

Spring Soirée

Getting festive in Cinco de Mayo style

PRODUCED BY MEG FOX | PHOTOS BY JANET WARLICK



SHAYLA COPAS

In her book *Four Seasons of Entertaining*, author, brand ambassador and national award-winning interior designer Shayla Copas inspires readers with 16 exceptional themed celebrations that cover all four seasons of the year. We share one of Copas’ favorite designs — Cinco de Mayo — with her takeaway tips that can be translated to any seasonal gathering.

“I love color — and the bolder the better,” says Copas, who chose fabrics from Newark-based Thibaut for the tablecloth and napkins in an exuberant mix of hot pink, orange and cream. “You can use residential fabrics for table linens as long as you treat them with a stain repellent before use,” Copas notes. The repellent, she adds, helps spilled liquids bead instead of soaking into the tablecloth. A workroom then sewed the linens with great attention to detail. “The use of residential textiles for table linens opens up an entire world of possibilities for event design.”

With hot pink, orange and cream as the primary palette, Copas needed a metal tone to accent the table. “Gold worked perfectly with our color combo,” she says of Kim Seybert’s gold Sahara chargers. The chargers ground the cream Skyros Cantaria dinnerware, an organic shaped line with a modern edge that is safe for the oven, freezer, microwave and dishwasher.

Lights strung in the backyard provide ambience and extra flare, and the floral arrangement knocks that table setting out of the park. Mixing in a few colors outside of your palette — in this case the addition of yellow and green to the floral compositions — “provides depth and harmony,” Copas says. **DNJ**

Editor’s Note: *For more photos of this Spring Soirée, turn the page and also see the web version of the story at [designnewjersey.com](#).*

TABLE SETTING | Poppy pods, pink hydrangeas, Pink Floyd roses, Bells of Ireland, yellow billy buttons and other flowers grace the table designed by Shayla Copas.





LINENS, STEMWARE & FLATWARE | Thibaut fabrics in a mix of cheerful colors were a hit, Copas says. “I chose the Sunburst pattern in pink/coral for the tablecloth; the napkin, Thibaut’s Wavelet pattern, coordinated perfectly.” She selected Kim Seybert’s Helix stemware for its ombré gold finish and gold flatware from Mepra.

MENU CARD | Customized menu cards in a cohesive color palette can be a quiet — or bold — complement to the décor.

PLACE CARD | Mercury glass candles with an agate accent on the lid were personalized in gold metallic ink. “Place cards give guests a sense of inclusion as well as letting them know where the host wants them to sit,” Copas says. “I don’t know how many parties I’ve attended where we seemed to play musical chairs because guests were unsure of the order. Place cards solve this uncomfortable issue and make everyone feel welcome.”

A TOAST | Guests, dressed in hues that harmonize with the setting, make a toast with “Tequila Me Softly” margaritas.



SOURCES Event and tabletop design, Shayla Copas/Shayla Copas Interiors; tablecloth and napkin fabrics, Thibaut in Newark; linen fabrication, Draped and Tailored; dinnerware, Skyros Designs; stemware, chargers and napkin rings, Kim Seybert; flatware, Mepra; candles, Xela Aroma; menu cards and calligraphy, By Invitation Only; florals, Silks A Bloom; rental furniture, Hanks Event Rentals.