Better Homes and Gardens®

THE STYLEMAKER ISSUE

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Inspired Style

74 FRESH IDEAS FOR A PRETTIER HOME

PLUS:
AT HOME WITH NATALIE MORALES

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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

BY JODY GARLOCK
PHOTOS FRANCES JANISCH
PRODUCED AND STYLED BY EDDIE ROSS

INLAID PICTURE FRAME, LEAF SALT AND PEPPER HOLDERS, CAMPBELL HOUSE BOWL, INLAID GUEST TOWEL HOLDER: BALLARDDESIGNS.COM

Bunny's own collection of blue-and-white china and linens (*below left*) inspired her line of dishware and home accessories (*above*). **1.** Cobalt Goblet, $49 for four. **2.** Spiral Glass, starting at $39 for four. **3.** Rectangular Antique Brass Cachepot with removable liner (Bunny uses it to ice down drinks), $129. **4.** Campbell House Dinner Plate, $59 for four. **5.** Campbell House Salad/Dessert Plate, $39 for four. **6.** Lattice Oval Cachepot (*below right*), $69. *ballarddesigns.com*

"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 line 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. (Yep, she even uses it on her patio, *right*.) Linens expand the color scheme and help set the mood; inspired by a hand-blocked Indian fabric, the tablecloth has an easygoing quality suited for an outdoor get-together. Flowers are a given, with casual bouquets such as the cropped alliums, *above, right*, displayed in cachepots (the lean design of this one makes it mantel-friendly). 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."

AT HOME WITH New York-based interior designer Bunny Williams.

PERSONAL STYLE "Casual elegance—not over-designed."

BEST PARTY TRICK "If you make an effort, it makes it special—adding a tablecloth or fresh flowers. I like to do flowers in shades of one color—all yellows or maybe pink and red.

DECORATING PET PEEVE "Having things be too formal or pretentious. Your guests will be more comfortable if things are more casual."

WHEN I'M NOT WORKING I'M... "In my garden."

WORDS OF WISDOM "Be kind and generous."

FOOLPROOF CENTERPIECE Insert fresh-from-the-garden flowers in the gridded liner of this container. Done!

FRENCH INFLUENCE Flatware Bunny bought at a Paris flea market inspired these pieces.

GET THE GOODS **1.** Kitchen Hearth Tablecloth, starting at $70. **2.** Raffia Wine Cooler, $39. **3.** Pail and Shovel Salt and Pepper Holders, $29. **4.** Banded Dinner Napkins, $49 for four. *ballarddesigns.com*

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.

GET THE GOODS 1. Pineapple Storage/Serving Trio, $99. 2. Tortoise Glass Hurricane, $69. 3. Spiral Glasses, starting at $39 for four. 4. Conservatory Glassware, starting at $42 for four. *ballarddesigns.com*

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

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!"

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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