



turning the table

W^E, all of us, at some point of our lives or other, have thrown parties for friends and family, and have, more or less some idea regarding such issues. A number of things have to be kept in mind when entertaining guests, such as the time, place or theme. But when it comes to throwing a fabulous party for friends or arranging a small, informal get-together for family, food is definitely an extremely important factor, behind which a lot of thought has to be put! Because food is, after all, the soul of a party! Good food is almost always the key to a successful party. There is no greater pleasure, I am sure, than having your guests complement and praise you on your party throwing skills at the end of a get-together!

However, an experienced host does not rely on food alone, in order to make the party a success. An expert host uses all his party throwing skills to full potential, and keeps in mind, to prepare everything according to the theme of the party. And when regarding the theme of a party, always keep in mind that whether it is a big birthday bash for your child or a formal dinner for people from work, every little detail, from decorations to table layouts, plays an important role in making your party a smashing success! Therefore, this week, we have brought together a few ideas for table accessories that will, no doubt, contribute to your next party being a great hit!

When throwing a birthday party for your child,

the first thing that probably comes to mind is to decorate the house, because after all, what is a birthday without colourful balloons and confetti? These items are a must for birthdays, but there are also various others that will further enhance the success of the party. Children, as we all know, are very perceptive and love to have all things bright and beautiful around them. Therefore, instead of confining to only balloons, we can be extra creative and include other items that our little guests will enjoy. These may include a variety of items, from disposable paper cups and plates to paper napkins with cartoon character prints. Because let's face it, not only will children enjoy eating and drinking out of cups and plates with the impressions of their favourite action heroes on them, but they are also exceptionally easy to handle compared to the ceramic ones, and the host can also relax during the party, given the fact that he/she does not have to worry about anybody breaking anything. Disposable paper cups and plates are available at almost all the big departmental stores including Party Centre. The disposable plates come in packages of a hundred pieces, costing Tk.150, while the paper cups are available at Tk.5 per piece. Paper napkins also come in packages of fifty and hundred and are priced accordingly.

Now, when throwing a formal party for colleagues, or your boss, for example, you may have to go through a radical change in theme, as opposed to the birthday party. Such a party calls

for a mellower décor. For your dinner table layouts, use a tablecloth that is fancy, yet elegant. Lace would be a good choice here, especially if it comes in light, soothing tones of beige or off-white. As for the crockery, take out your best china, not silverware, if you have any because that might be just a bit too fancy. You can also use crystal glasses to add extra glamour to your table. For napkins, use ones made out of cotton or any other material, but preferably ones that match the tablecloth. During these types of parties, it is essential to work the small details such as folding napkins beside each place setting, because these small changes are sure to score points for you when it comes to impressing guests. Napkin holders are found in a variety of places, such as Aarong and Pidimm. The ones available at Aarong are made of brass and come in all sorts of shapes and sizes and are priced at about Tk.60 and above, according to size. However, if you are looking for ones that are lighter and slightly less fancier, then you can find ones made out of bamboo and dried leaves at Pidimm. These are priced at Tk.20 apiece. While entertaining guests from work, especially your seniors, it is important to remember that while everything must indeed look elegant, it must also have a certain crisp feel to it.

When throwing a small get-together for friends or family, remember to create an atmosphere that is relaxing, as well as cozy. Here, since it is completely your domain, you can afford to be quite a

bit creative and come up with all sorts of new ideas- almost anything that you deem will be comfortable for your guests. But here are a few tips, nevertheless. While the tablecloth can be anything of your choice, you could try out a totally different look by using clay dishes to serve food in. These are in vogue now, and will, no doubt, give your table a new look altogether. Once you've tried it out, you will admit, that crockery made out of clay do have a certain rustic and elegant look to them! These are also available at stores such as the likes of Aarong, Pidimm, Jatra, etc. Another way to further enhance your rustic tableware is to use wooden spoons. Also available at the stores aforementioned, the price of these items range from Tk.40 to Tk.180, depending on the sizes and shapes. Apart from the ones made out of wood, Aarong also offers spoons made out of coconut shells. These items, in particular, can contribute to giving your party a very original and 'deshi' feel to it, especially if you serve dishes such as hilsa and various 'bhortas'!

So the next time you throw a party, make sure to try out a few of the ideas mentioned above and see for yourself whether they actually do help in making your party a smashing success!

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Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed

Terracotta tableware by Aarong

