

Set For Spring—Entertaining

Setting the table is more than putting the fork on the left and knife on the right side of the dinner plate. Holiday dinners are always a reason to bring out the good china and silverware. Get creative and think design.

Pretty in Pink

The new colors of Easter: pink and grey. The hand drawn look of the stripes on this set of dishes was the inspiration for an Easter table setting. It was a complete set, but I decided to mix it up with the square salad plates.



The dishes are unmarked, but are probably from the 1950's or perhaps the early 60's. Isn't the asymmetrical handle on the soup bowl great? No need for a table cloth. The pink place mats offer a lovely contrast to the table finish.



The grey napkins tucked into the frosted glasses make the polka dots stand out. Stripes and dots can work together when you consider scale.



No need for flowers or candles with this setting. I found a variety of apothecary jars and cut glass containers with lids. When filled with pastel candies and shredded paper they add color and dessert to the table. The best part is they can be used over and over—just change the candy to suit the event.



Sweet Nectar

Coral and shades of green make this table festive and vibrant. If you can't find a table cloth in the right color, check out the fabric store. Cut a length to fit your table and hem it. I stumbled onto this piece of knit fabric at a Goodwill store. The woven placemats anchor the place settings.



The set of cut glass bowls were probably intended as serving dishes or candy dishes. I think they make great soup or salad bowls. They allow the hand-painted design of the plates to stand out. Who says the spoon always has to lie next to the knife. You add variety to the table when you break a few rules.



Same with napkins. Neatly folded is OK, but tied to the wine glass adds dimension to the table. They look like bunny ears. Perfect for Easter.



Flowers don't always have to be presented in a formal arrangement. A quartet of bud vases paired with yellow tulips makes a simple and beautiful centerpiece.



Serene and Green

Like I said, you can use anything for a table cloth. This lime green fabric is a bed sheet! The color was perfect for this setting.



Square plates are the latest trend in dinnerware and they look great when paired with traditional round dishes. The green dinner plate would have faded into the back ground without the white charger plate. The delicate floral plate came with a complete set of dishes, but mixing and matching is much more fun and interesting.



The white napkins with pink edge actually have an embroidered flower on the other side. It wasn't the right look, so I turned it around, tucked in the silverware and held it all together with snap studded napkin rings. The right side of the napkins will be perfect for another dinner. One napkin, two looks.



A covered cheese dish can also have another life. I added Easter grass along with a bunny and carrot for an adorable centerpiece. Bunny under glass!

Dining should be an experience and the table design can contribute to the festivities. Next time you entertain, doesn't matter if it's Sunday dinner or Leftover Night Tuesday, make it special.

