

Go for the Glamour

New Year's Eve parties are back, so make yours one to remember

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Since COVID canceled the last New Year's Eve festivities, this Dec. 31 the anticipation and excitement level is doubled. To up your holiday entertaining game, designer Julie Kantrowitz of JK Interior Living and event planner Amy Shey Jacobs of Chandelier Events have teamed up in the Ridgewood home of a Kantrowitz client to demonstrate great options that can be easily replicated — especially with the help of some local pros.

GREET GUESTS WITH THE WOW FACTOR

Party invitees enter this home's foyer to see a cascade of balloons filling the staircase. The bubbly look is echoed in the handblown glass ornaments that mimic champagne bubbles and fill out the metal garden urns holding champagne bottles. "I encourage hosts to dim the lighting and incorporate candles, tea lights and tapered candlesticks in the spaces intended for entertaining," says Kantrowitz. "It's a subtle indication of which rooms the guests should be congregating in."



BALLOONS My Deco Balloon, Fairfield;
CHAMPAGNE FLUTES Pottery Barn, Tice's Corner, Woodcliff Lake





DETAILS, DETAILS

(Left, clockwise from top) Menus on each plate lay out the meal to come. In support of sustainability — and elegance — the crystal champagne ice buckets are being reused as floral vases. Gilded New Year's Eve resolution cards are meant to be filled out upon seating, traded and read by guests to encourage interaction; the crystal clocks are party favors. Decorative ornaments can be removed from Christmas trees and placed on the table for added charm and color.

STATIONERY Suite Paperie, Ridgewood; **FLORIST** Allendale Flowers; **MINIATURE CRYSTAL CLOCKS** Pottery Barn, Tice's Corner, Woodcliff Lake



THE CENTERPIECE

This dining room table incorporates do's and don'ts recommended by Kantrowitz and Jacobs. "Don't shy away from sparkle, metallics, crystal and candlelight," says Jacobs, referring here to the candles that have been brought in from the foyer. But do think of how to reuse ordinary items in unique ways, she says – for example, setting a candle in a bed of champagne corks (as seen on p. 75). >





SERVE YOURSELF

“Just like in *Alice in Wonderland*, playing with scale provides an unexpected wow,” says Kantrowitz, referring to the single portions of crudité cones and shot glasses filled with garlic crostini-topped butternut squash soup. Individual servings have also been popular during the pandemic because they aren’t handled by several guests. Persimmon bruschetta with goat cheese canapes are auspicious on New Year’s: persimmons symbolize longevity and good luck in the traditional Japanese celebration of the holiday.

CATERER *Personal Touch Catering Experience, Hackensack*

TOAST WITH TEQUILA

While champagne is a mainstay on New Year’s Eve, tequila is trending this holiday season, says Jacobs. “Julie and I created a tequila cart in the home’s living room with a gorgeous decanter and glass set from Neiman Marcus,” she says, adding that prepared hosts also offer mocktails for those who shun alcohol. The tequila shot glasses seen here may also be used as votive candle holders. Another pro tip from Kantrowitz: Sprinkle coasters along tabletop surfaces. At the grand piano, stylist Eddie Flanagan of Neiman Marcus at Westfield Garden State Plaza practices his technique. Jacobs points out an advantage to hosting a formal party in your home, as opposed to going out: “Once everyone’s seen your best shoes,” she says, “you can wear slippers the rest of the night!” ■