

Sunset

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Amazing Thanksgiving desserts

Recipes your friends will beg for

Inside our
greenest
Idea House

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Whidbey
Island

Spice cake with
coffee toffee
crunch, orange
ribbon cheesecake,
and vanilla-bean
leaf cookies

NOVEMBER 2007



ENTERTAINING SPECIAL

Your no-stress guide to hosting a crowd

Rosanna Bowles, designer of all things ceramic



Set a new standard

Ceramics celebrity Rosanna Bowles says there's no such thing as the perfect table

BY JESS CHAMBERLAIN PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN GRANN

"THERE ARE NO RULES" for table setting," says designer Rosanna Bowles. Funny comment coming from the founder of the successful international dishware company Rosanna, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. But for Seattle-based Bowles, personal touch always trumps tradition.

"The main thing is to be eclectic," advises the expert. On Bowles's table, lacquered silver sugar bowls become vases and flea market finds transform into

centerpieces. Her collections are inspired by both her affinity for Italy and the "raw beauty" of the Northwest.

Bowles's vision may have made her products so popular, but it's people's own creativity that ultimately sets a beautiful table. "Enjoy the process," she says. "Use Thanksgiving—or any dinner party—as an opportunity to express yourself."

INFO Rosanna (rosanna.com or 877/367-2211) ■

Rosanna's quick tips

Stick your eye out with the basics: 10 dinner bowls, 10 white dinner plates, 10 four-piece place settings, and a fabulous pair of centerpieces.

Mix and match: Experiment. Pair your classic silver Salween tea set with baroque-print plates.

Find new uses for old things: Bring the depths of your mother's basement to the table. Dust off and incorporate. "Old things have soul."

Layer your elements: Like you do clothing.

Put a round or garden stool and try things on. Put a big ceramic bowl based on top of your grandma's china, anchored by a white napkin.

Rosanna's favorite spots around town

SEE ANTIQUES Pacific Galleries You'll likely run into Rosanna at Seattle's "green jewel" of antique malls, where you can wander the vast array of dealers from many periods and hit lovely weekly auctions. 2911 Lorain St., Lake Forest, 201/461-9999.

Antiques at Pike Place "Constantly walking with everything from Victorian to mid-century—I have been shopping at this antique mall for more than 15 years," she says. "See, you've got to dig deep to discover treasures here, but it's

worth it." 20 Second St., 201/461-9999.

Chelsea Antiques & Estate Service Group Not unlike they love mingling with the local crowd. Owner Brad the specialist in sterling silver as well as English and continental porcelain and American furniture. 11000 1st Ave., 206/461-9999.

SEE ANTIQUES Watson Kennedy

Beautifully arranged by color scheme and subject. "I always find something for a gift—or for myself." 1000 Rosanna, 20 Pike St., Pike Place, 201/461-9999.

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SEE ANTIQUES The Art of Living

Rosanna enjoys Seattle's museums and loves to stroll its streets. Fremont, Ballard, and especially her home turf, Lake Forest, where every morning she scans the views of Lake Washington and the chance to see her mind in the flesh at