

# HOME & GARDEN

BEAUTIFUL SPACES—INSIDE AND OUT



HOLIDAY HOW-TO

## Get Creative with Turkey Plates

With some clever styling tricks, designer Fran Keenan sets two gorgeous tables with our favorite Thanksgiving china

BY ZOÉ GOWEN | PHOTOGRAPHS BY HECTOR MANUEL SANCHEZ





## Dressed Down

"I loved the idea of taking a piece like the popular turkey plate and mixing it with things you probably already have but wouldn't think of putting together," says Keenan. She created a laid-back look that centers around the classic Southern china closet staple Woodland Turkey by Spode (from \$32.50; [spode.com](http://spode.com)), sets of simple linens, pottery, and a few pieces of silver and crystal. "This setting isn't too dressy. You can seat both the kids and the adults here," she adds. "I really wanted to give people the freedom to use the pottery that so many of us collect to create a festive holiday look."

## The Place Setting

### KEEP IT CASUAL

The designer emphasized the turkey plates' natural elements by combining them with organic accents like wooden-handled flatware and versatile rattan chargers with durable plastic bases (Rattan Top Charger, \$16; [shopterrain.com](http://shopterrain.com)). "I keep them on my tables year-round. My kids even use them like a Frisbee," she says. Crisp black-and-white-striped napkins and two runners laid across the width of the table under the place settings offer an unexpected modern touch. "The trick to selecting just the right stripe pattern is to choose runners with plenty of white to help tie them to the turkey plates' white background," she advises.



### Cozy Up the Chairs

Keenan softened the rush seats with Rens sheepskins from Ikea instead of cushions.





## The Centerpiece

### CREATE CONTRAST

Two dozen peach roses are arranged in a large brown McCartys pottery bowl. "Roses make anything feel dressier and more festive," says Keenan. "Peach is a nice warm color that works with the autumnal palette, and lighter-toned flowers show up better in a dark room." She sprinkled in a few black callas for extra drama, berries and feathers for texture, and antlers—which are a surprisingly easy addition to the fall arrangement (and available at crafts stores). "Antlers have a naturally thicker base that allows them to rest easily in the container," says Keenan. "But place them off-center so they don't steal the flower show." She repeated the look with similar arrangements on the bar and sideboard.



## The Flatware

### TOSS THE NAPKIN ROLL

"I love to use napkin rings in unconventional ways. I also like to take as much off the table as possible," says Keenan, who tucked each set of flatware into a wooden napkin ring placed across the plate. "This set of 12 rings was \$6 at a junk shop."



## The Candles

### TAKE THINGS UP A NOTCH

Keenan shares her entertaining must-have: Mainstays Filled White Votives (12 for \$5.97; [walmart.com](http://walmart.com)). "These are bigger than tea lights, and each comes in its own container. Light a few of the candles, and it's an instant party," she says.

## The Bar

### SET UP A HOSTESS STATION

"In today's world, most people serve themselves in the kitchen and bring their plates to the table," says Keenan. "You don't really need a fully stocked sideboard. Instead, I like to set up a refill station for drinks in the dining room so the host can access whatever guests need to be comfortable at the table."

**Bold Backdrop**  
Keenan chose a darker hue for her dining room walls: *Noir* (24-16) by Pratt & Lambert.







## Dressed Up

"More is more in this setting," says Keenan. At first glance, this table is more formal and traditional than the previous casual, pottery-driven look. Take a closer look, though, and you will see how the designer included a few fresh, unexpected pairings with the trusty Spode Woodland Turkey china for a fancier table setting. "Because of the dining room's orange walls, I emphasized the brighter tones in the turkey plate, and the high chandelier allowed for tall candles," she says.

### Budding Artist

Two simple bouquets made with 24 orange 'Voodoo' roses complete the table. "It's the easiest flower to arrange," Keenan attests.



## The Centerpiece

### WELCOME DRAMA WITH CANDLES

As an interior designer, Keenan can't help letting a room's decor influence the table setting. Because the crystal chandelier hangs high, she created a centerpiece that leads the eye up without impeding

conversation. The result? Eleven vintage brass candlesticks with 18-inch tapers extend a warm glow down the length of the table. Keenan selected a vintage fabric remnant to work as the runner. "Its pattern ages the plates while also grounding the tall candlestick brigade," she says.





## The Sideboard

### CLIP YOUR OWN ARRANGEMENT

"I'm a bootleg florist," says Keenan. Instead of spending a mint on flowers, she snips foliage from her yard. "It's pretty hard to cut an ugly magnolia branch. The best choices for making a taller arrangement have two or three smaller offshoots coming from the main limb," she says. A few pieces of gray-tinged silver dollar eucalyptus and one bunch of bright orange tulips elevate the yard clippings. "Keep the tulips clustered together to get a single concentrated punch of color," she advises.



**Attention-Grabbing Paint**  
Fresh Nasturtium (8-12) in high gloss by Pratt & Lambert looks beautiful year-round, but the walls shine especially bright at Thanksgiving.



### Assigned Seating

"Guests like to know their seats," says Keenan, who slips simple place cards into the prongs of forks.

## The Place Setting

### PLAY WITH COLOR

Citron-edged napkins seem like a far-out choice for Thanksgiving, but they accent the china's often overlooked yellow background. The brass flatware with lapis-colored handles (Hammered Brass Flatware in Sapphire, set of 5 for \$42; [anthropologie.com](http://anthropologie.com)) contrasts with the napkins and the setting's autumnal palette. Classic crystal wineglasses (Colleen Tall Stem Claret by Waterford, \$94.95; [replacements.com](http://replacements.com)) paired with stemless wineglasses (used here for water) complete the table's ritzy, high-shine vibe.



## The Hurricane Lanterns

### DECORATE EVERY INCH

Keenan upcycled glass lanterns into striking dining room decor. "I like to create tall arrangements that fill a room's perimeter and can also be moved around easily," the designer says. To re-create this look, place a cylindrical vase filled with water and bells-of-Ireland inside a lantern. Surround the vase with clementines. **SL**