



THE COLLECTED TABLETOP

INSPIRATIONS FOR CREATIVE ENTERTAINMENT

by Kathryn Crisp Greeley with Heather Anderson

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Kathryn Greeley's *The Collected Tabletop* is more than a lesson in elegance and entertaining; it is a passionate recollection of "tried-and-true recipes, invitation ideas, favors, flowers, and even some special styles of dining-room furnishings" – all of which combine to create something Greeley calls "soul" – that warm flair, essential to creating a hospitable home.



As readers thumb through Greeley's vibrant designs, mouths water and synapses fire with party planning inspiration. If sunny bouquets, skillets filled with warm, broccoli cornbread, and sea salted chocolates set in majolica pottery don't fill your belly with holiday warmth, then go dine with Scrooge.

The images inside *The Collected Tabletop* provide readers with a unique map of the renowned interior designer. Readers catch a glimpse of Greeley's travels, her favorite occasions, and the people who inspire her to collect and create. The thoughtfully crafted tabletops – adorned with a crème brulee recipe from Paris, a China pattern popular many years ago, hand painted invitations, and bright bursting blooms from her own garden – illustrate Greeley's unique design philosophy, "collected not decorated." These items weren't plucked from the pages of a magazine at whim; these are not empty design combinations. Greeley's designs are more than aesthetic; they are empathetic—conveying the shared experiences of Greeley and her guests.

Not only does Greeley's book it is an invitation, sent to inspire readers to create their own collections. For readers looking to create their own collected tabletops this holiday season, Greeley offers the following advice: "Use what you have – things that bring back special holiday memories. Buy the best you can afford and use it.





Greeley's delectable treats – classically beautiful and created with care – are truly irresistible. Her Broccoli Cornbread, for starters, is moist, delicious, "and perfect for fall and winter evening with chowder, chili, soup, or even just by itself!" This soulful treat is guaranteed to fill guest's bellies with holiday warmth.

Don't hide it way in a china cabinet or pantry! Get out the holiday china and crystal and linens. So what if it doesn't go in the dishwasher. Lovingly wash it by hand. Slow down and enjoy the beauty of your tabletop pieces and the seasons."

Greeley's insistence that china collections be used, rather than just displayed, is so comforting. The last thing needed during the holiday season is a collection of untouchable dinnerware, sitting forbidden from use in the hutch.

With a copy of Greeley's *The Collected Tabletop* in tow, readers are permitted to unleash the love. Love your (perhaps once unused) china, love your holiday style, – even if it involves funky bright colors, at which your grandmother will most certainly scoff – love your guests, and love all of the unique holiday items that combine to create that holiday zest. TH&

