



# Tablescape to Remember

THE WOMEN BEHIND EVENT PLANNING AND DESIGN COMPANY CLOCHE DESIGNS OFFER TIPS ON SETTING A TABLE THAT WILL EVOKE AND INSPIRE MEMORIES

PHOTO BY LOUIE PRECIADO / STYLED BY LAURA NELL BURTON AND CHRISTIN GISH



### 1. CHINA

Your best china is meant to be used, insist Laura Nell Burton and Christin Gish, co-founders of Cloche Designs. Whether you have a matching set passed down through generations or mix-and-match settings from multiple relatives or even antique stores, there's no reason to keep fine dishes in the cupboard. Bring them out for guests and if something breaks, put a replacement plate on your Christmas list (try [replacements.com](http://replacements.com)). "That pattern that was your grandmother's—use it. It has a soul and a story," says Burton. *The main pattern pictured here is Wedgwood Florentine, passed down from Burton's husband's grandmother. Find your own pattern at Hanley-Wood, 5611 Broadway, [hanleywoodtexas.com](http://hanleywoodtexas.com)*

### 2. LINENS

Burton created a monogram for her family and used it on the teal napkin here to tie in with the colors in the rest of her home decor. Even if it's the holidays, she says, you don't have to rely on reds and greens (unless you already use them throughout your home). Instead, decorate with colors you love all year. *Have your own napkins monogrammed at Julie's Monogram Place, 4015 Broadway, [facebook.com/julies-monogram-place](http://facebook.com/julies-monogram-place); for tablecloths and linen napkins, Burton and Gish recommend Lin Marché, 4307 McCullough Ave., [facebook.com/linmarche](http://facebook.com/linmarche)*

### 3. CENTERPIECE

Hosting a holiday party doesn't have to require shopping for anything new. Burton and Gish suggest pulling elements from your home. The Chinese import bowl on this table, which was a wedding gift, typically sits in Burton's foyer. Inside the bowl are garden roses, cymbidium, magnolia leaves, cranberry viburnum and pheasant feathers—the perfect way to add texture and reflect the season without using cheesy knick-knacks. "Florals are your jewelry on the table," Gish says. [sagrandoccasion.com](http://sagrandoccasion.com)

### 4. COPPER

Copper charger plates and mini cocottes for soup add warmth to the table. Burton says charger plates don't need to be fancy—even a party shop version will do. *Look for your own at Sunset Ridge Home & Hardware, 6438 N. New Braunfels Ave., [sunsetridgehardware.com](http://sunsetridgehardware.com)*

### 5. PLACE CARDS

While some hosts skip place cards at more casual get-togethers, Burton recommends adding them whenever guests are present—even if they're handmade by your kids—so there's no question about where to sit. She also always sets a place for her children so they're part of the conversation and experience. *These were handwritten by San Antonio's CalliRosa. [callirosa.com](http://callirosa.com)*

### 6. SURPRISE

Activities aren't just for kids. The bundle of mini-sparklers and metallic "surprise balls" tie in with the chargers. Plus, when unwrapped, the balls reveal surprises for guests—something Burton says is a great way to make memories. *Get surprise balls and sparklettes at Feliz Modern, 110 W. Olmos Drive, [felizmodern.com](http://felizmodern.com)—KATHLEEN PETTY* ●