

THE GUIDE TO LIVING WITH STYLE

November 2008

# domino

## the new luxury!

*(it's all about simple pleasures)*

bedrooms that  
make you happy

bold, dramatic  
colors

festive meals

living rooms  
too COZY to leave

everyday  
indulgences



J.Crew creative director  
Jenna Lyons redefines  
all-American style



## stress-free party planning

Magazine style editor, *Top Design* contestant and former caterer **Eddie Ross** shares his best tips for readying your home for the holidays.

photographs by Matt Albiani produced by Tori Mellott



ICE BUCKET (similar to shown) Couzon "Residence" \$95 and TRAY (similar to shown) Silver-plated brass \$275 [luntsilver.com](http://luntsilver.com) FRAME "Academie" \$25/foot, [larsonjuhl.com](http://larsonjuhl.com) for stores WALL PAINT Brompton Grey #NA62, [ralphlaurenpaint.com](http://ralphlaurenpaint.com) for stores

### *create an instant bartender*

Ross keeps his self-serve bar simple and classic by stocking it with just two or three kinds of liquor, two basic mixers and—if he's so moved—a specialty cocktail. A crystal decanter and hotel silver refine the scene.

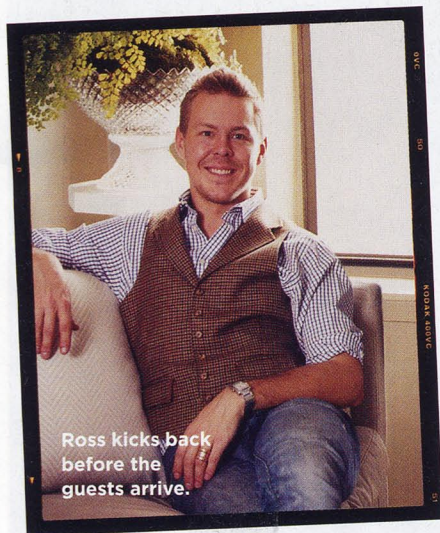


## nesting

stress-free party planning, cont'd

### dress up your living room

Ross went for moss-filled porcelain baskets to harmonize with his neutral palette—but any greenery, from traditional wreaths to potted ferns, will last longer than flowers. He recommends a symmetrical mantel arrangement with pieces of varying heights to keep things interesting, and strategically placing candles in front of mirrors to bounce around soft light.



Ross kicks back before the guests arrive.



### break out your silver

The whole point of having good flatware is to use it. Instead of fanning his out, Ross puts it in tumblers—or these “spooner” glasses scored at flea markets. It’s less stuffy and saves space on a crowded buffet. Use a cream polish such as Gorham to make everything sparkle.



### lay out your serving ware

Sticking to all-white dishes makes it easy to add inexpensive platters or appetizer plates and still maintain a cohesive color scheme. Ross takes stock using Post-Its to keep track of what will go where on the buffet.



SCONCES (similar to shown, top)

Crystal #A83-silver/3/2813 \$99

gallery84.com CHAIR FABRICS

Hampton Collection linen stripe

(center of chair) about \$75/yard,

and Anna French Jack Sak solid

linen about \$85/yard, Hinson

& Company (212) 688-5538 for

information DECANTER (far left)

Crystal “Allegorie” \$75 villeroy-boch

.com TUREEN Porcelain “Lion’s

Head” \$166 williams-sonoma.com





### get your bathroom guest-ready

Decorated like a regular room, it's more welcoming and won't make visitors feel as if they're invading a private space. Ross also provides a primping station for mid-fete touch-ups.

TRAY (far right) Couzon 14" "Residence" \$110 [luntsilver.com](http://luntsilver.com) WALL PAINT (right) Ebony #TH36, [ralphlaurenpaint.com](http://ralphlaurenpaint.com) for stores SECRETARY (similar to shown) "Graham" desk and hutch \$1,598 [potterybarn.com](http://potterybarn.com) LUCITE BOXES (in secretary) \$4.99 to \$19.99 each, [containerstore.com](http://containerstore.com)



### perfect your etiquette

A designated spot for writing invitations, sending thank-you notes and stashing gift wrap makes navigating festivities more pleasant and efficient. Antique toast racks make good stationery holders, while Lucite boxes keep scissors, ribbon and tape neat and visible.



### extra credit

**get a jump-start the day before** Do everything possible in advance, including ironing linens and putting out dishes.

**embrace store-bought food** Add a homemade touch to your purchases by, say, mixing chopped walnuts and orange zest with a jar of cranberry chutney. Ross also swears by Martha Stewart's cooked ham from Costco.

**keep holiday greenery green** Lightly mist wreaths and garlands with water every other day to keep them fresh.

**layer your lighting** Mix dim overheads, brighter table lamps and sconces, and plenty of candles on surfaces (but no scented ones near food!).

**enjoy yourself** Choose dishes that you can serve at room temperature, and don't worry about stains on the furniture. They'll come out.

Find more tips at [eddieross.com](http://eddieross.com).