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(decorating)

MUM'S THE WORD Even inexpensive, often derided flowers like chrysanthemums look smashing when arranged the right way. "We tried to mimic an egg yolk bursting out of its shell," says Alexandra of the yellow clusters in Floral Art vases.



INSIDE OUT The Angles created this whimsical scene by pairing an 1880s Spanish outdoor café table with contemporary interior chairs of their own design. Matching isn't the idea, says Alexandra. "It's the blending and echoing of these shapes that's beautiful."

Garden Party

We threw down the design gauntlet to top style gurus: With Mother Nature as a backdrop, create extraordinary settings for spectacular backyard shindigs

Tea for Two



L.A. interior and furniture designers **Eliot** and **Alexandra Angle** wrote the book on entertaining—literally. Their 2002 tome, *Cocktail Parties with a Twist*, is a soup-to-nuts guide to hosting memorable, modern affairs. For this afternoon fête, the duo created a tablescape that seems straight out of *Alice in Wonderland*—the perfect setting for serving up cold and hot teas (with a sassy splash of amaretto) and other treats. “It can be just as fun to have an elaborate party for you and a guest as it is to host a huge bash,” says Alexandra.

GLASS ACT Remove labels from old wine bottles to create the prettiest pitchers. “It’s striking to see the liquids’ colors shining through,” says Alexandra. And think outside the ice bucket: The Angles used a wide-mouth vase to keep things cool.

DO THE HEIGHT THING Even a tiny table can hold a lot and still look uncluttered if you make the most of vertical space. Riffing on the idea of an old-fashioned tiered tea tray, the pair stacked cake stands to present sugar cubes, cupcakes and other goodies.



What's on the Menu?

Having developed 90 recipes for their own book, the couple turn to the familiar for serving ideas, such as bite-size cucumber cups with coulis and minted-shrimp canapés, accompanied by Green Tea Collinses.



[For shopping information see page 144.]