

Let centerpieces add style to special occasions

Design elements and decorations can help set the mood for special events. Centerpieces are one such design element that can set a strong tone for dinner parties. Centerpieces can be easy to create, even for hosts working with limited budgets.

Decorating the dining table with a visually stunning centerpiece may be all the creative touch hosts need to impress their guests as they sit down to dinner. Whether you prefer simple centerpieces or something more elaborate, follow these tips for centerpiece success.

Size

To determine which centerpiece to use, party hosts must first calculate a few things to come up with an appropriate size for the centerpiece. The first consideration is the size of the table. Scale the centerpiece to the dimensions of the table. The more people you can seat at the table, the larger the centerpiece can be.

Also think about the size of the room. Rooms with high ceilings or large architectural accents may accommodate larger or taller centerpiece more capably than smaller rooms. Centerpieces that are transparent can create height without blocking guests' views.

Materials

Hosts can use just about any materials they wish when creating centerpieces. Floral arrangements make for popular centerpieces because flowers are available in a wide array of colors, sizes and heights. Plus, flowers can be chosen based on personal preferences, season or budget. Their sweet aroma also adds another sensory experience to a party.

But hosts are not limited to centerpieces that feature flowers. Fresh fruit, seashells, pebbles, marbles, candy, and even live fish are just a few of the materials that can be used to create memorable centerpieces. Think about which materials might provide a conversation starter at the dinner table and build around that.

Placement

As their name implies, center-

pieces generally go in the center of the table. But creative hosts can play with placement if they so desire. Rather than one large centerpiece, consider creating a table runner of sorts through the middle of the table that features various smaller centerpieces. This can be useful when a larger element would take up too much room on the table.

Factor the height and visual line of guests when arranging centerpieces as well. Sit at the table with your elbows on the table surface and arms bent up. The height of your fists is the general sight line. Avoid centerpieces that fall within this sight line. Use a pedestal to raise up a centerpiece or keep the centerpiece lower so guests can converse across the table.

Think about placing smaller replicas of your main table centerpiece elsewhere in the entertaining space, such as near the entryway and in the powder room, to tie everything together.

Centerpieces are a key design element when hosting a special event, adding visual appeal to a space while helping any party appear more upscale.



Candles are just one of the items that can be used to create elegant centerpieces.



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