

Let Nature Set the Table

inspired by the shore, the garden and the farm

still has a bit of a
softened by the
spring begins
warmer weather is
better way to
than by having a few
a meal? Long Island
your springtime
designers are happy
et the mood — as

ou celebrate the
always an inspira-
Genovese, owner of
Spring Harbor. "Any
include the beauti-
trees before
set in." Table-
plates can all add
color.

organic and inor-
textures and col-
ok," she says. "For
gers under your
and for dining
losures, I'm all for

lighting candles during the day, even though some would consider that breaking the rules."

Of course, nothing says spring like something from the garden. "The most important elements . . . are fresh flowers and local fruits and vegetables in season," says Rosanne Lombardo, of Rosanne Lombardo Designs in Huntington. She suggests looking in unusual places for inspiration. "Look in the produce department of your local food store," she says. "A cabbage can be a fabulous vase for a bunch of tulips, and most food stores always have a nice selection of flowers."

Then, too, your tables don't have to cost a lot. "You can create a terrific table without busting the budget by using pretty tea towels or dish towels in place of serviettes or place mats," says Lombardo. "Or try mixing differently sized glasses that you already own, and using a plain white oversized dinner plate as a charger."

Amal Kapen of Amal Kapen Interiors in Centerport suggests centerpieces cut low "so your guests can see over them." She likes tulips and alstroemeria from the supermarket. "After dinner, move your flowers to the kitchen and enjoy them all week."



each) and green hobnail goblets (Villeroy & Boch, \$36 each). She also added Fitz and Floyd cabbage accent pieces and a Waterford jam jar to soften the overall feel. She finished the setting with custom serviettes made from Tilton Fenwick fabric (to the trade only from Duralee, \$85 each), and embroidered

linen napkins (Embroider Me Huntington, \$10 per napkin).

Finally, she added a fresh produce centerpiece. "A container filled with fresh fruit and vegetables has always been a simple casual centerpiece for the kitchen," she says. "Adding flowers elevates this concept to [make it a] casually elegant arrangement."



. . . IN THE GARDEN

Laurie Genovese, Cold Spring Harbor

Nothing makes it feel like spring more than tilling your garden. That was the inspiration behind Genovese's tabletop design.

"I recently took some courses at The New York Botanical Garden," she says. "They were so inspirational."

She began with spring green table fabric from Kravet (about \$400), adding her own French linen napkins and glassware. The woven chargers (Pottery Barn, about \$10 each) hold simple white plates (Crate & Barrel, about \$10 each).

Eschewing traditional floral arrangement, Genovese instead looked to her anticipation of a bountiful vegetable garden. The tabletop arrangement (about \$175, from Floras Avenue in Huntington) features colorful plants and vegetables such as fennel and tomatoes that begin to grow once the snow clears. She says she wanted to showcase the fresh garden flora that follows Long Island's March thaw.

"I drew my inspiration from plants that we see cropping up everywhere as the final snows melt," she says. "I always draw inspiration from our natural surroundings."