

Here, some of the design world's top talents share photos from their own seasonal get-togethers and their suggestions for creating just the right atmosphere.



St. Charles New York creative director [Karen Williams](#) decorated a summer table at her Southampton home with [Marigold Living](#) hand-blocked textiles and roses from her garden.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF KAREN WILLIAMS

9. Karen Williams

“Although I tend to go to taupe, bone, and white with black accents for interiors, outside I believe in embracing bright and powerful colors. Nature is a great backdrop, with blue skies and greenery. A table setting should be happy and lively, nothing too structured. I like to say, ‘Make it look random,’ but it’s not random at all. I love the hand-painted dishes from Solimene in Positano, Italy, I purchased for my children when they were young; everyone has a favorite color and animal. When I do an all-white tablescape, Pillivuyt from France is my go-to. The beautiful white porcelain platters, pitchers, serving pieces, and accessories are the perfect brunch table setting. They can go from the oven to the table, so there’s no replating frittatas or soufflés. My simple rules for centerpieces is low enough to talk over, organic in shape, use different flowers that are in season, and consider putting several smaller ones on the table that randomly run down the center. I love entertaining and want it to be fun; I try not to overthink it.”