

NOVEMBER 2009

House Beautiful

GREAT HOUSES FOR ENTERTAINING

the **35** best
**THANK
YOU**
notes

how to
**dress up
BASIC
WHITE
CHINA**



HOW DO YOU LIKE TO
ENTERTAIN?



BASIC
WHITE

Everybody owns some version of this classic white china. Dress it up, dress it down, it will see you through life. Need a little inspiration for your holiday table? We sent this Pottery Barn PB White place setting to 15 tastemakers and said, Make it your own. And you can, too.



13. MINNIE MORTIMER

Fashion designer, Los Angeles



"I like to mix masculine materials with feminine silhouettes, high- and low-priced pieces. It seems an odd combination, but I like the brown place mat with the busy plaid. Instead of matching brown napkins, I found embroidered white linens that make the setting feel fresh. The napkin rings are just garden twine. I filled my horn-handled silver mugs with hydrangeas from my garden, and one of my daughter's Tiffany silver baby cups with hard candy. Silver creates a pleasing contrast to the white ceramic. The leaf charger is actually a serving platter. I would serve a winter soup in the teacup."



14. GRACE BONNEY

Founder of designspongeonline.com, Brooklyn



"I've always been someone who prefers old things to new ones. Design+Sponge editors Amy Merrick and Sarah Ryhanen of Saipua helped me mix the white dinnerware with antique blue and white china, vintage silver, and old lace doilies. We fell in love with the sort of Dutch still life feeling we ended up with. I would love to eat a Christmas breakfast at this table. The collection of vintage holiday ornaments was used for extra sparkle. The final touch was a series of holiday gifts we wrapped in brown butcher paper, tied with blue and white striped twine and small vintage doilies."



15. MARTHA ANGUS

Interior designer, San Francisco



"I have an all-female office, so we're very into girly, pretty things. Our table started with scraps of de Gournay wallpaper left over from a showhouse project. I used them to cover a classic Parsons table, topped with Plexiglas to protect the surface. The green is seasonless, and it doesn't fall into the trap of old-hat red and green. Vermeil flatware seems fresh and different. I lived in France for a few years, so I tend to set a table in the European style, with the flatware face-down. The napkin folded neatly on the plate is the darkest aubergine imaginable—a background for the individual menu."

