnut reproduction dining table is surrounded by chairs that wear a velvet stripe print. The stately oak fireplace surround is original to the house. Other wood pieces, including a walnut sideboard, a demilune table, and a small chest topped with blue-and-white ceramic vases, balance the surround’s proportions. A crystal chandelier and a shiny mirror finish the space with glamour that’s especially welcome during the holidays as it enhances all the sequins, beads, and shimmer that guests don to attend the Van Metres’ Christmas celebrations.

The dining room heralds the power of red, but in the formal living room, bright blue is the star. Beau and Dea’s trip on the

**Primary bedroom** Blue-and-white toile liberally used on the duvet, bed canopy, and window treatments proved Beau and Dea’s commitment to traditional style. Tassel fringe that hangs from the canopy mimics bells that trim holiday decorations. A low-profile fireplace and a nearby table for two create an opportunity for coffee, tea, or seasonal hot chocolate. Mismatched antique French chairs coordinate with two blue-and-white prints that reiterate the toile statement.





**Guest barn** Formerly a stable, the laid-back house for visitors beckons relaxation in a unique setting. A stone fireplace and pine that clads the kitchen walls and vaulted living room ceiling exchange the formality of the main house for rustic elegance. Seating—whether red barstools or oversize pieces in front of the fireplace—is upholstered in leather. Armchairs are trimmed with shearling. “The guest barn allows privacy and an opportunity to unwind without pressure to engage,” Dea says. “It also gives us an additional place to entertain when we want to be casual.” (Rapper Nelly provided entertainment here during a birthday party for the couple’s daughter Ashley.)

Orient Express set the living room’s intense scheme into motion. On the trip, they discovered a blue velvet textile in a wavy animal print that they asked Delrose to use. He did—on a pair of comfortable armchairs. He followed it with a lush solid velvet for sofas, an embroidered silk on the windows, a print on Hepplewhite spider-back chairs, and a tiger stripe on pillows to drive the color home.

Blue also found its way upstairs to the primary bedroom, where Delrose chose toile for the room’s soft moments. Red toile lamps on bedside tables surprise in the quiet space.

At Christmastime, along with visions of sugarplums, dreams of horse-drawn sleighs are sure to enter the minds of young children and *adult* children alike. And it’s a reality at the Van Metres. The couple have a pair of old sleighs (uncooperative snowfall on the day of photography kept them in the horse stables) and horses. Their riding passion was also spearheaded by daughter Ashley. “She and her childhood friend started riding horses when they were little and eventually graduated to polo lessons,” Beau says. “We became fascinated watching them and then got into riding and playing polo ourselves. We love hosting polo events and the camaraderie from the activity.”

That passion for polo and equine life was the force behind the guest barn, a separate structure where the Van Metres can entertain and guests can relax privately in an environment that is polished in its casual, country veneer.

Christmas comes and goes, but the Van Metres welcome every season with decorations, with family, and with a home that brings magic to Virginia’s countryside.

“We love all holidays, but decorating for Christmas is our specialty,” Beau says. “Dea starts early and transforms every room into a fantasy. It’s a special time of year, and we are happy to share it with everyone.” ❧

**Interior design:** Kerry Delrose

