

NORTHSHORE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC FUTRAN



SPLENDOR IN THE MANSE

BY SHERRY THOMAS

THE CUNEO FAMILY TABLE HAS BEEN set, the Dom Perignon is pouring and Chef des Rosiers is preparing a grand holiday feast. The winter fantasy begins here.

From the Cuneo family's opulent gold plated Gorham flatware to the antique candelabras to the gilded Grenadiers marching on the Bernardaud china, this table has been set in all its Gilded Age splendor. Think pomp and pageantry. Think early-20th-century industry barons. Think Christmas in an Italian villa or New Year's Eve with the royals. After all, setting a formal table is much like setting a stage. So with that in mind, we pulled together our own sugar plum ensemble of homegrown holiday players to prepare a grand feast for all ages – a visual celebration of old and new, art and life. Let the season commence!

FLOWER GIRL Casey Cooper, President, Botanicals, Inc., Chicago

TELL US HOW YOU MADE YOUR CHOICES:

I knew that the china was really traditional so I tried to choose traditional flowers dark red roses, pink pepperberry, seeded eucalyptus with a few twists. The cymbidium orchids brought it away from being too traditional.

ALTERNATIVES: I love using hyacinth whenever I can. It's a spring bulb flower but very pretty for the holidays. I just did a piece for an event with periwinkle hyacinth, green hydrangea, white amaryllis and snow-tipped pinecones. It was beautiful.

TRADE SECRETS: (No. 1) Rather than using a central centerpiece, do several satellite pieces and put them wherever they make the most sense. It's a great way to go for the holidays when you might want to move them around. (No. 2) People have really cool things in their cabinets that they don't consider to be vases or vessels. Whether it's a teacup or a silver pot, these pieces can work together to create a rich texture. 🍀