

Feasts for the eye

Ruth Miller Fitzgibbons



In a cozy corner of a studio apartment, Robert Metzger sets an intimate scene on a Louis XVI table that doubles as a desk during the day. Dining table: MARLBOROUGH LIMITED EDITIONS. Dining chairs: FREDERICK VICTORIA. Suede fabric on chairs: CLARENCE HOUSE. China: antique MINTON. Silver: GORHAM "Lily" pattern. Candlestick, wine glasses, decanter: TIFFANY'S. Linen: PRA-

TEB. Plant and terra cotta pot: RENNY. Bronze rooster on lacquer stand: LA VITRENE. Paintings: STAMOS (above table), Macrelli (to right); through MARLBOROUGH GALLERY. Sconce, parchment planter on floor: KARL SPRINGER. Bronze lioness: GARRICK STEPHENSON. Mottled glaze on walls by FLETCHER PAINTING. Photo: Jaime Ardiles-Arce.

'T IS THE SEASON to make merry. To don the dress of festivity, to open our homes to family and friends. Rum balls and cheese balls and chestnut stuffing are in the works. The holiday table waits in the wings. Will the centerpiece be a sparkling array of crystal candlesticks and hot house blooms, or a lone, evocative sculpture? Or will the fruits of winter occupy center stage? Table settings—during the holidays and all through the year—are a lucrative, creative vent for interior designers, who often are commissioned by their clients to set tables for parties and special events. Five such designers, whose special magic transformed these tables into visual triumphs, show that in the art of table-setting, style still reigns supreme.

(Top Left) Country charm comes to Park Avenue in the Manhattan dining room of Richard L. Ridge. Dress fabric is used for a table cover and napkins—its geometric simplicity is a cozy complement to the formality of the table-setting. 18th century Dutch Marquetry chairs: HYDE PARK ANTIQUES. Chair fabric: BRUNSCHWIG & FELS. Glass and steel table: PAUL M. JONES. Carpet: Dick Ridge's Sporting Collection for PHOENIX CARPET. Drapery fabric: I.D. FABRICS. Trumeau: THE INCURABLE COLLECTOR. Silver entree dishes, silver champagne cooler: WINES & CO., Dublin, Ireland. Brass wall lamps: PAUL HANSON. Other antique silver, crystal, brass chandelier, candlesticks, Chippendale chest from the collection of Richard L. Ridge. Photo: Harry Hartman.

(Bottom left) Joan Reegenbogen had this square pedestal table with a corresponding cantilevered shell built, which, when the table is pulled out to seat eight, becomes a buffet. Fresh fruit is the centerpiece. Custom table and buffet: "Tidal Sand" laminate, FORMICA CORP., fabricated by BUILT-RITE WOODWORKING. Carpet: PHOENIX CARPETS. Lighting: HALO. Chairs: A.I. Painting: Joyce Cole. Place settings: INTERNATIONAL CHINA CO. Photo: Norman McGrath.

(Top Right) Glittering crystal candelabras and the beauty of multi-colored floral antique Wedgwood lustre ware combine in elegant harmony for this holiday table designed by Minton-Corley, of Ft. Worth. Chair fabric: LEE/JOFA. Wall fabric: CLARENCE HOUSE. Dining table: English antique mahogany. Photo: Max Eckert.

(Bottom Right) Ceramic pears with cherry wood stems by Paul Nelson, and luscious green pears by Mother Nature are the focal point of LCS Design Director Bill Goldsmith's table. Bowls are old Chinese; napkins are old batik. Silver: CHRISTOPHLE. Plates: JURG LANZREIN. Paul Nelson pear: LCS. Photo: Ralph Bogerman.

