

# Decorating Trends

## From Magical Mornings To Enchanted Evenings

(NAPSA)—Regardless of whether you're an expert party planner or a novice at hosting get-togethers, you can create a luxurious yet affordable outdoor gathering place to comfortably entertain family and friends.

Linens 'n Things offers the following tips to help you decorate a space suitable for your lifestyle, which may include quiet morning coffee, lunch with friends or an elegant, romantic evening with a loved one.

- **Know your decorating style**—Do you gravitate toward contemporary, country, traditional or an eclectic mixture of design? What's your favorite color scheme? Do you prefer patterns, solids or a combination? Look in your favorite magazines to see what appeals to you and decorate accordingly.

- **Consider lighting and shade**—For comfort during the day and ambience at night, a market umbrella is a must-have. While it offers necessary shade during hot summer afternoons, an umbrella also provides a charming patio accent. Come twilight, a lighted umbrella (or one with votive candles) will not only illuminate your table but it'll add romance, sophistication and elegance to your evening. To create a more intimate environment, dazzle your guests with lighted glass globe lanterns and tealight candle gardens.

- **Create a focal point with furniture**—Let patio furniture be a major focal point for outdoor entertaining. Create the look of a romantic outdoor café with a bistro-style table and chairs. For a more contemporary look, add an iron table with glass tabletop and wicker chairs.

- **Add a splash of color**—



**The right decorative touches can make for an enchanting evening soiree under a blanket of stars.**

Vibrant colors add life and excitement to any space. According to Linens 'n Things, this season's popular hues include hot pink, mandarin orange, lime green and South Pacific blue. Consider adding color pop through the use of affordable seat cushions, decorative pillows, placemats, acrylic tableware or string lights.

- **Accessorize, accessorize, accessorize**—Small touches make a world of difference in decorating both indoors and outdoors. Add elements of height such as pillar candles, a tiered plate or an accent piece to create scale on your tabletop. Hang Asian-inspired paper lanterns or surround your patio with torches for dramatic flair. Complement your existing landscape with planters of faux greenery and flowers and dress up your table with colorful stemware, serving pieces and dinnerware.

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