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DESIGN

new england

**CITY
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URBAN LIVING

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS



La Fantasie Japonaise,
designed by Duffy
Design Group,
sponsored by Sanford
Custom Builders

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THE ULTIMATE DINNER PARTY

At Boston's second annual Dining by Design gala, top local and national talent pooled their collective genius to create 23 dining tableaux. The displays introduced top trends for 2009, while the fund-raiser, hosted by the Boston Design Center and the Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS, garnered nearly \$200,000 to benefit Community Research Initiative of New England, a leader in HIV and AIDS care. We've selected our favorite tables from that magical evening — four delicious combinations sure to inspire your next design-forward bash.

Written by **MOLLY JANE QUINN** • Photography by **ERIC ROTH**

The Teahouse, designed
and sponsored by
Christofi Interiors,
Gleysteen Design LLC,
and **Woodmeister**
Master Builders





Deconstruction,
designed by Charles
Fletcher Designs,
sponsored by
Online Buddies



Natural Wonder,
designed by
Meichi Peng
Studio, sponsored
by W Hotel



LA FANTASIE JAPONAISE

Interior designer Dennis Duffy's concept for this glowing pavilion (PAGE 92), built by Sanford Custom Builders, began with the wallpaper he used to cover the interior panels. The table base is sandblasted acrylic and lit from within by fuchsia LED lights that give the entire room a warm pink glow. Making the most of the clear tabletop, Duffy forwent table linens in favor of placing the plates, cutlery, and wineglasses directly on the acrylic slab. Industrial metal-ball chains radiate out from the chandelier to create a sparkling canopy.



MOTIF: A cluster of gerbera daisies in the center of the table references the custom wall panels covered in a floral Art Deco Japanese paper. While daisies generally signify purity and innocence, the gerbera is a symbol of hopefulness, a spirit embodied by Duffy's fresh design.

PLACE SETTING: Duffy mixed three Tiffany & Co. sterling services for an inventive assortment of flatware, and topped silver-and-white china chargers with a red-rimmed glass bowl infused with a peachy hue. The lighthearted result is perfect for a spring soiree.



THE TEAHOUSE

This modern interpretation of a Japanese teahouse (PAGE 93) was inspired by photographer Eric Roth's custom mural of a koi pond. "The idea was also to keep things natural and organic, like the birch-tree support; a bit of the outside in," says interior designer Mark Christofi. To that end, architect Marcus Gleysteen and Jim Catlin of Woodmeister created a bowed structure with industrial boards stained orange, making the wood look as if it might have been salvaged from large shipping containers left on the docks. Square stool seating and a built-in bench, all topped with square cushions, add to the bento-box effect.



MOTIF: The koi pond mural adds color and movement to the dining area. In Asian cultures, the colorful carp are a symbol of luck and perseverance in the face of adversity. Here, they make for a lively counterpoint to the wood tones.

PLACE SETTING: In lieu of traditional table linens, tropical palm fronds are placed under glass chargers for an unusual pattern. "I felt the tabletop itself should be kept spare, to enhance all the architectural detail," says Christofi.



NATURAL WONDER

Inspired by booth sponsor W Hotel's new lobby, interior designer Meichi Peng's team created a dining area (PAGE 95) that combines modern sensibilities with natural materials. Peng draped filmy sheer fabric over the structure for an intimate ambience. On the room's perimeter, a channel of white river stones mimics the curvilinear dining plates, and injects Zen-like calm. "It's about the contrast between the pergola structure, the metal mesh drapery, and the natural elements of white river rock and natural moss offsetting the wood table and glass accessories," says Jeff Osborne, designer at Meichi Peng Studio.



MOTIF: In the center of the table, fluttering aubergine paper butterflies burst forth from three glass cylinders. The butterflies are the signature emblem of W Hotel, but they also personify resurrection. The Greek word for "butterfly" is *psyche*, which translates to soul, making the insect a spirited party decoration.

PLACE SETTING: Oblong ceramic dishes are topped with chopsticks and a soy-sauce bowl (the vessels are playfully filled with moss). The standouts on this simple table, however, are the clever coasters Peng's team made using granite salvaged from construction at the W Hotel.



DECONSTRUCTION

Interior designer Charles Fletcher took his design cues (PAGE 94) from booth sponsor Online-Buddies.com, a gay social networking website. "There are mirrors on three walls and hanging on the long wall of the room is a row of empty gilded picture frames, all painted the same color — an exploration of voyeurism and how we frame ourselves online," says Fletcher. Custom bronze silk runners crisscross the table. Fletcher then piled leaves and branches into a festive centerpiece. Sterling flatware picks up on the gray hues of the picture frames, bringing the tonal design full circle.



MOTIF: The overall color pairing in Fletcher's dining area is orange and gray. More than just a sophisticated palette, the two shades symbolize darkness and light; in Native American traditions, gray signifies friendship, while orange marks kinship. Together, the hues make for a warm, welcoming environment.

PLACE SETTING: Stacking unusual chargers, plates, and salad bowls makes a table dynamic. Fletcher topped a gold-rimmed orange charger by William Yeoward with a black fluted porcelain salad bowl by Royal Copenhagen. A grapefruit-sized gold bowl with a scallop edge finishes the eclectic setting.