



Dining Room Trends:
**'Tis the Season...
to Set the Table**

For most of us the dining room is the **one** room in our house that gets the least amount of use, yet we are quickly approaching the time of year that it becomes the centerpiece of our home. As the holidays grow closer we thought we'd share some of the current trends and techniques we employ to help give this elegant room a style all its own just in time for the holiday season.

One of our favorite methods to add some style is to change up the head and tail chairs from the rest of the chairs at the table. We've used several different combinations but we especially love large upholstered wing chairs at either end in a different fabric from the rest. Another great idea is to maintain all wood frames and use upholstery only at the head and tail. Mixing leather with fabric is also another handsome and unexpected blend. The possibilities are endless!

We love rectangular tables in rich wood tones but have been seeing a lot more oversized round and square shaped tables lately. The beauty of these designs is that everyone seated at the table can interact with one another, although a word of

caution—usually the size and shape of these tables do not lend themselves to large parties and may not adapt to the proportions of everyone's dining room.

Decorative lighting is always a focal point of any dining room. Fixtures range in all shapes and sizes. A good rule of thumb is to make sure that the diameter of your chandelier is at least 6"-8" less than the width of the table and the bottom should hang approximately 30"-34" above the table top. Many times we'll use two evenly spaced fixtures over a long rectangular table instead of one. This not only adds more drama to the space but also helps evenly distribute light.

Furniture buffet pieces are adequate for most of us, but many larger and new construction homes have separate butler's pantries with ample work surface and storage cabinets to service the dining room. In cases where the dining room has a large



▲ The large opening between this dining room & the adjacent living room created the perfect opportunity to place a custom made furniture buffet for service, storage, & also serve as a room divider. The rich wood floor is defined by a contrasting inlaid border at the perimeter of the room.



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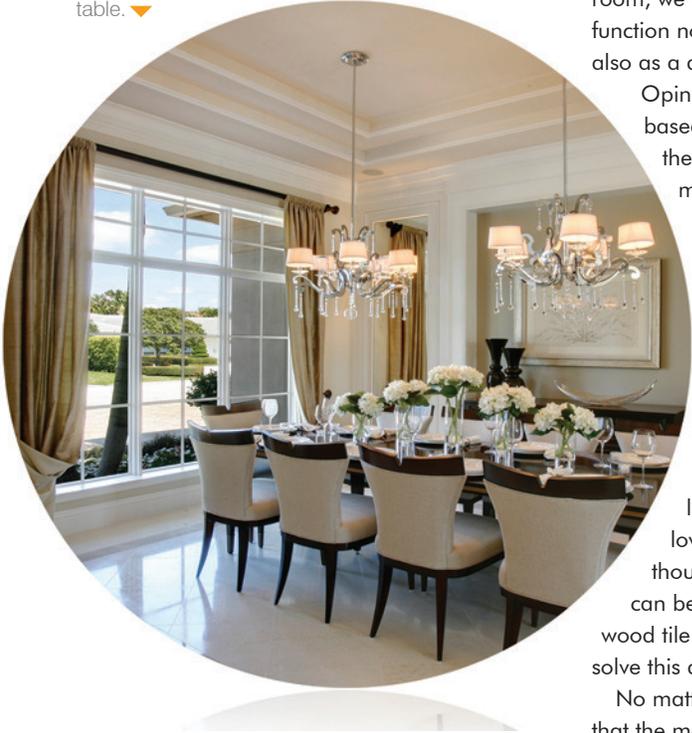
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The neutral color palette of this luxurious room boasts rich linens & woods and is enhanced by dual chandeliers, antique mirror wall insets, & a polished marble floor. Floral vases in graduated heights were arranged to create a stunning centerpiece for the table. ▼



opening to another room, especially a living room, we've design custom buffets that function not only for service and storage, but also as a decorative room divider.

Opinions on flooring materials differ based on individual taste. Some prefer the warmth of wood, others the low maintenance of stone or tile, and some like the feel of an area rug. If you want to add a little extra detail to the floor we suggest you add a border around the perimeter of the room. This way you can define the space (if you have an open floor plan) and also better appreciate the design since it won't be hidden by the legs of the chairs. We've always loved combining wood and stone, though the cost to install and maintain can be prohibitive. There are many great wood tile products on the market now that solve this dilemma.

No matter what your style just remember that the most important component of any

successful dining room is good food and even better company! Happy Holidays!

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Sample Menu

Spring Salad - Seasonal Blend of mixed greens, crumbled feta cheese, candied pecans, cranberries served with a balsamic vinaigrette.

Chicken Madeira - w/fresh asparagus and provolone
Bourbon Steak - bourbon and brown sugar marinated skirt steak

Mushroom Risotto
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