Tablewear

Stylish Settings Are The Centerpiece of This Annual Benefit

By Evelyn Sher
Photography by Gregg Cestaro

AS YOU WIND YOUR WAY AMONG THE BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED KAPPA SETTINGS TABLES AT THE AUSTIN COUNTRY CLUB, YOU FEEL AS THOUGH YOU HAVE STEPPED INTO THE PAGES OF *MARTHA STEWART LIVING* MAGAZINE. WHILE THE HOME-decorating guru makes it look easy to create a picture-perfect place setting, the rest of us know how much thought, work and talent is required to pull it off. This year's event, the ninth annual cocktail reception and luncheon organized by the Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae Association, included an astounding 43 submissions from local designers, florists and boutiques—and raised $30,000 in the process. Proceeds were donated to Austin Smiles, Austin Community Foundation, Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas/Pediatric Therapy Gym and the Louise B. Schroeder/Beta Xi Scholarship Fund. Having covered this event for the past two years, we knew it would be difficult to select which ones to showcase but finally managed to narrow the list down to seven. Here, in no particular order, are a few of this year's best-dressed tables.

SWEET CHARITY

The Sweet Charity table was a celebration of summer (within the comfort of air conditioning!), complete with a bright plaid overlay and stained picnic table boards. The centerpiece — a towering three-tiered wrought iron garden stand—held a mélange of goodies, including colorful birdhouses, flowery flip-flops, Alan Stuart purses, ceramic platters and gardener's hand lotion, amidst mini-bouquets of parrot tulips, roses, verbena and freesia. Each place setting consisted of a round seagrass placemat, a brightly painted metal tray, a white square plate and a retro-styled glass and metal candleholder that doubled as a napkin holder. Magnolia floating candles in beveled green glassware lit up the table. Fun chair tiebacks sewn by volunteer Kit Montz featured toddler-sized flip-flops.

THE CAKE PLATE & WESTBANK FLOWER MARKET

Caterer Scott Calvert of The Cake Plate, LLC partnered with Keith Burnham of Westbank Flower Market to create this spread for the senses. The centerpiece was a very edible three-layer stacked Mexican vanilla cake adorned with beadwork and fresh flowers and resting atop a silver tray and fresh flower plateau. Slices of "cake" made out of vibrant blooms were served on top of silver chargers decorated with raspberry and lemon sauce and multicolored beads.

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Tanya Posavatz wanted to put together a setting that was a relaxing, calm retreat from the stress of daily life (and her busy spring wedding season!). She started with complementary shades of blue and green—the colors of nature, the sea and the grass. These harmonious shades popped against the stark white palette of the satin lamour linen with a windowpane sheer overlay from BBJ Linen and the clean lines of the chivari chairs. The square shape of the table, china and votive "sculpture," along with the modern flatware, gave the table a contemporary feel. The monobotanic centerpieces (one color and type of flower per container) by Petal Pushers held blue hydrangea, white calla lilies and green bells of Ireland. Aqua- and lime-colored cocktails doubled as décor.