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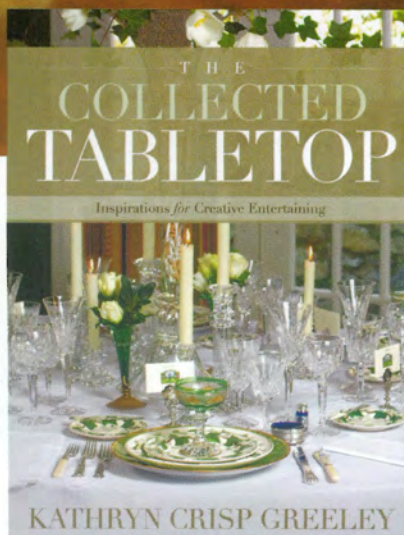




Soirees Made Simple

The matriarch of Western North Carolina design unveils an exceptional entertaining guide

BY LAUREN EBERLE



ABOVE: Designer and author Kathryn Greeley prepares a floral arrangement in the kitchen of her home, Chestnut Cottage. Greeley says the Flow Blue punch bowl is one of her most prized possessions. LEFT: *The Collected Tabletop*, a priceless guide to parties with panache, was released earlier this month.

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Kathryn Crisp Greeley is a bit wistful as she describes childhood memories of spying on her mother's bridge club parties. She recalls watching these Southern ladies — her “entertaining mentors” — noting their glamour, their sophistication, and (of course!) their high heels.

Today, Greeley is sharing her own wit and wisdom gleaned from 30 years of superb soirees in her book, *The Collected Tabletop*. Nearly 300 pages of fanciful dinners, black-tie galas, and intimate showers give readers step-by-step suggestions for invitations and menus, floral arrangements and favors, table settings and toddies.

“My deepest hope is that this book inspires others to entertain with what they have,” she explains. “So often people don't feel like they have their own style,



TOP: Greeley commissioned potter Brad Dodson, owner of Mud Dabber's in Balsam, North Carolina, for the “Fall for Football” dinner featured in *The Collected Tabletop*. Dodson's pieces were accented by a collection of Majolica, which adds to the rainbow of autumn hues. This event takes place in the outdoor living room of Greeley's dear friends and clients (one of whom happens to be a football official). **ABOVE:** These small pottery pieces were crafted by Dodson as party favors, and filled with truffles from *The Chocolate Fetish* in Asheville.