

THE GLOSS

WITH THE IRISH TIMES
AUTUMN / WINTER 2020
THEGLOSS.IE

INTERIORS

MAGAZINE

DARKER PALETTES
TABLESCAPING
KITCHEN IDEAS
IRISH HOMES
WINE SEASON
SOFAS + LAMPS

INSPIRATION FOR
LIVING IN CLOSE QUARTERS



ANNIE DUNNE returned from London in 2019, where she created events for designers such as Erdem, stores like Selfridges and lots of private clients, to set up her company AD Event Design. With the events side of her business effectively on ice due to the coronavirus, it's her luxury rentable tablescapes that have everyone talking. "They take the hassle out of hosting," she says. Clients can hire a full table setting (there are gorgeous options including Blue Bouquet, shown here, the pretty and green Garden Gala and Radiant Rose with lots of warm tones) to cater from six to 30 guests. "With everyone at home, and focusing on smaller occasions, it's an opportunity to do something different. People are planning earlier this year, and want to create something very special." **THE LOOK** "My floral tablescapes are inspired by different gardens from literature. For Blue Bouquet (right), I recreated the botanical garden described in Virginia Woolf's short story 'Kew Gardens'. It's a look that works all year round: a lot of people think florals are only for spring and summer but I love an autumn floral - with an open fire and lots of candles - so I chose the rich deep blue." **KEY ELEMENT** "A maximalist patterned tablecloth. In London, most of my clients had limited outdoor space so this was a great way of introducing the *idea* of a garden, as well as colour and print. I used a Liberty fabric to make this tablecloth and napkins." **TABLE SETTING** "The dinner plates come from a small supplier in Wales. I found the star plates in a vintage shop, then sourced a ceramic supplier to recreate them. The placement cards are illustrated by Susannah Garrod, from Papier.com, and the hanging installation is by incredible craftswoman Claire Bracken who uses all her own foliage in Westmeath and can work to any brief." www.adeventdesign.com.

ANNIE'S ADVICE

BE PREPARED I always do mock-ups before an event. And almost like following a recipe, I have all the ingredients ready before making the cake (or in my case, dressing the room). **I NEVER TURN TO PINTEREST** to add a personal touch. Whilst I think Pinterest is great for many things, I believe for considered touches you have to add items that means something to you. **THEME AND PALETTE** Always have a thread that pulls everything together. Like me, you probably don't want to invest in a whole new look so assess what you have already and see if a direction emerges. Then build on it. My thread is always a colour that I then can use to coordinate in different ways. **ADD A TRINKET** I love to include something that guests can take away, perhaps a calligraphied cracker or bauble for Christmas. Or something chocolate that you can personalise. It doubles as a placement card too! **PLAN A PLAYLIST** No matter how well the conversation is flowing, it's always nice to have some music in the background, especially when guests first arrive. **USE CUT GLASS AND CANDLES** I use Waterford crystal glasses and lots of candles for sparkle because everyone and everything looks better in candlelight! **COLOURFUL FLOWERS** I love roses; you can always find the right shade and they work brilliantly with other blooms like hydrangeas or late dahlias.



PRETTY AND SOPHISTICATED

Using a Liberty fabric for tablecloth and napkins, Annie layers pretty blue plates and adds crystal, white pillar candles, and blousy roses and hydrangeas in small glass vases. TOP Red and green barley-twist candles, gold candlesticks and amber glass would be perfect for a Christmas table.