

Blueprint

DESIGN YOUR LIFE

WAKE UP
Your **WALLS**
7 Cut-and-Paste Makeovers

CHIC
TWISTS
on Summer
Hairstyles

NO HURRY,
NO WORRY
Laid-Back
Parties That Throw
Themselves

Plus: A SUREFIRE
GRILLING GUIDE
Tips, Techniques, and Tongs

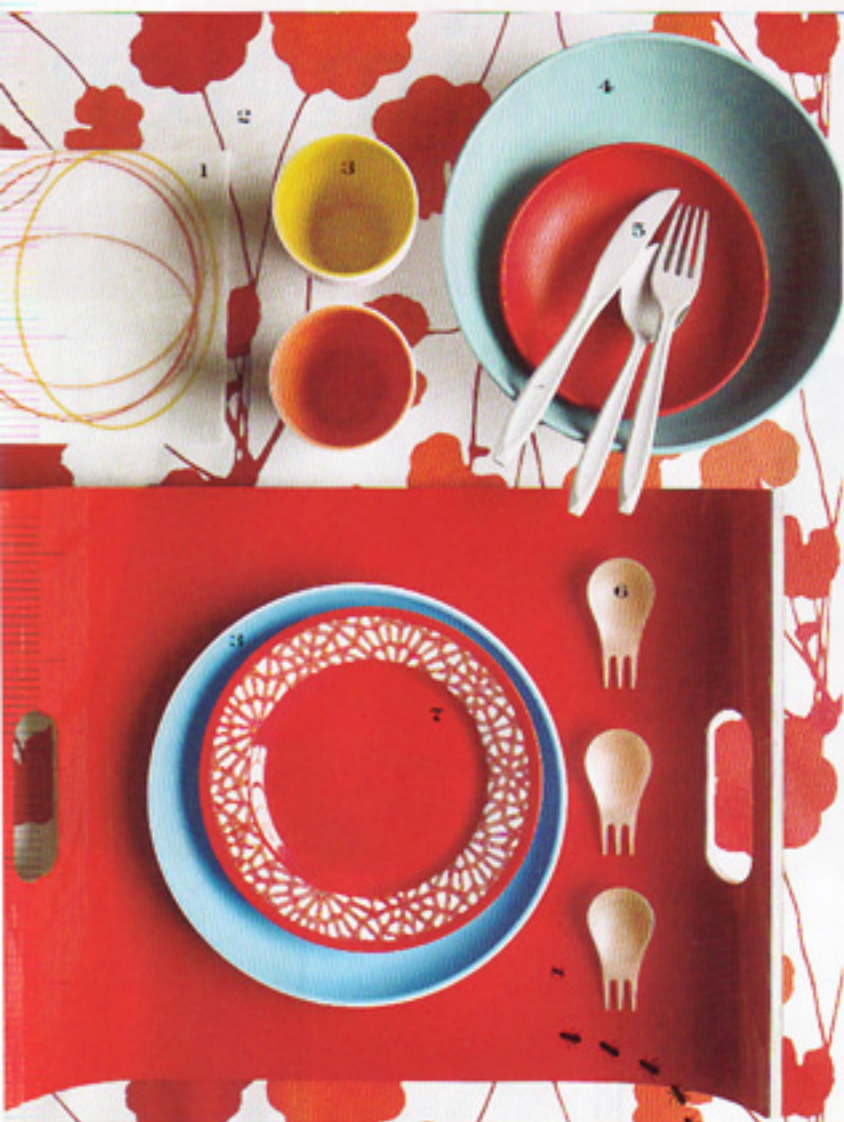


DISPLAY UNTIL 8/27/07



\$3.50 USA (CAN \$4.50)
blueprintmag.com

issue
No
5



> BUILD A BETTER...

Summer Spread

Sick of chasing renegade paper plates across the lawn during breezy backyard chowdowns? Invest in more substantial (but still outdoor-friendly) tableware in resilient materials like rubber and rayon. That way, you, like your dishes, can stay firmly planted all evening long.

1. These rayon-paper-blend napkins feel more like cloth than most disposable options do, and look smarter, too. **\$4** for a pack of 20, sprouthome.com. **2.** Patterned oilcloth makes for a chic waterproof table cover (or a set of place mats). Perennials by Mani-mekko, **\$48** per yard, tallent.com. **3.** The cups and plates in Floater's Insideout collection combine white plastic exteriors with colorful insides. **\$7** per cup, **\$9** per plate, roseandradish.com. **4.** Rubber bowls are food-safe and practically indestructible.

\$14-\$27 each, sprouthome.com. **5.** Reusable resin utensils have more heft than disposable plastic ones do. **\$15** for a 16-piece set, gwoodlows.com for stores. **6.** Biodegradable sporks are equal parts responsible and adorable. Moscardino sporks, **\$20** for a set of 25, mamastore.org. **7.** A Moorish motif makes these melamine plastic plates feel both design-y and versatile. Tanger-Sunset, **\$25** for a set of four, longene.com. **8.** Bent plywood (with a resin topcoat) results in one super-tough tray. **\$150**, urbanadesign.com.

"Thank-you notes need not be long and complicated, just enthusiastic. They can follow this basic formula: Mention the place, the gift, and the next time."

—SAMARA O'SHEA,
For the Love of Letters:
A 21st-Century Guide
to the Art of Letter
Writing (Collins, \$20)

> FUN FOR ALL AGES

Creature Comfort

For all the outdoorsy fun they provide, picnics do require a little bit of work—planning a wilt-proof menu, remembering to pack the corkscrew, and finding just the right spot to plop down on. But this sturdy wool blanket from textile designer Bev Hisey takes the worry out of at least one of those problems. With three cushions that can be zipped into place on the 60-by-60-inch blanket (available in 24 colors), you'll never find yourself on inhospitable ground again. Come nightfall, they make great pillows for stargazing, too. And who said ants never bring anything to the table? This army of cute embroidered ones is sure to amuse your picnic pals. **\$300**, 416-703-3418 to order.

