Inspired Style
74 Fresh Ideas for a Prettier Home

Plus:
At Home with Natalie Morales

Color: Bring on the Blue
Gorgeous Edible Gardens
When it comes to entertaining, outdoor living, and overall style, design luminary Bunny Williams makes elegant effortless. Follow her lead, and you'll be...

in good company
"There's nothing more generous than inviting people into your home," says Bunny, above. In her Connecticut house, the side patio is perfect for a dinner party. It also reflects the interior designer and garden aficionado's belief that every space should be a thing of beauty. Here, she shares thoughts on entertaining and gives a sneak peek at her new life of tabletop and home decor products with Ballard Designs, created to bring grace to every table, indoors and out.

pretty up the table
Bunny thinks of the table as a blank canvas for building a still life. First up her blue-and-white china. "It's timeless, and more interesting than white," she says. (This, even though it bears her name on it.) Linens expand the color scheme and help set the mood, inspired by a hand-blocked Indian fabric. The vessel is an easygoing quality suited to an outdoor get-together. Flowers are given a visual boost by casual bouquets such as the crumpled chintz, above, right, displayed in cachepots. "The lean design of this one makes it mantel-friendly," she says. And she doesn't fret about matching finishes—silver, gold, and other metallics mingle on her tables. "Entertaining doesn't have to be complicated," Bunny says. "If you have pieces that can be mixed together, you can pull together a table in minutes."

FRENCH INFLUENCE
French-style dinnerware is often inspired by insects.
mix and mingle

Bunny's "help yourself" approach to beverages is all about making guests feel at home. Her drinks station always gets a prime spot. Bunny uses potted ferns, boxwood, agapanthus, and orchids to meld transitional spaces—like a porch or patio. "A room can look flat and unoccupied, but the minute you put something organic in it, it gives it a spirit," Bunny says.

SURPRISE!
Top off, it's a nut bowl. Top on, it's a symbol of welcome.

NOT-SO-HEAVY METAL
A painted-metal fig sculpture adds a little fun.

Signature Style
Bunny dishes on design
Insights from the designer and always-gracious host.

DESIGN MANTRA “Make it beautiful. I believe that everything you look at in the home can be attractive.”

ENTERTAINING SECRET “Have things you can mix and match—things that are flexible enough that you can still make them look different.”

QUICK TIP “I keep all my dishes and things I use for entertaining together on shelves. If they’re easy to get to, you’ll use them more. Even a closet or basement will work.”

TOP PICK “The thing I think is really fantastic is the casserole dish with the rattan holder. It’s like a baking dish and platter in one—so practical.”

Bunny (with her dogs Annabelle and Lucy) keeps dishes and accessories at the ready on her mudroom shelves, below.

First look
See more of Bunny’s tabletop and home decor for Ballard Designs. BHG.com/ShopBallardDesigns

Use exclusive coupon code 1BHGBW15 for 15 percent off. Details on page 210.

GET THE GOODS 1. Pinched Bag Cachepot, $99. 2. Melange Mugs and Saucers (left) and Campbell House Mugs and Saucers (right), $59 for four. 3. Melange Dinnerware Plate, $59 for four. 4. Melange Flatware, $59 for five pieces. 5. Rattan Holder with Casserole Dish, starting at $69. ballarddesigns.com

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