

# DINING Style

by Sherry Moeller

Photos by Angie Seckinger of Marika Meyer Interiors projects.

Entertaining Tips for the Holidays



When preparing for a small or large gathering of family and friends this holiday season, consider simple ways to set a festive table. Marika Meyer, principal of Marika Meyer Interiors, [www.meyerinteriors.com](http://www.meyerinteriors.com), offers her best tried and true tips for making the day memorable for guests.

What to bring for the hostess? See what Marika and other local design talents love to give.

## SIX SUGGESTIONS FOR SETTING A FESTIVE TABLE

1. Candles set the stage for a festive atmosphere overall and add a touch of intimacy.
2. Metallics such as mercury glass used for gold mint julep cups and high and low candlesticks offer a reflective element within the setting.
3. Textures make the space interesting. Try mixing greens, dried artichokes and pomegranates, for instance, that layer colorful items together. Layering of items is key.
4. Themes or specific colors and items allow the hostess to incorporate favorite placemats and napkins.
5. Seating from other areas of the home may need to be pulled into the space to accommodate guests for larger gatherings. To make them festive, consider hanging a small wreath on each chair, either draped over the back or hung by a rope or ribbon. Also consider tying name tags on each chair.
6. Music also sets the mood. While candles offer ambient lighting and flowers and foods offer the aromas, music adds that final touch.

## DESIGNERS' TOP PICKS FOR HOSTESS GIFTS

Candles, throws and books are among the favorite hostess gifts to give...

1. Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors, [www.meyerinteriors.com](http://www.meyerinteriors.com), suggests personalizing hostess gifts, such as monogrammed notecards from Georgetown Paperie. "It's a little more thoughtful and tailored to the hostess or event."
2. Emily Wallace of Kelley Interior Design, [www.kelleyinteriordesign.com](http://www.kelleyinteriordesign.com), recommends Jonathan Adler's Hollywood Coasters. "They're perfect for a holiday party, but also neutral enough to use year-round."
3. Adele McDonald of Kelley Interior Design, [www.kelleyinteriordesign.com](http://www.kelleyinteriordesign.com), likes to give her favorite holiday candle by Nest Fragrances. "It smells so fresh and gives you that warm, cozy feeling."
4. Steven Barnard and Andra Lion of Wentworth, Inc., [www.wentworthstudio.com](http://www.wentworthstudio.com) suggest fun and practical gifts, such as a Slinky or BMI 4-in-1 Tape Measure, as well as books, including Animal Architecture. "It provides a look at nature's architecture."
5. David Benton of RA Spaces, [www.raspaces.com](http://www.raspaces.com) says the National Park Pendleton Blanket is a Made in America classic and a useful gift. "They are beautifully simple and each honors a different national park."
6. Dana Kaminsky of Glickman Design Build, [www.GlickmanDesignBuild.com](http://www.GlickmanDesignBuild.com), grew up on Dinosaur Bar-B-Que Sauces and likes to get others hooked, too. "I love the Sensuous Slathering Sauce and the Wango Tango Habanera Hot BBQ."

