

entertaining: tablescaping

Jennifer Rowland Clapp
creates a fresh landscape
for using granny's chintz.

Photography by Natalie Wi

Modern Vintage Tabletop

"If you pair your vintage pieces with modern pieces, you'll have a setting that conveys your sense of personal history."



Jennifer uses vintage napkins, but applies them in a modern way—she uses a simple fold and tucks the napkins underneath the large bowl. Who knew granny’s chintz would work so well in a contemporary table setting?

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“Most families have some old china, flatware, or linens lying forgotten in a dusty cabinet,” says interior designer Jennifer Rowland Clapp. “A lone teapot from grandma? Perhaps a mishmash of tarnished, silver-plated serving pieces? A rogue set of teacups emblazoned with roses? It doesn’t matter if they’re valuable or pure kitsch—unearth them and be merry! If you pair your vintage pieces with modern pieces, you’ll have a setting that conveys your sense of personal history.”

Jennifer is so clever—Recently married, she skipped the wedding china and opted for clean, contemporary, everyday dishware instead. “I happily took a funky mix of silver, chintz and Depression glass from my family, and now I use them with my basic pieces for a fresh, new landscape for my table.” For her, the contrast is key, and her rules for achieving it: “reuse, repurpose, and have fun—balance, clean, modern pieces with ornate, vintage items; and don’t overload the table.”



Newbie Notes

HOT SPOT ON THE WEB

Jennifer's absolute favorite web source is at [etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com) because "it's a treasure trove of hand-made and vintage items." She uses it for art, tableware, furniture, and gifts for friends. She suggests doing a quick search by choosing "vintage" on the search bar and typing in what kind of vintage category you are seeking, eg, chintz, milk glass, etc. "Some of the prices may be a bit more than your local flea market, but you are paying for the time it's taken each person to curate the pieces."

We asked, and Jennifer agreed to teach us the art of old-with-new tablescaping. She begins with foundation pieces: crisp, white dinnerware; clean, unobtrusive glassware; and gray felt mats. She chose Teroforma's Oyyo White series for her plates and bowls. "This is my favorite dinnerware on the market, and it's the cornerstone of all my table settings," says Jennifer. "The scale, silhouette and quality are absolute perfection, and food looks incredible on it." The glassware practically disappears, so the table looks uncluttered; and the gray felt mats add a touch of masculinity to keep things grounded. We begin to see her modern vintage concept unfold.

Next, she chooses antique pieces in varying heights for the center of the table, adding gray candles for a sense of modernism. Vintage napkins are folded into sleek rectangles and tucked under the large bowl, another contemporary application. A large, glass globe stands as a stunningly simple centerpiece—Jennifer inserts lavender cabbages as a bridge between masculine and feminine elements for even more interest. Mismatched flatware with a tarnished patina completes the setting. The custom farm table surrounded by an eclectic arrangement of bistro and modern chairs adds visual warmth and texture to the room.

Newbie Notes

Where **TO FIND** What

◆ Teroforma dinnerware, White Oyyo series: Large plate /\$35 each*, Medium bowl /\$22 each*

◆ Teroforma gray napkins/\$16 each*
Teroforma gray felt mats/\$32 each*,
trivets/\$20 each*, coasters/\$7 each*

**Available at teroforma.com
also available at Lekker Home, Boston,
lekkerhome.com*

◆ Centerpiece with purple kale: LSA globe vase/\$111**

◆ Molca charcoal gray candles/\$12.50 each**

◆ LSA Coro Tumblers/\$38 set of 4**
Staples Cabinet Makers custom farm table available at:
staplescabinetmakers.com

◆ Flatware, green cake pedestals, chintz tableware, hobnail candle holders, mixed silver/private collection and vintage

***Available at Lekker Home, Boston,
lekkerhome.com*

It's easy to see why creative tablescaping comes easy to Jennifer. She is an interior designer at the prestigious Hacin + Associates, an architecture and design studio located in the arts district of Boston's South End. Her favorite client projects are those for which she can include a mix of unexpected elements, high- and low-priced items, and vintage finds. At home, she continues to put this same design philosophy into practice.

"Most of us aren't inviting 'the ladies' over for tea and pastries anymore, but we do like a good dinner party. So just experiment and find ways to use antiquated items in new, decorative ways. For a centerpiece, fill the teacups and teapot with flowers or cut branches. Arrange votives on varying tiers of cake pedestals."

Jennifer browses shops and websites looking for inexpensive, vintage pieces to add to her collections. "Recently, I suddenly and inexplicably became obsessed with hobnail milk glass. The endearing quality of the 1950s white vases and bowls makes me so happy. Of course, they must be paired with super-sleek glass tumblers, china and flatware." Once again, it's all about the contrast.

chirp!

Jennifer is an interior designer at Hacin + Associates in Boston. Find her at hacin.com. Read their blog [newswire] for more design insights.



Jennifer loves to set tables that are a study in contrasts.