

# THE ART OF

# Tablescapes

Create striking corners in your home by arranging favourite pieces as a landscape on a table

TEXT AND STYLING BY **ANGELA HUTTON**  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **MELANIE JENKINS - FLASH**

**A** tablescape can be lavish or simple; adding interest to any surface is the key to creating a stylish home and a good way of continuing a theme.

One fail-safe method is to work on creating a pyramid. Start with a bigger piece at the back (or set off to one side), working forwards with a medium-size piece or two, finally placing the smaller accessories at the front.

In a symmetrical arrangement, try the pyramid theory at either end of the tablescape. When items are arranged symmetrically, each side is the mirror image of the other. You may need two of each item, but it is not a hard-and-fast rule – play around with the objects for balance.

If you have a main central piece that you wish to display using the pyramid method, stagger the heights of other pieces. Never place an “itsy bitsy” piece next to something big and chunky, as they don’t relate to each other visually. Find a piece to meet the middle ground between the two and you will have created balance and scale.

Start by grouping like objects together, creating a theme or choosing pieces with similar colouring. Add an item with a different texture or that is in a deeper tone for interest. Never overclutter; if you are unsure about an item, leave it out. >>





French Provincial writer's table in all settings, \$2300, from Cranfields, Auckland. **From back:** Screen, POA, from Wah Lee, Auckland; telephone, \$150, from BoConcept, Auckland; large Daisy vase, \$139, from King's Plant Barn, Auckland; wine glasses, \$8 each, stainless-steel tray, \$84, cocktail shaker, \$67, wine cooler, \$94, ice bucket, \$142, cocktail set, \$106, clock, \$56, all from BoConcept; small striped vase, \$79.95, large striped vase, \$179.95, small Daisy vase, \$79.50, frame, \$27.50, and chandelier, \$95, all from King's Plant Barn. **Stockists' details page 158.**



# DECO DRAMA

The dramatic art deco tablescape shown on the previous pages has a strictly limited colour palette which gives instant appeal.

A silver cocktail set and an old telephone add glamour and recall past times, while adding chrome objects to the black-and-white scheme gives lift. These items are all new; create a fantastic art deco theme by buying items from antique and secondhand stores from the 20s and 30s. Collect stepped and fluted pieces, statues (not Roman ones!) and geometric mirrors without frames.



# MODERN TWIST

This contemporary setting uses gourd shapes in cream and chrome. Note the height of the lamp, which is at the peak of the pyramid, moving down to the stainless twist vase, with the other objects placed around the bottom, creating the base of the pyramid. Texture is added with the use of coloured tropical plants that match with the red in the lampshade. The mirror frame relates to the setting as it ties in with the chrome pieces used in the display. >>



**From left:** Standard lamp and base, \$302, gourd-shaped vase, \$256, all from BoConcept; stainless vases, \$99/pair, from King's Plant Barn; stainless Twist vase, \$98, small Bordeaux vase, \$50, both from Bo Concept; planter trio and tray, \$37.05, *Bromeliad Vriesea 'Carinata'* plants, \$24.95 each, all from King's Plant Barn; mirror is stylist's own.

**Stockists' details page 158.**

# COUNTRY LIFE

A rural theme has been created by bringing the outdoors in – plants, pine cones, fruit and vegetables are all displayed in rustic pottery by Tony Sly. Continuity is provided – the green and reds tie in with the colour of the curtain fabric. There is lots of texture, the look can be changed with the seasons, and anything rough and rustic will continue the theme.





**From left:** Large jug, \$63, medium jug, \$42, small jug, \$28, all by Tony Sly, wood pigeons, \$52 each, large green platter, \$112, bowl with plums, \$72, all from Cranfields; ivy topiary, \$110, iron planter with obelisk, \$170, both from King's Plant Barn; fabric is Manuel Canovas Doria, POA, from Atelier Textiles, Auckland.  
**Stockists' details page 158.**



Always keep your display clean and dust-free; this forces you to rearrange the objects, giving fresh appeal

## Tablescap*e tips*

By choosing interesting pieces and doing some artful arranging, you can create the "wow" factor that's often missing in a room. A little of your personality will shine through – and that's what makes a house a home.

**1** Tablescapes should never be static. Always keep them clean and dust-free, so they're crisp and fresh. This also forces you to have another play and rearrange again, keeping the room appealing to the senses.

**2** The colours or themes used in your tablescap*e* should ideally be continued to any objects you hang on the wall behind it. Artwork, mirrors or pictures should also relate to your display. Try hanging pictures of lavender fields above a Mediterranean-themed tablescap*e*, or a pretty Victorian mirror above a collection of your grandmother's china.

**3** If you have lots of little objects, it's a good idea to anchor them visually by putting them on a tray, or containing them somehow, so that the tray or plate they're standing on becomes part of the display.

**4** Update your displays seasonally – use pine cones in the winter, pumpkins or gourds in the autumn, potted daffodils or hyacinths in the spring. Keep seasonal items colour co-ordinated, too.

**5** Candles are an exciting element to add to a tablescap*e*, as they offer a different texture, soft pools of light at night, and will often be fragrant. Just make sure they match the colours of your display or pick up other accents in the room. Include flowers, but always keep them fresh and follow the colour rule. Big bowls of fruit or vegetables look fantastic, as they add interest and colour. The bonus is you can eat them as well!